

A G E N D A

28-10-83

PRIME MINISTER

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THIS WEEKEND - HIGHLIGHTS

The media this weekend will be preoccupied with Grenada, and perhaps more especially the consequentes for Cruise in view of Monday's debate.

We can expect a great deal of analyses to try to prove the worst about the Government. We need to work hard on:

- distinction between consultation on Grenada and terms of commitment over Cruise; and to fight down anti-Americanism.
- demonstrating Government acted on principle; did what it believed to be right and then worked hard to prevent damage to Alliance.
- defeat attempts to drive wedge between No 10 and FCO.

The two main programmes are:

BBC Radio World This Weekend (Gordon Clough)

LWT Weekend World (Brian Walden) which is to look at state of NATO Alliance and tensions following Grenada; so far FCO not responding.

We need a decision on who should lead? Mr Heseltine?

Other Events (on Sunday)

|| Your BBC World Service Phone-In, Sunday (which should provide a real opportunity to reinforce your position). ||

Argentine Election.

National Council for Soviet Jewry march and rally in Hyde Park.

Speaking notes are out on Trade Union Bill and briefing available on Police Bill.

The miners' overtime ban starts on Monday.

BROADCASTING - THE WEEKEND

Saturday, October 29

Radio 4	10.05am	<u>The Week in Westminster</u> : Robert Carvel reviews Parliament's first week back after the Recess.
Channel 4	7.05pm	<u>Seven Days</u> : Ethical views on Grenada; the multinational force in Lebanon; film on Dr Jesse Jackson, possible US presidential candidate.
Channel 4	7.30pm	<u>Union World</u> : Looks at the impact of cuts in the NHS on a group of women.

Sunday, October 30

BBC 1	10.00am	<u>Asian Magazine</u> : Includes interview with David Waddington about his recent visit to India, Bangladesh and Pakistan.
ITV	11.00am	<u>Link</u> : Discussion on the policy of caring for the mentally ill within the community.
ITV	12.00	<u>Weekend World</u> : Looks at NATO and how the Grenada issues have shown up differences between US and other members of the Alliance.
Radio 4	1.00pm	<u>The World this Weekend</u> : (not yet finalised).
Channel 4	4.45pm	<u>Bad Times at The Times</u> : Harold Evans reveals how he was forced to leave The Times.
Channel 4	5.45pm	<u>Face the Press</u> : Subject still to be decided.
BBC 2	6.30pm	<u>Money Programme</u> : The collapse of Spain's biggest private industrial empire and how a student union has gone into the leisure business to counter the effects of spending cuts.
BBC 1	11.15pm	<u>One in Seven</u> : First of 4 programmes examining what it is like to be out of work. This week: the young unemployed.

Main events:

The Queen presents Maritime Heritage Award medal to the Prince of Wales on behalf of the Mary Rose Trust.

House of Commons debate on the Civil Service.

OPEC long-term strategy committee meets, Vienna.

AUEW national conference opens.

Shipbuilding unions' delegate conference, Tynemouth - to discuss survival strategy.

British National Day at "Telecom '83" exhibition, Geneva.

Tokyo Motor Show opens.

Dunlop board meeting.

Publications:

HMI reports on schools in Acton, Shrewsbury and Leeds.

Government response to the Acheson report on Inner-City Health Care.

Pay:

Ford UK/unions: response to union claim.

Parliament

Commons

Business:

Debate on the Civil Service on a motion for adjournment.

