

October 26, 1983

PRIME MINISTER

Main Events:

Guard of Honour for the King and Queen of Tonga followed by talks and lunch at Downing Street.

Emergency debate on Grenada.

Home Secretary's speech to the Howard League annual general meeting.

EC Research Council, Luxembourg.

EC Internal Market Council, Luxembourg.

TUC General Council meets.

Labour Party NEC.

West German Cabinet meets to discuss support for Thyssen and Krupp.

Lord Stoddart of Swindon and Lord Fitt introduced to House of Lords.

Princess of Wales receives copy of "Stories for a Prince" published in aid of the Royal Institute for the Blind.

1983 Fireworks Safety Campaign launched.

Health and Safety Executive launches industrial noise campaign.

Launch of Urban Programme brochure on tackling racial disadvantage.

Inquiry into London Transport/Associated Minibus Operators Ltd. dispute opens.

Booker-McConnel prize winner announced.

"Telecom '83" - World Telecommunications exhibition opens, Geneva.

BOTB seminar on trade with South East Asia, Bristol.

Women's Health Fair opens, Glasgow.

New Zealand All Blacks v Edinburgh.

Statistics:

Balance of payments, current account and overseas trade figures (Sept).

Publications:

National Environment Research Council, annual report 1982/83.
Annual reports of the English Water Authorities.
British Overseas Aid, 1982.
Statistical bulletin on Home Care services, day care establishments and day services, 1982.
British Film Fund Agency annual report and statement of accounts for year ending 16.10.82.

Parliament
Commons

Questions: Environment, Scotland.

Business: 10 minute rule Bill: Control of Dog Nuisance.
Debate on Civil Defence and Local Authorities.

Lords: Debate on the relations between central and local government, with particular reference to financial matters, including the burden of rates.

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

- New questions now arise - how long had Americans been planning invasion? How will Russia and Cuba react?
- Paradise Regained (Express) - US claims success after dawn invasion; but fears for safety of Governor General.
- Some US congressmen say Reagan has acted illegally; Russia accuses USA of criminal act.
- 200 demonstrators at US Embassy shouting Reagan, Thatcher out of Grenada.
- Tories confused and embarrassed by Foreign Secretary's performance. worst day in Commons since Argentine invasion.
- Plastics firm in London gets letter warning of invasion instead of FCC
- Foreign Office confirms Britain asked to participate in invasion of Grenada by OECS on Monday night and we refused.
- D/Star: Reagan's amazing snub - Maggie and Queen angry as Americans battle on British isle. Anglo-US relations slump to incredible low; White House says your telephone call to Reagan was "frosty and unfriendly". Could provoke a constitutional crisis.
- Sun: Reagan's midnight snub for Maggie - stunning humiliation. Reagan rode roughshod.
- Mirror: Grenada troops storm beaches. Invasion? Terror on Paradise island. Fierce fighting last night. Terence Lancaster says invasion has humiliated you, split Commonwealth countries in Caribbean and probably ended Geoffrey Howe's hopes of becoming Prime Ministers.

- Express: Thatcher anger over Reagan's island invasion - her midnight phone call urged him to think again. You are smarting over colossal snub. You refused to send troops. Foreign Secretary takes a mauling in Commons and some rebels warn that unless he does better they won't vote for Government. Government will now have grave difficulty in persuading public that Cruise missiles should be welcome in Britain.
- Mail: Maggie in invasion row with Reagan - President ignores No 10 midnight plea. Widest rift in Anglo-American relations since Suez. Reagan puts special relationship in imminent danger. UN Secretary General expresses grave concern.
- Telegraph: Anglo/US rift on invasion. Marxists fighting back in Grenada. Reagan ignores Thatcher plea.
- Guardian: Thatcher snubbed over Grenada; Reagan ignored UK advice on invasion. Cubans die in fierce fighting. Soviet advisers to be expelled. Tory and Labour roasting for Geoffrey Howe. Ian Aitken says in long run Enoch Powell's point about how we can now trust Americans over Cruise may be most damaging aspect of the affair.
- FT: US troops invade Grenada. Cubans killed in fighting. Thatcher opposed attack. Reagan says move was requested.

Comment:

D/Star - "Kicked in the teeth by Reagan". What an astonishing state of affairs - no-one informed Queen or British Government of intention to invade until last minute. Quite outrageous for America to treat oldest ally in this way and pathetic for British Government to accept it.

