

Thursday, 7 April 1983

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

Next of kin visit Falklands.

Ministers (UK Visits, Speeches, etc)

Mr Whitelaw opens Prisons Chief Officers' conference, Warwick (2 pm).
Mr King visits Liverpool.
Mr Stewart visits Castle Huntly Borstal and Sunday Post, Dundee.
Mr MacKay visits hospitals in Dumfries and Galloway Health Board Area.
Dr Vaughan visits Cardiff (until 8 April).

Major Visits (Inward and Outward)

Mrs Chalker meets transport officials in Hong Kong (Until 8 April).

TV/Radio

Mr Pattie on BBC TV "Question Time" programme.

PRESS DIGEST

LAW AND ORDER

- The Great M4 Gun Chase. Hijacked lorry driven 100 miles down M1 with driver at pistol point after bank raid in Bristol in which a policeman was shot; Mirror picture of arrest; teeth save wounded policeman.
- Labour Councillors accuse Chief Constable Anderton of Manchester of encouraging street shoot outs - a reference to plans for armed police patrols. Anderton denies armed police are patrolling routinely or at random; Home Office says it is up to the police chiefs to decide whether to issue arms; Express says most police chiefs are trying to curb use of guns.
- Armed police surround Leeds house after 12 year old boy taken hostage at gun point.
- Reports that a supergrass has given information to police on the £7m Security Express robbery in Shoreditch over Easter; witness who saw at least four faces of gang now in hiding.
- Sinn Fein to address second anniversary rally on Saturday to mark Brixton riots but Telegraph says council may block the event.
- Defendants who sell stories to newspapers are to be prevented from receiving legal aid - Lord Chancellor changes rules.

COMMENT

- Mirror - Anderton is recklessly and dangerously wrong - if day comes when police are armed as a matter of course it should follow a decision of Parliament, not a chief constable.

- Express: Not good enough to leave arming of police to Chief Constables; we need a national blueprint - cornerstone of our police system is the unarmed bobby.
- Mail: Roy Hattersley says Anderton has done police a disservice for it is a step towardd general issue of firearms to British constable; armed policemen will not solve our crime crisis.
- Telegraph: Anderton's decision probably has less to it than meets the eye; but need for police not to frighton or alienate public weighs very heavily.
- Guardian: Still far from clear what Anderton's policy involves - growing unease that we are moving stealthily towards an armed police force.
- Times: No Chief Constable should introduce a radical change of practice without fullest consultation with Police Authority.

SPIES

- 2 of 3 Russians ordered out of Britain for spying leave - "invention" one says; another that Britain wants to direct attention from Soviet peace moves. FCO says it will take an extremely serious view of Soviet proposals.
- Chapman Pincher in Express says explusion of 47 Soviet spies gives only modest idea of scale of offensive being waged against West by KGB.
- Telegraph says there are fears of a Franco-Soviet "ice age" after explusion of 47.
- David Atkinson MP says he was British tourist accused in Soviet newspaper report of acting as courier between dissidents who got heavy sentences and anti-Soviet organisations in West.

DEFENCE

- Express says a new military build up has been ordered by Warsaw Pact with increased military budgets - puts their peaceful nuclear posturing in perspective.
- NUT vote overwhelmingly not to join CND; alarming increase in classroom theft reported.
- Mail says old Kremlin watchers are used to yesterday's old routine from Soviet Defence Minister Ustinov who warned Europeans that they will become targets for nuclear retaliation if they deploy Cruise and Pershing.
- SACEUR says NATO relies too much on nuclear weapons and should concentrate more on conventional forces.
- Campaign to save Royal Military Academy band corps at Sandhurst from disbandment.

HMS KEREN

- D/Star: Victory for sea union: Government agrees to hand former Sealink ferry back to Merchant Navy crew.
- Sun: Sea dogs win hijack war with £28 rise, plus 12 more days off and 12 extra seamen's jobs.
- Mirror: Navy U-turn on "hijacked" ship; Merchant Navy won battle.
- Express: Strike threat lifted in Karen peace deal; only monetary concession another £28 a week for sleeping below the water line.
- Mail: "We won, says Seamen's Union in troop ship deal".

