

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

Mr MacGregor to launch The Year of the Small Firm.  
 EC Council for Europe Parliamentary Assembly, Strasbourg.  
 EC Economic and Social Committee Plenary Session, Brussels.  
 NUPE calls out Scottish waterworkers from midnight.  
 Talks restart on limiting European-based intermediate range nuclear weapons - Geneva.  
 NHS Manpower Inquiry Chairman announced.  
 Financial Times Conference on Cable TV and Satellite Broadcasting.

Statistics:

Energy Trends (Nov).  
 Stoppages of work due to unfilled vacancies (Dec-final).  
 Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes (Dec).  
 Overtime and short-time working in manufacturing industries (Nov).  
 Employment in the production industries (Nov).  
 UK Trade Figures for December.  
 Census 1981 County report Part 2, Cheshire, Essex, Northamptonshire, Cumbria, Hertfordshire, Kent.

Publications:

Employment Gazette.  
 UK Overseas Trade Statistics for December.

Parliament  
Commons

Questions:

Prime Minister, Treasury.

Business:

Pig Industry Levy Bill: All stages.  
 Divorce Jurisdiction, Court Fees and Legal Aid (Scotland) Bill: Remaining stages.  
 Conwy Tunnel (Supplementary Powers) Bill: Remaining stages.

Select Committees:

Energy.  
 Northern Ireland,  
 Transport.  
 Tourism Sub-Committee  
 Environment.

Lords: National Heritage Bill (HL): Report 1st day.  
UQ on present high level of European air fares.  
Debate on Air Fares - Lord Bethal with S/S Trade replying.

Ministers - see Annex

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PRESS DIGEST

Falklands

- Callaghan calls Franks a whitewash and Merlyn Rees votes against Government.
- Mail says you sink your critics; Telegraph - you emerge unscathed.
- You stand fast on Islanders' rights.
- Prince Charles not going in June because of controversy over your visit - but Palace denies this or that there were any plans for him to go.
- Jerry Wiggin, replying to soldier's letter in Sun, admits 138 soldiers share 3 showers and baths and confirms there is no proper sanitation, water supply ran out and some troops did not get free Christmas phone calls; alleged to have said hardy troops could swim in sea - Sun accuses Wiggin of a load of whitewash and complacency; this is 1983 not 1914 - officialdom has failed troops and you should get rid of Wiggin.
- FCO campaigning to keep Patrick Wright on JIC - Times.
- Sir Frank Cooper says officials and Ministers should ask if they had done enough to prevent conflict, Parliament has hell of a lot to answer for

Unions/Pay

- Chancellor renews call for pay settlements good deal less than 6%.
- Shop Workers' Wages Council awards 8%.
- Local Government workers demand 26.9%.

Water

- Union leaders say dispute is hardening and could go on a month; but strikers carry out repairs to restore supplies in Penzance. Mr King calls for a return to work.
- Mr Tebbit accuses GMWU of going on strike with inadequate vote.

- Len Murray volunteers his mediation.
- 9,000 homes without water.
- Telegraph says shadow of Len Murray mediation, cast on water, augers a six month flood; suggests combatting strike full tilt by energetic temporary recruitment and substitution.

#### Economy

- Abbey National pledges to hold mortgage rates at 10% for 6 months; building societies want legislation to enable them to provide legal, banking, surveying and estate agency services - Mail says it sounds like a good idea with proper safeguards.
- £ makes sluggish recovery.
- America on the mend - Reagan, but he disappoints Wall Street and dollar falls heavily.
- Guardian says Nigel Lawson is trying to stop oil companies from cutting prices and precipitating a collapse.
- Foot in Labour Party Political Broadcast calls for more public spending - necessary blood transfusion.
- Mirror says we abandon efforts to talk up £; instead we stress benefits of low £ in exports.
- Mirror calls on economists to explain why £ is at its lowest level when we have largest b.o.p. surplus.
- Sam Brittan FT says fall in £ has transformed scene dated Budget representations; should make it possible for British industry to reconquer some of internal UK market as well as improve share of world market; make sure advantage not eroded.

#### Budget

- CBI calls for abolition of NI Surcharge, lower fuel and rate bills and big investment in public works.
- Economist Intelligence Unit says North Sea oil boom is over- Government must use tax system to stimulate new development.