Sun - under heading "US is right to invade", says Caribbean is US backyard and they did not act alone. But it finds it difficult to have much sympathy with British Government's nervousness about intervention. Smacks of FCO's softly softly approach. "We thought Margaret Thatcher had given them a touch of backbone". Hopes that Healey is proud of the company he keeps - Tass, Moscow Radio. He should ask himself last time Russians voluntarily quit any country (as USA intends to leave Grenada) once it has achieved a toehold.

Mirror under heading "Too fast on the draw?", Reagan once again makes world feel he played in too many Western films for anyone's good. He has to learn he can't beat them all.

Mail says invasion is justified. Prime object was to prevent Grenada becoming Soviet satellite. It is impossible to see how USA's allies could quarrel with that. If so, were there no alternatives? An economic boycott could only have driven island into more abject dependence on Russia. No, Reagan has done right thing. It is to be regretted he does not appear to have the support he merited from British Government; Andrew Alexander writes of the love affair between US and UK shot in the back - can Britain's special relationship with America ever be the same? He also says that reluctantly he has concluded that if a world war happens it is more likely to be USA than Russians who start it.

Telegraph - Easy to criticise American action but this shows little understanding of importance of Grenada in American eyes since it passed into Communist control. To have done nothing would have been seen as a sign of weakness by America's friends. We tend to forget Cuban regime is actually serving Soviet interests. Of course there are military and political dangers but safety is not attained by doing nothing and if the operations are successful it will mark a set-back to Cuban and Soviet expansionist aims, which we should all welcome.

Guardian - Americans' underlying perception of world order is encapsulated in "Them or Us". To blaze even with you. You were and are humiliated. You cannot condemn and cannot approve - irrelevant when Reagan sees something he wants.

Times says there is no getting round it, USA and Caribbean allies have committed an act of aggression against Grenada, in breach of international law and UN Charter. If it is to be justified it must be on grounds of political expediency and national security, but case does not look strong. Invasion will give ammunition to those who argue there is nothing to choose between super powers. But some good will come of it if Grenada is soon returned to constitutional government.

FT, under heading "An ill-judged adventure", says invasion requires a good deal more explaining than we have had so far. Highly questionable whether USA should have gone along with OECS. America's international image is likely to be tarnished. Bound to strain Anglo-US relations and comes at worst possible time.

Politics

- Kinnock falls flat on debut (Sun) - Welsh firebrand doused (Express) - you patronised him into the ground.
- Labour still split over Chief Whip in second ballot.
- 52 Labour MPs nominated for 15 places in Shadow Cabinet.

- Mr Heath says no truth in "extraordinary" court story he was in pornographic photos.
- D/Star says courts should bear a heavier responsibility for establishing validity of such claims before they are made. Express under heading "A wrong judgement", says if judges feel third parties should be protected from asides during a trial they should urge a change in the law, not make up the rules as they go along.

- Sarah Keays flies to sister in Muscat.
- Toby Jessel MP accused of failing to take breath test.

Cenotaph

- Express, calling on Government to lift shabby ban on David Owen, says decision stinks. Owen has as much right to be at the ceremony as Kinnock or Steel. You should tell Leon Brittan to let Owen attend.
- Mail says decision is mean spirited and crabbily partisan. Your Government has never appeared so petty. Not too late for you to do the generous thing.
- Telegraph says several senior Ministers are unhappy over decision.
- Guardian says 3.5m votes is justification enough for Dr Owen to be there; Mr Brittan should concede on the spot. Petty.

Beirut

- Death toll up to 245 - 216 of them American.
- General Kitson flies into airport alert.
- Mail says Shultz will call for bigger contribution to MNF from British, French and Italians.
- Times says US blames blast on Lebanese Shia splinter group.

Industry

- CBI says British industry is emerging from recession with new spirit of confidence.
- Telegraph says a tough and lengthy set of rules to ensure competition and protect customers is to be imposed on B/Telecom and says Government has accepted too easily BT arguments that business cannot be broken down into smaller units.
- NCB to see NUM tomorrow about overtime ban - but no improvement in pay offer.
- British Gas to sell the public its oilfields worth £500m.
- Allegations that Royal Ordnance factory shop stewards are being threatened with disciplinary action for making public statements about privatisation.
- B/Airways said to be on course for £150m profit after repaying £15m debt.
- Two sites names for investigation into suitability for disposing nuclear waste - Bunyan birthplace site of one - ICI distances itself.
- James McMillan, Express, says snatching defeat from jaws of victory is how the Government's performance on B/Telecom can best be summed up.
- Telegraph suggests that Government is planning tough action against strikes in essential services.
- Cigarette workers cause confusion in Glasgow as they object to plans to convert it into Britain's first no-smoking city.
- William Bell appointed as chairman of Enterprise Oil.

