

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The year 1980 began and ended with Afghanistan occupied by Russia and 52 US hostages held in Iran. Plus ça change.

In between there was an abortive attempt to rescue the US hostages and an Olympic boycott to bring home to Russia at least part of the world's condemnation of its occupation of Afghanistan. Russia's image was similarly battered at the CSCE conference in Madrid.

The world still holds its breath while Poland seeks to inject free trade unions and greater freedom for the Catholic Church into its Communist system. Russia has been warned that detente would be dead if it marches in.

Zimbabwe moved peacefully to democratic independence.

The world recession deepened; unemployment soared in most industrial countries; and OPEC raised its prices still further. But there is some prospect of the bottom of the trough being reached next year, provided, for example, the stalemated Iran/Iraq war does not disrupt the oil market again.

The United States elected itself a new President. Germany confirmed its Chancellor in office. And the UK acquired a new Leader of the Opposition heading a party committed by conference to leaving the EC, unilateral nuclear disarmament, abolition of the Lords and the ending of private education.

President Tito eventually died but Yugoslavia achieved a smooth transition of power. The Shah died in exile.

We solved our EC Budget problem for the time being and began to mend our fences with our partners.

The PIRA hunger strikers backed down in the face of the UK Government's firm refusal to grant them political status. For the moment, the terrorists appear to have called a truce for the

/festive

festive season.

In the years ahead the UK and the Republic of Ireland will be working to improve understanding and co-operation between the two countries.

Domestically, inflation falls rapidly; interest rates begin to decline; exports hold up remarkably well in spite of a strong pound; Britain's trade is strongly in the black; wage expectations and settlements tumble; strikes fall to a low level; and a new realism is abroad in industry which recognises the need to produce goods and services which people want to buy and in whose quality and delivery they can rely.

JANUARY

Steel strike begins.

FEBRUARY

Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr. Coggan) retires.

MARCH

Mr. Mugabe wins Zimbabwe election.  
Parliament votes to support USA initiative  
to boycott Moscow Olympics over Afghanistan.  
Dr. Runcie enthroned as new Archbishop of  
Canterbury.

APRIL

Steel strike ends.

MAY

Abortive US attempt to rescue US hostages.  
British SAS team storms Iranian Embassy in  
UK to break seige.  
TUC 'Day of Action' protest against Government  
policies flops.  
Marshal Tito dies.  
UK secures EC budget settlement.

/ JUNE ...

JUNE

Roy Jenkins announces decision to retire at end of year as President of the Euro Commission; allows his name to be associated with the idea of a Centre Party in the UK.

Sanjay Ghandi killed in plane crash.

JULY

Moscow Olympics and boycott.

AUGUST

Queen Mother's 80th Birthday.

Strikes break out in Poland in support of free trade unions and freedom of speech for Catholic Church.

Shah and Peter Sellers die.

Unemployment exceeds 2 million.

SEPTEMBER

Iran/Iraq war breaks out.

You find entente cordiale in good heart when you visit Giscard in Paris.

OCTOBER

Labour Party Conference commits itself to leaving EC, unilateral nuclear disarmament, abolition of the House of Lords and ending of private education.

Mini Metro launched.

Mr. Callaghan resigns.

NOVEMBER

Times Newspapers announce closure in March, 1981 if new buyer/s not found (in year in which London Evening News succumbs).

Governor Reagan wins American presidential election.

Michael Foot elected leader of the Labour Party.

Government discharges three-quarters of manifesto commitments in Session which ends this month.

Mae West dies.

Yorkshire Ripper claims 13th victim.

/DECEMBER ...

DECEMBER

Italian earthquake.

Poland on the brink.

Uganda General Election returns Obote.

John Lennon murdered.

Sir Oswald Mosley dies.

Introduction of six-monthly Anglo-Irish bilateral meetings in Dublin.

Terrorist hunger strikers call it off without winning any concessions.