

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

Arab League Delegation visits London.

TUC Women's conference, Scarborough.

Irish Prime Minister addresses nation on state of economy - TV and radio.

Statistics

Retail price index (Feb).

Tax and price index (Feb).

Pay

Federation of Scottish Bank Employees, 24,000 clericals: 4% offer, 9% claim  
British Shipbuilders.

Gas manuals offer of 5.25%.

Parliament

Commons:

Business:

Private Members' Motions:

Mr Arthur Bottomley - Low Pay;

Mr Dick Douglas - Youth Unemployment in Scotland;

Sir John Eden - Economic and Industrial Situation;

Redundancy arrangements in the Fishing Industry  
(Adjournment Debate).

Ministers - see Annex

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PRESS DIGEST

Politics

Polls

- ORC puts Labour ahead in Darlington: 38/Alliance 35/Conservative 27.
- NOP also gives Labour a Darlington lead: 37.3/Alliance 35.6/  
Conservative 26.4.
- MORI national return in Economist shows Conservatives 42/Alliance 27/  
Labour 23.
- Mail says Darlington polls are a considerable blow to you and likely  
to become victory of squeeze; Mail leader - NOP news not much better  
for Foot than for you but polls are giving people a better chance than  
before to express their principal wish - in this case to turf Labour out

- Now Tribune joins Morning Star in telling Labour to moderate its attacks - and the language used - on you.

### Economy

- Express leader on cyclical indicators and claims economy is picking up pace and on a winning streak- GKN and Tube Investments confirm improvement; EC forecasts a modest upturn for us.
- BP to await market settling down before taking a view on BNOC price; net profits down 33% to £716m.
- Irish interest rates going up 2.75% today to try to avoid devaluation; France calls on Germany to revalue mark and West Germany cuts lending rates 1% to 4% or 5% to help recovery.
- Former Midland Bank chief executive speaks out of turn in calling for direct Government help to banks to support ailing companies - his chairman said last week British industry trends was slightly better.

### Industry

- ASLEF pave the way for one-man trains and operation of new stock on Bedford-London line; Express says that after miners this must be Springtime for realism.
- Guardian leader says after ASLEF it is job of new chairman of BR to build on Parker's success and insist in concert with unions that Government commits itself to proper plans for railways.
- Sun says Cabinet yesterday backed you on MacGregor's appointment; Mirror leader says rarely can anyone have got a job against more opposition but you are his fan and that's all that matters and only you will be to blame if he fails. Guardian says MacGregor will retain influence over BSC through Scholey as chairman.

- Express continues to give acres of space to its Buy British campaign.
- Finnish company to build £135m newsprint plant in Shotton.
- Institutions force changes at the top in Rank - John Davis, 76 year old president leaves; retiring age reduced from 73 to 70.
- Small shopkeepers calling on Government to control discounts to multiple stores and supermarkets.
- BL halves its losses to £200m
- British and other Governments lodging strong protests against US Justice Department investigation into Laker charges that 7 airlines conspired to drive him out of business.
- BSC refusing to go to arbitration on pay; unions may take case to Tebbit and Jenkins.
- Rolls Royce Coventry workers agree to levy to finance wages of two apprentices.

### Budget

- Guardian says if oil price drops substantially Chancellor will raise direct taxes.
  - Sir Ian Gilmour, in attack on Budget, says there is no sign of long term plan in Budget.
  - Times praises Chancellor's cautious approach to free ports.
  - Peter Riddell, FT, puts allegation of Budget leaking in perspective - anyone can now forecast shape.
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### Media

- Peter Jay under threat at TV-AM because of poor performance; group of shareholders seeking to replace him today with Lord Marsh.
  - Sun leader attacks Lord Thomson, IBA, for warning us not to get involved with Cable TV too hastily.
  - IBA stops Granada programmes tonight showing medium trying to communicate with dead to prevent distress to viewers.
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### Defence