Housing

- Home loans almost certain to be cheaper by Christmas; Abbey National forcing pace on other societies who would prefer to wait.

Health

- Griffiths report gets limited coverage -"Store boss beefs up health service" (Sun).
- This quote picked up "If Florence Nightingale were carrying her lamp through the corridors of the NHS she would almost certainly be searching for the people in charge".
- Guardian says Griffiths report is likely to excite considerable opposition. But it deserves to be taken seriously. It would ill serve either NHS employees or patients to fail to take advantage of what can be learnt from better management techniques. But NHS also needs straight forward political and financial commitment which Government has so far failed to provide.
- Times says abandonment of present cumbersome system of consensus management will be little lamented.
- FT says it will require a good deal of political resolution and skill to make Griffiths plan stick. Strongly to be hoped plan, with some refinement, comes into force in April.

EC

- Auditors' report shows it paid £23,000 last year for cleaning that was never done.
- Telegraph suggests that Greece is becoming more reconciled to foreign policy the more it becomes drawn into EC orbit.
- Divisions between Government and Euro Tories on whether payment of £450m 1983 refund should be conditional or not.

Law and Order

- Police confirm body of woman found in Suffolk as that of missing Diane Jones, doctor's wife.
- Robbers attach "bomb" to body of security guard before getting away with £200,000; Army Bomb Disposal Unit establish it is a fake and release man from ordeal; man has to stand still for 2 hours.
- Law Commission recommends new public order laws to crack down on riots and hooligans; Times says on balance commission has made out its case.
- Allegation that 3 policemen beat up a coloured BL storeman to wring a confession from him.
- Mugger, 18, who attacked more than 20 people in five months is jailed for life.

- 5 die in gas blast at Aberdeen hotel.

Royal

- Sun continues campaign for Queen to abdicate in favour of Prince Charles.

Falklands

- Battle honours announced.

Afghanistan - Hundreds reported dead in new Russian onslaught.

Holland - Protest strikes against wage cuts in economic recovery plan.

B. INGHAM
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Ministers:

Mr Younger lunches with Glasgow Herald, London, and hosts National Heritage Memorial Fund dinner, Edinburgh.

Mr Jopling speaks at Dairy Trade Federation annual lunch, London.

Sir Keith Joseph visits Paddington College of Further Education.

Mr Ridley speaks to London regional councillors of the CBI, London.

Mr MacGregor attends Dairy Trade Federation annual lunch, London.

Mrs Fenner attends Dairy Trade Federation annual lunch and visits Marden fruit show, Tonbridge.

Mr Stanley attends lunch for the King and Queen of Tonga.

Mr Brooke visits Hatfield Polytechnic.

Mr Buchanan-Smith attends UIE (French platform construction company) dinner, London.

Sir George Young launches new brochure "The Urban Programme - Tackling Racial Disadvantages" - press conference.

Mr Clarke speaks at North Western Regional Health Authority study course, Blackpool.

Mr Butcher speaks at Flexible Manufacturing Systems conference, and speaks at Information Technology lunch, House of Commons.

Mr Fletcher launches 1983 Fireworks Safety Campaign.

Mr Gummer attends press conference on HSE's initiative on industrial noise awareness, House of Commons.

Lord Avon attends CBI conference on Combined Heat and Power in Industry, London.

Mrs Chalker chairs South West Regional annual consultative committee meeting, Exeter.

Mr Mitchell attends British Chamber of Commerce Air Transport lunch.

Mr Baker visits and speaks at "Telecom '83" conference, Geneva.

Mr Trippier speaks at Science Research Council meeting, Luxembourg.

TV and Radio:

'20/20 Vision' - Channel 4: "The Scramble for Cable" - examination of the impact of cable TV as the franchise allocation announcement draws near (2030).

'Rough Justice' - Channel 4: "The Case of the Tortured Teenager" - examination of the case of Margaret Livesey convicted of murdering her 14 year old son (2125).

'Opinions' - Channel 4: Tony Benn discusses the relevance of Marx's ideas of Britain today (2200).