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Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

21 August 1990

Dear Charles

Prime Minister

Agree in principle

Visits by Baltic Ministers to see them,

The Lithuanians and Latvians have separately raised with us the idea of visits to the United Kingdom by the President of Lithuania and the Prime Minister of Latvia. President Landsbergis is apparently planning to attend a seminar on Lithuania in the House of Lords in the late autumn. Before making firm plans they are looking for reassurance that they will be received at a suitably high level. The Lithuanian representative in London has specifically asked whether Landsbergis might meet the Prime Minister as Mrs Prunskiene did when she was here in May. The Latvian approach was couched in more general terms.

subject to diary?
(wsp would need to warn Mr. Ambassador)

The Foreign Secretary believes that it would be worthwhile for the Prime Minister to see both Landsbergis and the Latvian Prime Minister. This would allow the Prime Minister to have at first hand an account of the position in the Baltic States. It would demonstrate our continuing interest in and support for Baltic aspirations. It might also give her the chance to offer the Balts some timely advice on their negotiations with the Russians. We would not of course want to be dragged into a mediatory role. But there is no-one better placed than the Prime Minister to speak frankly and helpfully to both sides.

If the Prime Minister were willing in principle to see the two Balts, I would write again when we have an indication of the likely timing of their visit.

C DP
22/8

[Signature]
(S L Gass)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street



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all

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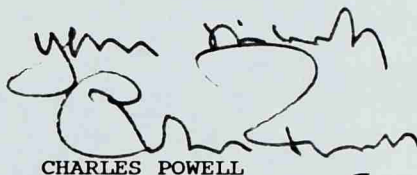
From the Private Secretary

23 August 1990

Dear Sir,

VISITS BY BALTIC MINISTERS

Thank you for your letter of 21 August about possible visits by the President of Lithuania and the Prime Minister of Latvia. The Prime Minister would in principle be willing to see them.



CHARLES POWELL

Simon Gass, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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