- Mirror says you have struck secret deal with USA to allow massive build up of nuclear weapons in Britain - will make Russia regard Britain as even more important target; Cruise will be added to stockpile instead of replacing them one for one.
- Guardian says replacement will almost certainly be for lower order battlefield weapons.
- Police evict 20 peace campaigners camping outside Upper Heyford; Italy expels 11 foreign women protestors.
- TUC Women's Conference vote to support Greenham Common women.
- Reagan being urged to make major speech on security to rally public opinion.
- NUT likely to reverse its decision to affiliate to CND at Easter Conference: 312 out of 438 branches want to sever link.
- Guardian says US Navy's special warfare unit has set up a base on Mull of Kintyre - anti piracy force.
- Guardian says Labour Party has drawn up plans to bring intelligence services under Parliamentary control.
- Guardian leader says Congress debate shows Americans are leaders of freeze movement.
- Times leader says it doesn't much matter whether there is a new Western INF negotiating initiative at Geneva before or after Easter Recess; what does matter is when it comes it has widest Allied agreement.

### Law and Order

- Third letter bomb addressed to you intercepted in Tottenham - Argentine group claims responsibility.
- Hunt for psychopath rapist who escaped from his jailers while visiting mother; Sun says inquiry had better come up with some quick answers.
- Guardian says senior Ministers rattled by criticism of Police Bill, changes may have to be made.

- Express feature on why Home Office should hang its head in shame over deportation of Rumanian.
- Mail says Rumanians didn't want him back; Mail and Guardian note curious omission from your Question Time yesterday - nothing about Rumanian.
- Attorney General to challenge decision by Charity Commissions not to strike off Moonies.
- Association of Health Service Officers says thieves are costing NHS millions of pounds a year - and gives examples.

#### Health/Welfare

- Junior hospital doctors threatening to leave hospitals without emergency cover if Sheffield AHA forces them to pay for beds while on duty.
- Campaign for Lead Free Air says a third of all vegetables grown in London may be unfit for human consumption.

#### Local Authorities

- Economist leaks NALGO opinion poll, associated with their campaign against Government cuts which shows most people believe councils waste money, most services should be pruned, unions are selfish, greedy and destructive.
- Mail says GLC is going slow on request for Festival Hall exhibition on plight of Jews in Russia after recent TASS and British Soviet Friendship Association display.

People

- Mr Tebbit's gates at home daubed with slogan "Gateway to Unemployment" etc.
- Gordon Greig, Mail, says Royal Tour which has Australia all excited, could have decisive affect on Hawke's plans for creating Republic.
- Nkomo intends to remain another week.
- You are blocking Sir Frank Cooper's joining SSRC because you may have more important work for him.

Northern Ireland

- Senator Kennedy leads group of Senators seeking to persuade President Reagan to promote United Ireland; Reagan urges all Americans to boycott terrorist organisations.
- Catholic Church leader refuses to take salute at St Patrick's Day parade because of Flannery appointment; Express leader says Mayor Koch's participation in parade was despicable - apparently votes are more important to him than Irish lives.
- Meanwhile, soldier seriously injured in IRA rocket attack on personnel carrier in Belfast.
- Irish Government facing crisis after Backbencher resigns Labour whip; protest over welfare cuts.

International

Spain: Telegraph says British hopes of a full reopening of Gibraltar border vanished in Moran talks; insists on transfer of sovereignty.

Lebanon: Express leader says a tragedy will happen and we should get our troops out.

Hong Kong: FT says talks on future deadlocked - next phase likely to include more Hong Kong Chinese.

*B. Ingham*  
B. INGHAM  
18 March 1983

Ministers

Mr King and Mr Shaw at 'Clean up the Mersey' conference, Daresbury, Cheshire.

Mr Jenkin and Mr Butcher visit BL Cowley.

Mr Heseltine lunches with Sunday newspaper lobby correspondents.

Mr Younger meets Archbishop of Canterbury, Edinburgh and hosts reception for COSLA Social Work Committee, Bute House.

Mr Pym at Konigswinter conference, Bonn.

Mr Edwards visits Land Authority for Wales, Cardiff.

Mr Fletcher at conference on "Access to Higher Education in Scotland", Stirling University and visits MEL Factory, Dunfermline.

Mr Waddington visits Equal Opportunities Commission, Manchester.

Mr Finsberg visits prescription pricing authority, Newcastle.

Baroness Young speaks at Henley Management College.

Mr MacKay meets STUC Health Committee - Edinburgh.

TV/Radio:

Mr Jenkin interview with Radio 210, Reading,