

PRIME MINISTER

PRESS SUMMARY - Friday 9 November 1979

BBC

Telegraph, Mail, Express, Sun, Mirror, Star all lead on BBC filming of IRA. Key headline words: "treason", "outrage", "dupes", "blunderama". Indignant leaders in Telegraph, Express, Mail, Sun.

Rhodesia

Latest Rhodesia moves widely reported. Guardian (1) says HMG believes a deal is now "within grasp". Telegraph (1) says HMG gave into Opposition pressure on timetable for deal. Financial Times (44) highlights President Kaunda's last minute bid for concessions.

Rolls Royce

Sir Kenneth Keith's decision to go early next year widely reported. Sir Frank McFadzean expected to take over. Financial Times leader (20) sceptical about Whitehall monitoring Rolls Royce better than NEB. Ministers presumably do not want to repeat error of last Tory Government which abolished IRC and recreated it in another guise. Rolls Royce must be kept "under a tight rein".

Economy

OECD "leaked" forecast predicts that UK and US economies will decline next year (Guardian 1).

Chinese dissidents

PM will not reply to appeal from Chinese dissidents (Telegraph 1).

BBC External Services

... will be saved (Telegraph 1) after Ministers meet BBC (Guardian 30)

Mortgages

D/Environment sets up inquiry into ways of overcoming shortage of money for home loans. Meanwhile, Express would welcome Anglia Building Society's raising £20m in the City to finance housing loans of £25,000 and over.

EEC

Express, reflecting French briefing, says PM is banking on winning a one-third cut in our Euro-deficit; French will not completely oppose UK case.

Independent TV

Press uniformly critical of IBA assertion that the press killed Bruce Forsyth's new show.

Welfare

Official of Age Concern says hundreds of old folk are wandering around stores just to keep warm.

Better to be unemployed

Express, quoting examples, says Government still beaten by problem of how to make people better off at work than on the dole.

Nuclear power

CEGB's Health and Safety Director (unhelpfully) tells safety conference; Britain's nuclear power stations are wide open to commando-style attack (Express). Mirror says, Western Secret Services fear that a lorry load of uranium has been highjacked on its way from West Africa to Europe and has fallen into Gaddafi's hands.

Cambodia

Mirror reports enormous (and potentially £1m) response to ATV documentary film and BBC "Blue Peter" programme.

Iran

President Carter cancels Canadian visit. Emissary to contact PLO. Iran reduces oil deliveries.

BR

... and Ministry of Transport to keep corporate review secret (Guardian 30).

Shell tanker drivers

... reject 20% offer (Financial Times 10).

Seamen

... offered 19% (Financial Times 10).

Shotton

TUC draw back from ISTC strike plan over Shotton (Telegraph 2)

Miners

... executive votes by majority of one to accept January settlement date (Telegraph 2).

Northern Ireland

President Carter promises Mr Lynch to help stop aid to IRA.