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UNITED STATES PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
ON THE
NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL
Brussels

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P. A. Sub - Registry
File No 19-10-01 (Pol)

February 8, 1982

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ACTIVELY
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NATO SECRET

Dear Joseph:

On February 6 Secretary of State Haig wrote to the other NATO Foreign Ministers, urging that in their interventions at the opening of the Madrid CSCE meeting they give a clear signal that, should there be major improvement in Poland meeting the stated Western conditions, the West would be prepared to offer assistance with Poland's problems. The text of his letter is attached for your information.

With best regards.

Yours very sincerely,

Taf

W. Tapley Bennett, Jr.
Ambassador

Enclosure:
As stated

His Excellency
Joseph M.A.H. Luns,
Secretary General,
North Atlantic Treaty Organization,
Brussels.

NATO SECRET

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NATO SECRET

Dear :

Our interventions next week at Madrid will be another major step in making clear to the USSR, Polish authorities, and world opinion that repression does not pay and will not be condoned. Along with the political and economic measures we are taking individually and in coordination as Allies, our message at Madrid will be a powerful one.

I believe it is also time to signal that a clear, major improvement in the situation in Poland would bring Western benefits to Poland beyond the reversibility of sanctions. We should make clear that our conditions remain unchanged -- cessation of martial law, release of detainees, and genuine movement toward reconciliation. We should hold out the prospect of assistance when these conditions are met. This would make concrete our commitment to the material as well as political well-being of the Polish people once the end of repression allows us to act to help Poland.

I propose that, at Madrid, we signal our intention as nations to act together with other like-minded democracies to aid Poland once our three objectives are met. Such a signal need not be a blueprint, prejudging what may be a complex process of developing a coherent assistance program for Poland. For my part, I propose to speak generally, emphasizing America's determination, once our three conditions permit, to join in a major program to help Poland overcome its economic problems, including agricultural shortages and massive external debt. Whether or not I will be in a position to commit the U.S. will, of course, depend on whether other Allies will be similarly forthcoming.

I would welcome your views on this idea, on which I am also writing our other Allied colleagues.

Sincerely,

Alexander M. Haig, Jr.

NATO SECRET