



BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008
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Mr. Whitmore ^{N.M.} has passed on X1
to Sir P. Moore. ^{N.M.}

The Foreign Secretary told the P.R. today ^{12:02} that he had just spoken to Sir N. Henderson on the phone - Henderson thought the Americans would be unlikely to make up their minds until March. 4 January 1982
A.J.C. 7.

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

Sir Michael Palliser GCMG
Permanent Under Secretary of State
FCO
London

Hd/NAM/D

Dear Michael

cc Mr. duBoulay PS
Mr. Ferguson PS/PS
Mr. Ure
Mr. Jay

POSSIBLE VISIT BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE UK

1. I am so sorry it has been such a time letting you have an answer to your letter of 30 November on the above; and the answer I can now give you is not very satisfactory.

2. Mike Deaver has spoken to me today and said that, given the Polish situation and the issues to which it gives rise it is not feasible to make plans for the President to visit Western Europe other than to attend the Summit Meeting in Paris in June. Deaver said that he thought it highly unlikely that the President would be able to visit Europe before that time. He could not even say with any certainty that either side of the Paris meeting the President would be able to visit the UK or other countries. All he could commit himself to was to say that if the President was able to visit the UK either side of the Summit Meeting he would be honoured to take up Her Majesty's invitation to stay at Windsor Castle.

3. This incomplete response does not make planning at home at all easy. From the feel of things here at the moment I can only say that it seems to me unrealistic to think in terms of a separate visit to the UK except possibly either side of the Summit or later in the year. But the atmosphere can of course change very quickly and it is always possible that a decision might suddenly be taken at short notice to try to put the President across in Western Europe either because transatlantic relations have got so bad or on the opposite hypothesis because the international scene is so balmy that no difficulties would arise for the President in coming to Europe - on the contrary he would be confirming success in doing so.

4. I only hope it does not sound casual on the part of the President himself or the White House. That is certainly not the intention, but my sense is that they really cannot see their way ahead at all except to believe that to plan on anything at the present time could lead them into great difficulties.

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5. Haig's reception in Berlin is vividly remembered here, and there is reluctance to commit the President to any bilateral visits in Europe which might produce a hostile public reaction.

John C. Miller

N. Henderson

Nicholas Henderson

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