



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

5 January 1982

Prime Minister

To note.

A.S.C. 5/1

Dear John,

h.a.
A.S.C. 6/1.Jamming of BBC Polish Broadcasts

All except one of the BBC's broadcasts to Poland are now being jammed. The jamming began with the transmission from 1730 to 1830 hours on 30 December. Only the evening broadcasts appeared to be affected until 4 January; but on that day the transmission from 1500 to 1530 was jammed, and from 5 January, the three early morning transmissions also.

This is plainly part of an attempt to cut Poland off from external sources of information. There may also be an element of retaliation for the recent increase in the BBC's Polish service. As you know, the Lord Privy Seal announced in the House on 22 December that from the next day the BBC would increase its broadcasts in Polish by three 15-minute periods a day on weekdays, and by one period of $\frac{1}{2}$ hour on Sundays, making a total weekly increase from $21\frac{1}{4}$ to $26\frac{1}{4}$ hours.

All Voice of America broadcasts have been jammed since 28 December. VOA transmissions in Polish were increased by $2\frac{3}{4}$ hours a day from 31 December. Deutsche Welle broadcasts in Polish, on the other hand, are not being jammed. The pattern of jamming is therefore not uniform. It may possibly reflect the relative firmness of official national attitudes to recent events in Poland. The Americans have said that they may wish to discuss anti-jamming measures with us in due course.

After technical investigation, the BBC are now certain that the jamming is being done from points in the Soviet Union, and intend to issue a public statement to this effect at 1400 hours today.

Lord Trefgarne took the opportunity of a meeting with the Soviet Ambassador on 31 December to express the Government's extreme displeasure at the jamming of the BBC's Polish service and the continuing jamming of the BBC's Russian service. The Ambassador declined to comment on the jamming of the Polish service on the grounds that it was an "internal Polish matter". He claimed not to know of the jamming of the Russian service.

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street

/Lord Trefgarne



Lord Trefgarne will protest to the Polish Ambassador about the jamming of the BBC's Polish service, and other restrictive measures taken by the Polish Government when he sees him at 1530 today. He has also summoned the Soviet Ambassador for tomorrow morning and will deliver a protest to him, now we are sure of Soviet involvement.

Our delegation at the CSCE Review Meeting in Madrid will also raise the jamming question when the Conference reconvenes on 9 February.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Francis Richards".

(F N Richards)
Private Secretary