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Grenada

- Reagan claims he got there only just in time to prevent a take-over of island; 1,000 military discovered on island.
- Foreign Secretary gets assurance from Shultz that Anglo-US consultation will be improved.
- Queen waiting to hear from Governor General (Mail); Scoon due to hold press conference today.
- Dozens of Tory MPs sign motion approving of US intervention; first Britons to come out speak of week of hell.
- You volunteer to send troops to take part in Commonwealth peace-keeping force.
- Gen. Hudson reported cornered in stronghold; taken hostages & demands safe passage to Guyana.
- Scargill wants a task force to liberate Grenada.
- Plenty of stories trying to make "Ealing comedy" (Mirror) out of telexes for FCO going to plastics factory.
- D/Star, page 2, Story built on allegation by David Owen that we had troops on standby to fly to the Caribbean for 2 weeks; Queen in new embarrassment over whereabouts of Governor General
- Sun, page 2 - No blunder. Maggie hammers invasion critics and says I back US; says a Russian KGB general posed as Ambassador to Grenada and master-minded coup.
- Mirror, page 2 - Britain set to send peace force to Grenada.
- Express, page 6 - We could send troops, you say; but Foreign Secretary's future is now in doubt. Senior Tories writing off Sir Geoffrey - said to have all but lost your confidence - might go to Woolsack; feature on "The blunderful world of the FO"; George Gale lists 10 banana skins which have come your way, the latest of which is a lack of iron over Grenada.
- Mail - David Owen says Britain should have spearheaded a Commonwealth initiative to prevent USA being put in international dock; Dr Claudius Thomas, High Commissioner for Eastern Caribbean states says the sadness is that they now know Britain can no longer be relied upon to help.
- Telegraph - Reagan blames Cuba - Island takeover planned. You say we stand by US - special link not damaged; sketch writer says you gave Government a badly needed stiff victory yesterday and you out-classed him 5.0.

- Guardian says White House has shifted ground as reason for intervention to Cuban build up. Scoon ready to form Government. You put survival of NATO before invasion row. Cruise debate will wrong Government SDP/Liberal Alliance.
- Times says Tory gloom grows on invasion. May seem at a loss to decide whether US action is justified and whether Britain should have taken part.

- FT says Scoon is poised to head interim Government, after reports that US has overcome main resistance.

Comment:

Sun says a week after invasion we still do not know the facts - whether other Caribbean countries told FCO of plan to intervene; when did FCO tell you; when did it warn you of USA's grave anxiety about the situation; and whether FCO received appeal for help from Governor General? FCO does not yet seem to have learned Falklands' lesson.

Express: As revelations build up, so do questions. When did FCO get definite signal that East Caribbean states wanted action over coup; when did FCO get clear signals invasion was afoot; how long does it take for Foreign Office Ministers to be told by officials of developing events; when were you first told?

Mail asks who else but you in a demoralised Government could make sitting on a Caribbean fence look like a resolute posture?

Telegraph very sad leader about performance of Denis Healey.

Guardian - Peter Jenkin says concealed story is not one of British incompetence or craven complicity but the extent and depth of Anglo-American rift. If there is a crisis it is a crisis of confidence. Anti-Americanism is on rise in Europe and this won't help. Ian Aitken says the fact that you refused to help a valued friend and tried to cool his ardour would be a matter for congratulation in a less ruthless game than aprty politics. But hard question is if you can't now trust Reagan why should the rest of us?

Davie Wall, Times, says having left a vacuum we must not be surprised to find Cubans and USA trying to fill it without paying too much attention to us.

Defence

- Sun feature on deployment of Cruise says worrying question now is whose finger is on the trigger since there is no physical barrier to US firing without dual key. Invasion of Grenada has eaten into concept of mutual trust.
- Telegraph says Government surprised MPs of all parties and angered some of its own Backbenchers by announcing Cruise debate on Monday. Advocates of dual key believe they are being ridden roughshod.

- NATO Ministers announce scrapping of 1,400 old nuclear warheads.

NHS Debate

- £9m to be spent over next 4 years to improve medical care in inner cities.
- D/Star says Kinnock brought a touch of Welsh wizardry with brilliant and powerful attack on health "cuts"; brought Labour MPs cheering to their feet; Sun reports a ronic for Labour by Kinnock.
- Mirror says Kinnock barrage wins cheers - brilliant debut. Government sees pain as opportunity for commercial exploitation; leader says no promise of yours has proved more empty than that NHS is safe in your hands. Kinnock showed how false promise is. Why, if it is true, are there so many empty hospital beds and so many unemployed doctors and nurses?
- Curbs on drug company profits and advertising being considered by Government.
- Andrew Alexander, Mail, says Kinnock was long on means about comparison but short on anything approaching originality; eventually overwhelmed Fowlerian statistics.
- D/Star columnist suggests we should all pay £1 to go to doctor.

Politics

- Denis Healey comes out top in Labour Shadow Cabinet elections; six newcomers include Meacher. Brynmor John and Bruce Millan lose out.
- SDP capture council seats from Labour in Islington and force recount in a third.