

PRIME MINISTER

MEDIA MEETING - JUNE 17, 1983

A G E N D A

1. The Weekend.
 2. Broadcasting.
 3. Press Digest.
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WEEKEND - HIGHLIGHTS

Three issues will dominate:

- the Pope's visit to Poland;
- the European Council in Stuttgart - or more accurately, our Budget problem; and the
- launch of the first US spacewoman tomorrow.

Other events are:

- Colliery Deputies, Ovenmen and Shotfirers begin their conference (tomorrow);
- All Blacks v New Zealand RU Test (tomorrow);
- National Savings in May (Sunday for Monday).

Apart from the main events weekend broadcasting is likely to concentrate on the Labour Party and the forthcoming Parliamentary Session.

BROADCASTING - THE WEEKEND

Saturday, June 18

Radio 4	10.05am	<u>The Week in Westminster:</u> Review of the new Parliament. Recording of Election of Speaker plus Julian Critchley, Jonathan Sayeed, Michael Meadowcroft (Lib) and Claire Short (Lab).
Channel 4	6.30pm	<u>7 Days:</u> Deals with religious matters only this week.
Channel 4	7.00pm	<u>A Week in Politics:</u> Question of Labour leadership covered. May also include speculation on contents of Queen's speech.

Sunday, June 19

Radio 4	11.15am	<u>Weekend:</u> Interview with Janice Lloyd, Chief Executive, Spitalfields Market.
Radio 4	1.00pm	<u>World This Weekend:</u> Your interview with Paul Reynolds from Stuttgart. Colour piece on Labour Party stalwarts. Roy Hattersley talks about his book "A Yorkshire Boyhood".
Channel 4	5.00pm	<u>Union World:</u> New series for trade unionists. Bob Greaves reports from Brussels on Common Market pressure to force multinational corporations to disclose information to the workers about their future plans. Gus McDonald asks labour leaders if the movement could change its attitude to the EEC in the light of their election defeat.
Channel 4	5.30pm	<u>Face the Press:</u> Gaston Thorn, President of EEC Commission is questioned by Dick Leonard, Brussels correspondent of the Economist and Robert Mauthner of Financial Times.

* LWT Weekend World - on their summer holidays.

DIARY

Prime Minister attends European Council, Stuttgart (until 19 June).
EC Environmental Council, Luxembourg.
New MPs sworn in.

Statistics:

Retail prices index (May).
Tax and price index (May).

Publications:

Agriculture Select Committee report on research and development.

Ministers:

Mr Morrison visits MSC, Moorfoot.

PRESS DIGEST

Pope

- Condemns martial law and jailing of people at mass which was followed by demonstration; Walesa watches it on TV from his Gdansk flat.
- Express says after 40 years of concentrated propaganda against Christianity Communist regime forced to live with fact Christian faith cannot be liquidated.

Politics

- Hattersley and Kinnock strike bargain - one will serve the other as deputy if he becomes leader; Kaufman withdraws from deputy leadership but Gwyneth Dunwoody stands. Denzil Davies also seeks Deputy post.
- McCluskie, party chairman, says Hattersley should pull out because of his cardinal sin in rejecting conference decision on leaving EC.
- Terence Lancaster, Mirror, says you (and Owen) want Kinnock to be leader because you see him as a sure fire loser; at one with Foot on policy and policy primarily cost Labour the election.
- Express says Labour are heading for the soft and unworkable leadership option at the behest of union bosses; but many MPs don't believe Hattersley and Kinnock with their different approaches to policy could work in harmony for long.
- Reg Prentice, in speech tonight, to call for Royal Commission on professional representation for Conservative MPs to provide constructive opposition he can't see coming from Labour.
- Mr Pym receives over 1,000 letters of sympathy and support.
- Guardian says there is no hope at all that union vote in Labour leadership will be cast democratically but constituencies clearly have that option.
- Kinnock ready to abandon pledge to leave EC.
- Frank Chapple, in Times, says of trade unions if Labour cannot save itself we have to consider our own survival, cannot allow bunch of extremists to destroy us as well as themselves.

Government

- Two major points - demise of Think Tank and year's delay in legislation to abolish metropolitan counties.
- D/Star: Delayed chop for Red Ken - plans to axe metropolitan counties put back because of pressure on Whitehall officials; CPRS sacked.
- Sun: Think Tank sunk by Mrs T - Government claims leaks nothing to do with sinking. You've got Red Ken till 1985.
- Mirror: Thatcher scraps Think Tank.
- Express: Leaders of metropolitan counties convinced they are to be axed; meet July 21 to plan opposition; new deal, with new authority, to run London Transport; leader says metropolitan counties are expensive unjustifiable nuisances and should be axed forthwith - no stay of execution.

- Mail: Maggie scraps Think Tank in power switch in another move which will consolidate your Downing Street power base; run out of steam; fuels suspicions of PM's Department being set up in all but name;
- Telegraph: Hold up likely in plan to abolish GLC but there will be rate curb Bill in Queen's speech; Think Tank is axed; Commons Select Committee questions value of Rayner work.
- Telegraph, on Queen's speech, says if there is one overriding task it is to increase competition both in private but particularly in public sector.
- Guardian: Thatcher drops Think Tank but spares big councils; CPRS demise clear attempt to establish your own central authority over the ideas business; the more secretive the Think Tank became the less significant also.
- Times leads with Thatcher disbands Think Tank and delays Police Bill; says failure to make a Ministerial appointment for Merseyside would be short-sighted.

