

GRS 370

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FM UKMIS GENEVA 081140Z JAN 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 005 OF 8 JANUARY 1982

INFO IMMEDIATE UKDEL NATO, ROUTINE UKREP BRUSSELS, WARSAW,
WASHINGTON

INFO SAVING PARIS, BONN, MOSCOW, UKMIS NEW YORK, ROME, BRUSSELS

MIPT AND OUR TELNO 479

THE RED CROSS AND POLAND

1. AT A MEETING OF PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TEN ON 7 JANUARY THE BELGIAN CHAIRMAN REPORTED HIS RECENT CONVERSATION WITH HAY, PRESIDENT OF THE ICRC.
2. ACCORDING TO HAY THE JOINT ICRC/LEAGUE OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES TEAM IN WARSAW HAD BEEN WELL RECEIVED AND WAS NOW INSTALLED ON A PERMANENT BASIS, THE FIRST SUCH CASE IN AN EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRY. ONE OF THE TEAM HAD BEEN ABLE TO VISIT GDANSK. MORE FOOD AND MATERIAL ASSISTANCE WAS REQUIRED, AND THE ICRC WOULD ISSUE A FURTHER APPEAL SHORTLY. BUT THEIR FIRST PRIORITY WAS TO GAIN ACCESS TO DETAINEES. HE HOPED THE TEN WOULD BE READY TO SUPPORT ICRC'S CASE DISCREETLY TO THE POLES, STRESSING THAT THE ICRC'S MOTIVE WAS PURELY HUMANITARIAN, IN CONTRAST TO THE MORE POLITICAL COLOURING OF AN ILO VISIT. I MENTIONED OUR SIMILAR TALK WITH HOCKE, ICRC DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS. HOCKE TOO HAD STRESSED THE NEED FOR RAPID PROGRESS: UNLESS ICRC COULD GAIN EARLY ACCESS TO THE DETAINEES, THE POLISH AUTHORITIES MIGHT RELEASE SOME AND LABEL THE REST AS COMMON CRIMINALS. A SECOND PROBLEM FOR THE RED CROSS WAS HOW TO ASSESS THE POLITICS OF THE SITUATION. THE ICRC WOULD WELCOME ANY GUIDANCE FROM OUR GOVERNMENTS ON THE OUTLOOK, THE NATURE OF THE MILITARY REGIME AND OUR EXCHANGES WITH IT.
3. THE ITALIAN STRESSED THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE CHURCH. THE COMMISSION SAID THAT THE EC FOOD AID PROGRAMME DEPENDED ON CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE POLISH EPISCOPATE. 23 TRUCKS WITH SOME 620 TONNES OF SUPPLIES WOULD START LEAVING FOR POLAND ON 8 JANUARY.

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4. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT TO RECOMMEND TO CAPITALS THAT THE ICRC REQUEST SHOULD BE SUPPORTED. THE CHAIRMAN SUGGESTED THAT CAPITALS BE ASKED TO APPROVE A DEMARCHE THROUGH THE PRESIDENCY IN WARSAW. THE DUTCHMAN SAW MERIT IN KEEPING THE DEMARCHE IN SUPPORT OF THE RED CROSS SEPARATE FROM THAT ON THE ILO.

5. ON UNHCR WE NOTED MR HARTLING'S APPEAL OF 30 DECEMBER. ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION NOTHING OF SUBSTANCE EMERGED. WE NOTED THAT THERE WOULD BE A MEETING OF THE UN WORKING GROUP IN BRUSSELS ON 21 JANUARY, AND THE NEED TO LIAISE WITH THE AMERICANS.

FCO PLEASE PASS TO SAVING ADDRESSEES

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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