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WHITE HOUSE PRESS GUIDANCE FOR
PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH GIEREK

11:00 a.m. Briefing, October 8, 1974

The President is now meeting with First Secretary Gierek (GEAR-ik). Secretary Kissinger and Polish Foreign Minister Olszowski (OL-SHOV-ski) are also participating.

The President's remarks at the arrival ceremony set the tone for today's talks. They will focus on the developments in US-Polish relations in recent years, their current status and the prospects for further improvements and cooperation. This is the President's first meeting with the Polish First Secretary and he values this opportunity for a review of bilateral relations.

As is often the case, there is no fixed and detailed agenda for today's talks. However, I believe it is the President's intention to have an exchange of views with the First Secretary on several international issues of mutual interest -- such as the European Security Conference negotiations in Geneva and the Force Reduction Talks in Vienna -- in which both the United States and Poland are participants.

* * * *

Q: Are any agreements going to be signed?

A: This will depend, in part, of course, on today's talks. It is my understanding that some bilateral agreements have been negotiated for signature at the State Department later today. (ON BACKGROUND: Cooperation in such

fields as environmental protection, energy and coal research, science and technology more generally. There is also a Convention on Avoidance of Double Taxation, which will be along the lines of those the United States already has with other countries.) I would refer you to the Department of State on this subject.

Q: Will the President sign these?

A: No, however, as you know, the President will host a dinner for the First Secretary and Mrs. Gierek tonight and I will keep you abreast of any additional plans for the President's participation as they develop.

Q: Is the President -- and is Gierek -- aware of the objections being raised to Gierek's presence here by a number of Americans?

A: First Secretary Gierek and the entire Polish Party are here as the formal guests of the President -- his very welcome guests -- and the President looks forward to his meetings with the First Secretary for the contributions they will make not only to US-Polish relations but also to improved international cooperation and understanding. It is the President's sincere hope that all Americans join him in welcoming our distinguished visitors from Poland.

Q: Has First Secretary Gierek ever visited the United States before?

A: No, I do not believe he has.

Q: Has President Ford ever visited Poland?

A: President Ford visited Warsaw in 1959 as a member of the U.S. Delegation to the Inter-Parliamentary Union Conference.

Q: What about MFN for Poland?

A: Poland has MFN.



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Q: What trade do we have with Poland?

A: Our trade with Poland has increased significantly since 1972. In 1971, trade turnover in both directions totaled approximately \$180 million. In 1973, it was at \$532 million. Predictions are that turnover this year will reach \$750 million. This dramatic increase in trade has favored the United States. Whereas in 1971, we ran a deficit of around \$30 million, in 1973, we had a \$168 million surplus. One result of this trade increase is that seven or so American firms and one U.S. bank now maintain permanent offices in Poland.

Q: When was the last time that a Polish leader paid a visit such as this to the United States?

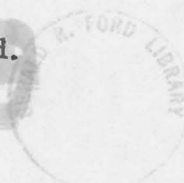
A: To the best of my knowledge there has not been a comparable visit in the past from a leader of the Polish Peoples Republic. There have been visits at the Vice Premier level but not at the First Secretary level.

FYI: Former First Secretary Gomulka visited the United Nations in 1960, but this was not a visit to the United States.

Q: Is Gierek's position in Poland comparable to that of General Secretary Brezhnev in the Soviet Union?

A: (On Background: To the extent that both men occupy the central position they do in their Parties, yes, their positions are comparable.)

First Secretary Gierek is the leading political figure in Poland.



Is there a moratorium on grain sales to Poland?

GUIDANCE: The Poles did make known their desire for additional grain shipments and we have asked the Polish government not to complete their discussions on additional purchases until October when we have a better view of the crop situation.

Have you discussed this moratorium with any other European countries?

GUIDANCE: No, there ~~have~~ has been no other country interested in additional purchases at this time.

What volume of purchases did the Polish Gov't request to purchase?

GUIDANCE: This is a matter between the two Governments which is inappropriate to discuss for that reason.

Will sales to the Soviet Union prevent us from providing Poland with the amount that they need?

GUIDANCE: We expect to be able to resume sales to the Poles as soon as the size of our final crop is clarified with the October crop report.