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THE PRIME MINISTER

10 September 1990

*Dear Ambassador,*

Thank you for your letter of 28 August about my speech at Aspen. I was very glad to have confirmation that the Polish Government share my hopes for the future development of Europe.

I am happy to confirm our policy that the European Community should declare its readiness to welcome Poland and the other Central and Eastern European countries as members when they are able to assume the responsibilities of membership. As you point out in your letter, this is necessarily a long-term goal given the wide-ranging economic restructuring which will be required before Poland and the other countries can meet the obligations of membership. But this Government will lend its political support to your aspirations when the time is right.

For the immediate future, we believe that an Association Agreement is the best means of increasing Poland's links with the Community. We have argued for an early start to exploratory talks which we hope will lead to early negotiations. An Association Agreement would be an important achievement. It should provide Poland with the benefits of the Single Market which we shall complete in 1992, and establish a thorough political dialogue to help ensure that the divisions which have bedevilled our continent since 1945 become a thing of the past.

I also welcome the Polish Government's pledge of support for a 'European Magna Carta' of basic rights. I hope that this will be agreed at the CSCE Summit in the autumn. It will provide a foundation for our shared vision of a secure Europe based on democracy, the rule of law and market principles.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

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His Excellency Mr Tadeusz ~~de~~ Wirion