

Broadcasting /
Press.

PRIME MINISTER

PRESS SUMMARY: SATURDAY-MONDAY - 17-19 NOVEMBER

The repercussions of the Blunt case dominate all the weekend papers pushing the Government's recent economic measures and negotiations on Rhodesia well into second and third place.

Blunt

Telegraph, Mail and Express lead on Blunt. Main points in coverage: Blunt furious with PM because spies will no longer be tempted by promises of immunity (Telegraph); Blunt seeks Cabinet clearance for statement (Guardian); Ministers meet today and Prime Minister expected to order inquiry (Times); Prime Minister starts shake-up of counter-espionage organisations (Express); Blunt to hold press conference (Mail); Blunt betrayed KGB too (Mirror); New "super-mole" (Sun).

All papers give extensive coverage to weekend developments and security, political and constitutional background, listing (eg Express 2, Mail leader) key questions to be answered.

Leaders in Telegraph, Mail, Express and Sun call for inquiry. Mirror says Protection of Information Bill should be scrapped. Sunday editorials also call for inquiry and criticise Bill. Saturday's papers (Times 1 and others) report Home Secretary's speech that he is ready to consider amendments.

Iran

Guardian and Times lead on Ayatollah's threat to put hostages on trial after releasing women and blacks.

Rhodesia

Bishop Muzorewa, in Salisbury, warns PF about risks of breaking ceasefire (Times 1, Guardian 6). Telegraph (4) reports FCO-Commonwealth Secretariat clash over observers. Telegraph (36) reports small group of UK officials will fly to Salisbury this week.

EEC: Budget

Financial Times lead: Bonn ready to accept package deal which would cut UK contribution by 40%.

On President Giscard's visit, Times (4) says French want to avoid confrontation and will argue that Budget, fish and lamb can be dealt with only at Summit. Telegraph (5) says Prime Minister will not get far today and French have won Germans over to their view. Guardian (26) says lamb will dominate talks.

At weekend, Sunday Times (1) says Giscard will support rebate of only £350m.

Times leader today (13) supports UK position and urges avoidance of "wrecking tactics" until "all else has failed".

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The economy: Exchange rate

... will be kept high in major shift from previous Administration's policy (Times 1). HMG accepts that it will not have significant payments surplus through early 80s.

The economy: Pay

Ministers are alarmed at high level of settlements (Financial Times 1). Fears will be echoed at CBI monthly Council meeting.

Saturday's papers report Ford workers' rejection of 16% but Telegraph and Guardian say deal may be 17%-20%.

The economy: Cash limits

Financial Times leader (18) approves HMG approach to cash limits.

The economy: TU reform

Following Sunday paper reports on Prime Minister's speech, Guardian (1) says legislation to deal with trade union immunities could follow next month's Bill.

The economy: General

Today's papers (Mail 9, Express 7, Sun 4) report Mr Geoffrey Rippon's attack on HMG economic policies, especially increase in interest rates.

Guardian leader (14) attacks the "myth of the mandate" and urges HMG to concentrate on the learning process in the next six months. Alan Budd (Times feature 19) argues that the Chancellor should follow a middle course on Government borrowing.

On Sunday, Times (53) carries "exclusive" about No 10 policy unit's plans for tackling long-term issues and, with Observer (10), major feature (10) on economic problems.

REST OF THE NEWS

Immigration

Tory MPs (Mail 9, Mirror 2) in revolt over immigration rules.

Councillors' pay

Daily Star leads on report that White Paper will recommend that local councillors should get a £20-a-week salary as well as allowances.

Civil Service

MoD is considering closing a major dockyard in cuts exercise (Telegraph 36).

HMG is considering countering left-wing influence in CS unions by allowing union meetings during normal working hours (Times 2). But it is blocking CPSA strike fund ballot in office (Mail 17).

N Ireland

Times (2) examines positions of political parties in advance of working document which was trailed in Sunday Telegraph (2) and Sunday Express (1).

Rolls Royce/NEB

Future of NEB will hang on outcome of meeting today between SS/Industry and Sir Leslie Murphy (Guardian 18, Times 15). Sundays (Times and Observer) speculate that Rolls Royce may be handed over to GEC.

The economy: General (see above)

Government backbenchers uneasy about effects of monetary policy (Telegraph 2, Guardian 26).

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