- Guardian: Navy to return Keren in pay deal - formula seen by union as climb down.
- Times: Government agrees to hand back commandeered Kereb.
- FT: Seamen's dispute ends as both sides claim victory.

POLITICS

- Leon Brittan says Labour's plans for putting Britain back on its feet would lead to civil unrest; would cost £406m a year.
- David Owen seeks financial help for SDP from major contributors to Conservatives on grounds that this would help to block extremist Labour Government - Times see it as "parasitic".
- B/Aerospace back calls on APEX conference to accept "contracting in" reforms.

LOCAL AUTHORITY

- First sighting of the £10,000 a year councillor reported from Wakefield.

ECONOMY

- Pound up to \$1.5145 - puts on 6c in a week.
- Mail says home loans are becoming harder to get and will cost more unless bank rate comes down.
- But Patrick Sergeant, Mail, says interest rates are pointing down again next week.
- Output costs edge up and raw material prices jump from 7% to 9.1%; new prices view that economy is pulling out of recession, new house-building rose sharply in February.
- EC Commissioner agrees that long awaited uptown may have arrived.
- Guardian says tax burden on all but richest families - those earning more than £568 a week - is still higher in real terms than when this Government came to power.
- Mauroy aims at 5% inflation.

INDUSTRY

- BL signs deal with Honda to build replacement for Rover.
- BP paid £410,960 to an American director last year; wage bill worldwide up 25%.
- £15m employee buy-out of BBC Subsidiary Victaulic Co founded by Ian MacGregor.
- Attempts to save Alfred Herbert machine tool from failure.
- Business failures rise 28% in first quarter.
- Spot oil prices continue to rise; but FT says Russia stands to lose \$3bn in hard currency this year if spot price remains at \$28.

UNIONS/RAIL

- Scunthorpe steel workers plan 24 hour strike in support of Special Steels action against Sheffield cuts.
- BL take firm stand against Maestro strikers at Cowley.
- Sun hopes farmworkers will be treated more generously in next pay round because of farmers' good fortune.
- Mail leader in "the lemmings of Cowley" - maddening for taxpayer to see this reversion to pre-Michael Edwardes' ways.

- IPCS recommends acceptance of 4.4% but Civil Service unions split.

TRANSPORT

- Mass revolt by stranded commuters who get out and walk along line causes Bromley problems for BR.

MEDIA

- Head of LWT's Current Affairs says before Cable TV is allowed to shatter the national audience those in a position to block its path should recognise true cost of its doubtful benefits.
- US and Canadian TV rights for film Gandhi bought for astronomical figure.
- IBA allow Jonathan Aitken to remain Chief Executive of TV-AM until "exceptional circumstances" sorted out.
- Commons Sound Broadcasting Committee worries about Parliamentary privilege - idea of a build in broadcast delay to facilitate editing.
- BBC judged to have invaded family's privacy by showing, without permission, film of 11 year old boy being reprimanded for truancy.
- John Patten says BBC Panorama lingered on and almost relished in bad news from Ulster.

FALKLANDS

- Sun attacks those who suggest we talk with the Argentines - a pack of brigands; or to place the Islands under Antarctica Treaty.
- Allegations that British troops sexually assaulted Argentines and that Gurkas beheaded Argentines and then started on British comrades.
- Bomb explodes at English language school in Buenos Aires - no one hurt.
- UK Government has granted visas to 3 Argentines who are to call at the FCO today representing relatives of dead.

EDUCATION

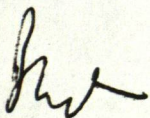
- NUT says caning and sanctions don't work - a sharp look should be sufficient to keep order - they must be nut cases, says D/Star.
- NUT member claims 50,000 of Britain's 240,000 teachers are homosexual.
- Abolition of corporal punishment in two Scottish regions has encouraged breakdown of discipline and increase in vandalism and petty crime, George Younger told.

NEW YORK

- Noraid drawing up strategy to disrupt as many of the 240 events in Britain salutes New York festival as possible.

ZIMBABWE

- Ian Smith given British passport to allow him to go to South Africa for medical treatment.



B INGHAM