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FM WARSAW 061130Z FEB 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELNO 221 OF 6TH FEBRUARY 1982

INFO PRIORITY: MOSCOW, WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, PARIS, BONN
AND MODUK

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

TODAYS PRESS CARRIES BRIEF PAP ACCOUNT OF MR ATKINS' ANNOUNCEMENT IN COMMONS YESTERDAY. (FRONT PAGE OF ZYCIE WARSZAWY, PAGE 7 IN TRYBUNA LUDU). BRITISH ACTION IS DESCRIBED AS BRUTAL INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF POLAND AND SOVIET UNION. BRITAIN, THE FIRST NATO COUNTRY TO ACT IN THIS WAY, HAS CLEARLY GIVEN IN TO U.S. PRESSURE.

2. LASZCZ, HEAD OF PROTOCOL IN MFA, TOLD ME YESTERDAY EVENING THAT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS OF FOREIGN DIPLOMATS HERE WOULD BE LIFTED FROM MONDAY. WE WOULD STILL HAVE TO NOTIFY MFA OF PROPOSED DESTINATION AND ROUTE BUT WOULD BE FREE TO TRAVEL 24 HOURS LATER IF MFA HAD NOT OBJECTED. THIS CONCESSION WOULD APPLY TO ALL DIPLOMATIC STAFF.

3. I WOULD LIKE TO STUDY TERMS OF CIRCULAR NOTE INFORMING US OF THIS CONCESSION (WHICH HAS NOT YET BEEN RECEIVED) AND TO SEE HOW IT WORKS IN PRACTICE BEFORE MAKING ANY RECOMMENDATIONS. I HAVE ASKED DA TO SUBMIT SOME TRAVEL PLANS FOR HIS TEAMS TO FAN OUT EARLY NEXT WEEK.

MELHUIH

POLAND SPECIAL

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