

Thursday, 6 October 1983

PRIME MINISTER

Main Events:

You visit Sainsbury's at Nine Elms.

Your talks and lunch for Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister.

Labour Party Conference - Mr Kinnock's first speech as party leader.

Governor of Hong Kong, Ambassador to China and "unofficials" begin visit to UK for talks on the future of Hong Kong (until 8th).

Sino-Soviet bilateral talks begin, Peking.

EC Informal meeting of Transport Ministers, Athens.

ACP/EEC council, Luxemboug.

Council of Civil Service Unions (CoCSU) meets to discuss Megaw and pay arrangements for 1983/84.

UK/Canada technology exchange business seminar begins, Cafe Royal.

Australian 9-month wage freeze ends.

Suntory World Match Play golf championship begins, Wentworth.

Prince & Princess of Wales attend Barry Manilow Concert, Royal Festival Hall in aid of the Royal College of Music centenary appeal.

Prince Andrew attends Victoria Cross and George Cross Assoc. dinner, Cafe Royal.

Publications:

Scottish New Towns annual report, 1982.

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Mr Parkinson

- D/Star: Front page - Top Tory Sensation - Parkinson baby shock.
- Sun: Front page - My love child by top Tory; Minister's affair with his secretary, "Amazing" statement issued by solicitors.
- Mirror: page 1 - Tory Chief's love child; secretary expecting his baby; pictures of house near Bath where Miss Keays will bring up child.
- Express: page 1 - I'm the father of secretary's baby admits Tory Minister; Maggie says he will not have to quit Cabinet.

- Mail: page 1 - My love child - Cecil Parkinson admits affair - senior Ministers have been on edge for two months as word of the affair spread.
- Telegraph: page 1 - Mr Parkinson admits love affair; no question of resignation.
- Nothing in Guardian or FT. Only short piece "Parkinson admits love affair" on page 1 of Times.

Politics

- Sun poll by Audience Selection says 52% believe Kinnock could beat you at next election but 40% to Kinnock's 26% say you would be better PM.
- Threat to Conservative Party TV coverage by technicians over expenses claim - similar row blacked out Ascot and now Horse of Year Show.
- Lord Alport, in letter to Times, says many Conservatives are deeply concerned by your "apparent vindictiveness, dearth of sympathy for under-privileged and demands for narrow conformity".
- Ronald Butt, in Times, says Government is at a potentially dangerous stage in its life to be faced with a new, ebullient Labour leader. You would be well advised not to under-estimate him, though in the long run the facts of politics will be decisive.

Labour Party Conference

- Not all sweetness, light and unity. Jim Callaghan gets steamed up in defence debate after Dr Strang breaks agreement and criticises him for losing election; party stays unilateralist.
- Mail says attempt by Labour chiefs to doctor defence debate exploded in Kinnock's face.
- Low paid promised statutory minimum wage of £100 a week.
- Gerry Adams banned from appearing at Conference, but Benn says Labour must talk with Irish groups like Sinn Fein; and claims Government is boosting unemployment deliberately to run Britain by fear; worried establishment building up SDP to take over.
- Shore says Britain is heading for major and accelerated economic disaster in which it will be axe or tax.
- Express expects Denis Healey to remain on front bench, but Healey, according to Telegraph, would not serve in Cabinet pledged to unilateralism.
- Lady Olga Maitland gets water thrown over her by another woman at fringe meeting.
- FT says Labour Party is facing several directions over defence policy.

Comment:

Mirror, under heading "Backing a Loser", says after 3 days of refreshing sanity the men in white coats came back to Conference yesterday; lunacy took over from logic heedless of issue which more than any other cost Labour last election.

George Gale, Express, says Labour has got itself a new leader but still has all the old splits; and leader says Left and Right slugged it out showing party is still hopelessly split on nuclear issue.

Mail says unconditional surrender of Britain's nuclear defences remains the party's passion and Kinnock's heart is with CND; he wants it both ways. There is plenty without this for responsible Opposition to get its teeth into with you in danger of making Reagan sound at times positively dovelike.

Guardian says there is not all that much time for Labour to get its defence act together; they have a carve a policy for peace as though their political lives depended on it.

FT leader says yesterday's defence votes are a reminder of how far party has to go if it is again to appear credible to majority of electorate.

Economic

- Sterling closes higher.
- FT publishes Treasury confidential analysis of long term implications of public spending.
- MSC reports there are grounds for optimism on jobs front - number of people with jobs went up in second quarter for first time since 1979.
- Threat of Tory rebellion for leader of Warwickshire Council over spending cuts.
- Telegraph says firms are expecting stronger union resistance to longer term - ie. over one year- pay deals.
- Guardian says Peter Rees has managed to reduce over-spending from £2.5 to £1.2bn. Finding another £1bn will be difficult; Fowler putting up strong resistance; Guardian says your constituency will be among worst affected by health staff cuts.
- Industrial Relations Services finds little evidence of upsurge in pay settlement levels this winter.
- Times says Cabinet will meet in 2 weeks time to settle public expenditure review.
- Norwegian Centre-Right Government puts forward expansionist budget, with first deficit since 1979.
- EC writes to Japan about grave concern in deterioration of trade relations.