#### Law and Order

- Express and D/Star lead with pictures of Waldorf sitting up in bed; Martin's parents ask police to take him alive.
- Mail says black activists are to receive £1500 of GLC money to organise protest against police over death of Roach at Stoke Newington.
- Express criticism of Chief Constable of Merseyside for not doing much for road safety by saying he won't prosecute them simply for not wearing seat belt; but many police forces will go softly.

- D/Star leader attacks judge for keeping man - a harmless barmpot - in prison who simply refuses to hand over his find of the Glastonbury Cross.
- Ex-Chief Constable Alderson says homosexuals should not be barred from police - he is vice-president of Libgay.
- Sports Minister wants magistrates to crack down on football hooligans and make more use of 120 attendance centres.

### Industry

- Mail expects we shall see the back of Peter ~~Shore~~<sup>Palmer</sup> this year.
- Wiggins Teape makes 1,000 redundant in Dartford, Bury and Lincoln.
- Chairman of nationalised industries join fight against St John Stevas Bill - negate drive to convert them into commercial trading concerns; Guardian says, bearing in mind Government interference in nationalised industries, argument does not bear much examination.
- Strikes cost 7.9m working days last year - just over half due to NHS.

### Defence

- Reagan ready to soften line on zero option.
- Mail comments on Paul Oestricher's decision to withhold some income tax as gesture against paying for nuclear weapons, says there is a perfectly legal way of doing this - vote in Foot.
- Ceaucescu urges NATO not to deploy missiles and Warsaw Pact to destroy existing Soviet ones.

### Politics

- Labour Party Executive to hear charge against Militant Tendency of operating secret conspiracy within party.
- Tatchell endorsed as prospective Labour candidate in Bermondsey - by-election expected February 24.

### Northern Ireland

- John Hume wants Londonderry declared a tax-free zone.

Health/Welfare

- ← - Another £200,000 for Tadworth Court hospital to keep it going, pending final decision.

Family

- Study Commission finds a quarter of workforce are married women.

EC

→ Local authority

- Hopes dwindling for early approval of our 1982 Budget refund.

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- Kensington and Chelsea Borough to cut rate by 20% - £600,000 cut from budget.
- Labour's hard left planning mass resignations from 5 borough councils to throw administration into confusion if choice is between cutting spending or raising rates by more than 'acceptable' amount.

Media

- LWT's Weekend World scheduled to be cut from 39 to 26 programmes because of cost of Channel 4.

Government

- Times says over £5.5m spent on FCO's Whitehall block refit.

International

Eire: Speculation that Haughey will resign today.

Bolivia: Nazi war criminal faces extradition proceedings by France and Germany.

Poland: US reporter alleges Walesa was also target for gang that tried to assassinate Pope; Walesa now back on shipyard payroll but not yet working in Gdansk.

Australia: James McMillan Express says Aussies are awful hypocrites for banning from their shores cricketers for playing in South Africa - guilty conscience over white Australian policy.

South Africa: Commodore of Simonstown arrested on charges of spying for Russia.

Belize: Guatemala talks collapse in bitterness.

Gibraltar: Spanish Foreign Minister rules out talks with Britain unless sovereignty is on the agenda.

Ministers:

Mr Younger addresses the Timber Growers Association, London.

Sir Keith Joseph and Mr Shelton attend NERC council meeting, Swindon.

Mr Heseltine lunches with Alan Hale, Financial Times.

Mrs Chalker dines with the Institute of Municipal Engineers, Cutlers' Hall.

Mr Butcher speaks at "Television 83 - Threats and Opportunities" conference and at "Narrowcasting" conference.

Mr Pattie lunches with British Aerospace.

Mr Rees addresses British/Soviet Chamber of Commerce lunch.

Mr Newton addresses Study Commission on the Family, London.

Mr Eyre speaks at the Institute of Physical Distribution Management annual dinner.

Mr MacGregor attends launch of European Year of the Small Firm.

Mrs Fenner attends Berlin Green Week.

TV/Radio:

Mrs Chalker is interviewed by Radio Tees on seat belts (10.00am).