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NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION
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Brussels

REG. P.A.
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NATO SECRET

Mr. Glenn H. Cella
Acting Assistant Secretary General
for Political Affairs
North Atlantic Treaty Organization
Brussels

P. A. Sub - Registry
File No 19-10-04

Dear Glenn:

My government believes that the issue of accepting Solidarity detainees, should they be deported by the Polish Government or should they choose voluntary exile, will require a coordinated Western position. We would therefore like to pass on our preliminary thinking on the matter to other Allied governments for their early consideration.

(Poland)

Our immediate concern, however, is that we and other Western countries do not play into the Polish regime's designs by statements or actions that contribute to (a) dividing the leadership group within Solidarity or (b) undermining the credibility of any Solidarity leader or group within the leadership by reinforcing the image of his or their having too close an association with Western interests. Any statement, whether expressing a willingness to receive Solidarity detainees or criticizing the Jaruzelski regime for expatriating its citizens, would be exploitable by the regime as evidence of a special and particular Western interest in the fate of some individual or group within the leadership. Moreover, any necessarily general statement by Western spokesmen on this subject could be linked by the regime within Poland to whatever group it wished to discredit, by selecting that group for deportation or voluntary exile.

Our preliminary thinking is that the West should not alleviate Jaruzelski's embarrassment over the detention of Solidarity leaders and should so act as to preserve their continued residence in Poland:

- (a) We should not facilitate a deportation of these persons by indicating in advance of the act itself that refuge would be provided;

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(b) Should the Polish government nevertheless choose to deport them or force them into "voluntary exile", we should be prepared to accept them -- and to respect their individual wishes as to country of resettlement -- but we should not advertise this publicly;

(c) We should increase the onus of any expatriation of these persons, once it has occurred, by depicting their departure as forced deportation (voluntary exile as an alternative to a prison sentence constitutes deportation); but we should do so without establishing a precedent inhibiting our subsequent acceptance of other political deportees, or of such other forced expatriates as, for example, Solzhenitzyn.

I am sending copies of this letter to the other members of the Political Committee.

Sincerely yours,

John H. Hawes / am

John H. Hawes
Deputy Political Advisor

cc: Members of the Political Committee

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