Industry

- Vauxhall car production back to normal everywhere after Ellesmere Port calls off strike; Guardian says 7.75% deal likely to be at top end of settlement.
- Which? criticises high pressure sales techniques by double-glazing firm.
- Mercury seeking injunction against POEU to prevent industrial action against its private network.
- SCPS executive blocks YTS scheme in Whitehall.
- Union members in water industry tell unions they do not wish to contest scrapping of closed shop.

- Times profile of Scargill quotes Communist as saying "Trouble with Arthur is that his brains will never match his ego".
- French railways expect £678m deficit this year.

Media

- Chief Executive of TV South West says a good commercial operator could make Channel 4 pay within a year.
- FT journalists reject 6% and discuss disruption today.

Defence

- Russia accuses Reagan of being more interested in propaganda than peace in response to new "build down" initiative; little hope of early agreement on strategic arms limitation talks.
- Telegraph - substantial piece on Green Jackets memorial ceremony.
- Several million West Germans stopped work yesterday for 5 minutes in demo against nuclear missiles.

Law and Order

- Harley Street doctor says police have told him his partner was arranging a £14,000 contract to kill him when he was arrested in California.
- 30 Councillors from 10 police counties resign in dispute with Home Office over financial control of North East police training centre.
- 61 Civil Servants have been sacked over 5 years for fraud in PSA.
- Sydenham woman and son shot dead at home for savings of £2,400.
- Express, marking first anniversary of Sir Kenneth Newman's period as Police Commissioner, says result of his shake up is that crime is down in London for first time in years.
- Southwark coroner says there is so much violence on TV he sees no point in preventing jurors from seeing unpleasant photos of corpses.

Falklands

- TGWU blacks Falklands Airport project because of pay dispute and wants NUSeamen to stop materials being shipped there.

Northern Ireland

- Army C-in-C calls for full report on use of dummy soldiers for prison guard duties.
- Mr Prior agrees to meet Assembly in Maze breakout and resists calls for resignation.
- Paris Appeal Court dismisses charges of planning to commit terrorism against 3 Irish citizens.

Sport

- Britain regains world land speed record at 633.6mph; Express, like others, hails this fine achievement.

Poland

- Polish Authorities dismiss Walesa's Nobel Peace Prize as irrelevant and politically innovated.
- Walesa gets tumultuous reception from supporters - will give away £130,000 prize to Church; D/Star says award will anger and embarrass Poland's military puppets - so much the better; Sun - never a more worthy winner; without him there would have been no freedom movement; Express says award will give little peace of mind to Kremlin gang - Walesa embodies Polish people's hopes and qualities; Mail awards top marks for boldness to Nobel Prize Committee.
- But Guardian says Nobel prize is a serious award in a serious discipline. To give it to a good guy who does not have the necessary qualifications is not what Mr Nobel had in mind.
- Times however says award makes a serious and important point; since Eastern European situation cannot be changed by force, cause of peace is furthered by those such as Walesa who work peacefully for representative institutions and human rights.

Korean Jet

- Express and Mail say Soviet airforce officer heads have rolled - not for shooting down jet, but for allowing it to fly for so long over Russian territory.

South Africa

- Botha accuses you of being racialistic; Hawke wants discussion of sanctions against South Africa at CHOGM.

Hong Kong

- China gets fractious over your statement that but for lease Hong Kong would have been independent years ago.

B. INGHAM
6 October 1983

Ministers

Mr Brittan meets Thames Valley Police Authority.

Mr Waddington visits the Union of Muslim Organisations, London.

Mr Shaw visits Heysham Power Station, Cumbria.

Mr Pattie attends Victoria Cross and George Cross Association dinner, Cafe Royal.

Lord Trefgarne speaks to Korean National Defence College.

Sir George Young visits London Docklands to open new business research and information centre.

Dr Boyson visits Association of One-parent Families, Kentish Town.

Mr Newton opens Jewish Blind Society day centre, Zimmler House.

Mr Patter speaks at 9th annual conference of the Society of Family Practitioner Committees, Eastbourne.

Mr Walker receives courtesy call from Iraqi Oil Minister.

Lord Glenarthur visits St Luke's regional secure unit, South Tees.

Mr MacGregor opens and speaks at East Lincs Growers' Co-operative, Lincs.

Mrs Fenner attends South-West Dairy event.

Mr Butcher visits Texas Instruments Ltd., Bedford.

Mr Mitchell attends British Railways presentation on finances, Rail House.

Michael Ancram pays visit to Scottish Borders.

Mr Mackay switches on power at Colonsay Hydro-Electric Plant.

Mr Stradling Thomas visits Trostre Road Industrial Estate; Stradey comprehensive school, Llanelli; and A477 Kilgetty by-pass.

Mr Raison attends ACP/EEC meeting, Brussels.

Mr Channon visits Italy.

Lord Bellwin speaks at International New Towns conference, Barcelona.

Mr Buchanan-Smith visits UK companies, Stavanger, Norway.

Mr Rifkind visits Prague.

TV/Radio

'What Price Compensation?' - BBC Radio 4: "The Risk of Safety" - examination of the compensation arrangements for children suffering brain damage due to vaccination (0905).

'Open Space' - BBC 2: "For Sale - 9,000 People" - examination of the sale by a Labour Party Local Authority of Cantril Farm council estate, Liverpool (1925).

'Newsnight Special' - BBC 2 - "Nuclear Free Europe?" - special programme on military thinking on both sides of the Iron Curtain (2005).

'Nightline' - LBC: Teddy Taylor attacks town hall voting system (2100).

'TV Eye' - ITV (2130).