EC Stuttgart

- Express: Now Maggie plans another conquest - set to assert your authority.
- Telegraph: One of most important meetings in recent years. You will wield considerable authority to secure deal. But EC is runnign out of money; British initiative on lead fuel petrol wins substantial backing.
- Guardian says the pleasantly polling notion that you will be magnanimous after election victory has evaporated; you are going in determined mood but not expecting to get immediate answer.

Comment:

Sun: Here we go again. Every year since we joined the EC it has been the same story - having to fight tooth and nail for justice. Chief cause lunatic agricultural policy. What about system based on ability to pay?

- Times says Summit must take radical decisions to save EC from criminal decline; whole future at stake - amount at issue likely to be £280 - difference between £530 we think we deserve and £250m France likely to concede.

Personal

- Post Office says you received 200,000 letters at No 10 in election week - Express.
- Mr Whitelaw pictured in Robes before introduction.

Your US TV interview

- Mirror: you are angry with those who ridicule DT.
- Express: (which continues serialising Penny Junor's book) features interview on front page: "Thank goodness I've got Denis".
- Mail says 40m Americans see your tender side in references to Denis, but also a tough one in your reaction to use of word "imperialism" in Falklands context.
- Telegraph: Mrs Thatcher praises husband.

Economy

- Lloyds Bank overwhelmed by demand halts mortgages for time being.
- Mirror says we look likely to have a fresh bout of inflation with money supply rising 15-20%.
- Building Society mortgages expected to go up 1% next week.
- £ up 0.25c to close \$1.5270.
- Terence Beckett, in speech yesterday, wants more interest rate cuts.
- David Young says YTS has got off to flying start with 90% of 460,000 places spoken for.

Industry

- Europe successfully launches two satellites from French Guyana.
- British Roads Federation says roads are twice as crowded as in 1960 but fatal accidents have dropped by a third; motorways safest.
- Cunard praises Maltese for refitting Maltese Countess within allotted 44 days but cost up £700,000; Mail says it is very sad British yards were unable to take work; pity we can't stir ourselves to heroic efforts in peace; two Cunard liners may be switched to US ownership.
- Mitsubishi setting up video recorder plant at Livingston employing 170.
- Bob Haslam will get £55,000 for half a week's work as BSC chairman.
- Airlines offering cut price seats to resorts throughout Europe to fill planes.
- Five fishermen lost in shipwreck off NW coast of Scotland; wife of one widowed by sea tragedy for second time in 7 years.

- Mail says activities of two British businessmen being investigated at request of President Reagan as links in chain supplying US computers to Russia and satellites.
- Telegraph says B/Telecom share sale set for 1984.

Unions/Pay

- COHSE claims that nurses are deliberately failing exams in order to keep their jobs.
- ASLEF and NUR end 100 year's feud and come together in Federation - first step towards one union.

Media

- Still no FT but back at ACAS.
- BBC scraps TV coverage of rest of Ascot because of cameramen's dispute which is likely to black out weekend sport and threatens Wimbledon; strikers suspended without pay; Sun applauds BBC for getting tough - workers who are willing to make innocent public suffer need to be shown blackmail does not work.
- Vengeful Anna Ford says next time it could be pork pie! And says she's going to sue TV-AM for wrongful dismissal; Mail actually produces smart girl's guide to wine throwing
- Peter Jay to join Robert Maxwell as consultant on new journal "Banking World".

Law and Order

- 28 hurt in disturbance at Wormwood Scrubs - 22 wardens, 6 prisoners.
- One Eton boy expelled and six disciplined for wrecking Church organ; 12 expelled from Stowe for smoking pot.
- Lady Havers wins very substantial damages from Private Eye (Sun says £10,000).
- Lloyds decide to pay out £7m compensation for kidnapped racehorse, Shergar.
- Mail attacks Charity Commission for mounting "astonishing defence" of Moonies in their annual report and compare cult with Christianity - insufficient justification on evidence to use their powers; some MPs angry over report; leader says annual report should bring home to everyone what a useless and unnecessary charge on public Charity Commissioners are.

Northern Ireland

- 7 children escape bomb blast when terrorists attack house where Protestant informer's two sons are being cared for.
- Policeman seriously wounded by INLA at Newry.

Falklands

- Widow of SAS Sgt. Major, who has so far received £31,000, says she hasn't got enough compared with others - pay out a shambles; Mirror which says she has got only £18,000, speaks of insult both to widow and thousands who contributed - let compassion take over.
- Sailor lost overboard from frigate on duty off Falklands.
- New victims of fighting are being added to Roll of Honour as after effects take death toll.

International

Russia: Ailing Andropov gets presidency; Telegraph says Chernenko admits increasingly better educated Russians are fed up with dull media.

Belgium: 20,000 Walloons bring Brussels to standstill in protest over Government policies.

B. INGHAM
17 June 1983