

PRIME MINISTER

These are the draft telegrams I told you about just before you left for Chequers this evening. They are personal for the Ambassadors concerned and they are intended to be entirely exploratory. The FCO would like to send these off tomorrow (Saturday) so that you and Lord Carrington can consider the replies while you are in Luxembourg. Are you content for the telegrams to go?

The alternative - which, given your reservations about the whole idea, you may prefer - is not to send the telegrams over the weekend but to discuss the ideas they contain further with the Foreign Secretary on the way to Luxembourg.

Clive Whitmore

I am very unhappy about this idea and would prefer it to be worked through before telegrams are sent. It could be misinterpreted

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by our own people as the West backing up the Soviets in their backing of the Polish gov't - the advantages of the T.U.'s. Can we discuss further on the plane?

Use to come over for dinner to-day / tomorrow.



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

28 November 1980

Dear Alice,

I gather that the possibility of more active western efforts to prevent Soviet intervention in Poland was discussed at this afternoon's briefing meeting for the European Council. I enclose draft telegrams to Washington, Bonn and Paris, <sup>+ Moscow</sup>. These are designed purely to sound out the views of our Ambassadors. Lord Carrington instructed that the telegrams should be made more speculative before despatch, and this has been done.

It would be helpful if the Prime Minister could agree to the despatch of these telegrams tomorrow (29 November). The replies would give Mrs Thatcher and Lord Carrington a better basis on which to discuss between themselves these ideas (or any other ideas suggested by the Ambassadors) at an early stage in Luxembourg on Monday.

You will note that Ambassadors have been specifically instructed not to consult the governments to which they are accredited at this stage.

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C A Whitmore Esq  
10 Downing Street

*[Handwritten signature]*

(G G H Walden)  
Private Secretary

JAH

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