

20 January 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister visits Lille to announce Channel Fixed Link project

Neil Kinnock addresses Industrial Society

Transport Secretary makes statement on Channel Link

ECOFIN Council, Brussels

EC Agriculture Council, Brussels (to January 21)

Scottish Grand Committee meets on Scottish Tertiary Education Advisory Council report, Edinburgh

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STATISTICS

CSO: Index of output of the production industries (November)

CSO: Industrial and commercial companies capital account and financial transactions (3rd qtr)

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PAY

DEM: Civil Service: industrial grades; (105,000); settlement date 1.7.86; restructuring proposals involving a reduction of pay bands

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Wales; Energy

Business:

Motions on the Rate Support Grant Report (England) 1986-87 (HOC Paper 140). The Rate Support Grant Supplementary Report (England) (No 2) 1985-86 (HOC Paper 587) and the Rate Support Grant Supplementary Report (England) (No 3) 1984-85 (HOC Paper 138)

Motion on the Welsh Support Grant report 1986-87 (HOC Paper 100)

Adjournment Debate

The ambulance service in the North West (Mr T Lewis)

Select Committees:

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: The protection of people at work from legionnaire's disease witness: The Health and Safety Council

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

## TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE

Subject: Inland Revenue: Tax Office Delays

Witnesses: Board of Inland Revenue Officials

LordsNorthern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978  
(Continuance) Order 1986Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978  
(Amendment) Order 1986 Motions for ApprovalMotion to approve the continuation in force of the  
Motor Vehicles (Wearing of Seat Belts) Regulations  
1982Motion to take note of the White Paper on the  
Nationality Provisions of the Hong Kong Act 1985  
(Cmnd 9637)

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTWESTLAND

- Express: "Brittan's chance to plunge knife into Heseltine". Industry Secretary is said to be leading the Cabinet's counter-attack. Quotes 'Weekend World' interview. Mr Heseltine had persistently and repeatedly defied Cabinet decisions. You were put in impossible position. Far from being a raging tyrant you were very tolerant.
- Mirror: Brittan describes claims that he put pressure on Jim Prior as "the dirty tricks department scraping the bottom of the barrel". But it is clear that you will face further trouble in the Commons this week.
- Star: 'Maggie a big softie. She's no tyrant, says loyal Leon'. He can understand why you did not want Heseltine to flounce out of the Cabinet.
- Mail: Leader praises Brittan's fight back. He has defended himself with courage. Report says the Heseltine camp suffered another setback yesterday with indications that BAE's enthusiasm is waning.
- Telegraph: "Dirty tricks broadside by Brittan". He admits that one of his officials briefed Winston Churchill but it was "correcting some of the mistakes that had appeared" rather than lobbying. You are understood to be pleased with the way Brittan portrayed Heseltine's position.
- Times: Heseltine refuses to comment but friend says he was amazed at way Brittan "took his gloves off and let rip."
- Westland Board meets today to finalise details of new reconstruction package which should be voted in mid-February. Augusta denies that it is planning to change sides.
- Guardian: Ian Aitken reviews current position. He suggests that existing select committees are not equipped to carry out investigative tasks. "An ad hoc committee of Privy Councillors would be better armed to take on Mrs Thatcher and her Ministers." Whatever happens, it will be very serious if Government refuses to give Committee the facts.

WESTLAND (Cont'd)

- Civil servants are furious at suggestion that they were the source of the leak of the Solicitor-General's letter.
- A formal request has been sent to departments for official papers and a serious constitutional row is likely if you decide - as expected - that the papers should not be divulged. The Committee will take evidence from MoD officials tomorrow, from the Westland board on Wednesday and from Brittan a week later.
- FT: BAe is expected to decide this week to withdraw from leadership of the consortium.
- Leading article says Westland is a symptom of Britain's Euro-dilemma.

CHANNEL LINK

- Express: "Rail shuttle wins the Channel Tunnel fight". A road tunnel may follow later. Charges are expected to be 10 per cent lower than the ferries. Leading article says both you and President Mitterrand need some good news but if the link fails to come to fruition there will be enormous political consequences.
- Sun: Poll for BBC Breakfast Time shows 45 per cent of public in favour of a link and 44 per cent against.
- RSPCA says link could lead to rabies breaking out in Britain. Government has not been in touch with the Society.
- Telegraph: Leader says that given the ridiculously brief assessment period it is a minor miracle that a link can be announced today, but risks lie ahead.
- Guardian: "Rail only tunnel to start row". It will be seen as a failure by Britain to coordinate its negotiations. There has been lack of liaison between D/Tp and Downing Street.
- FT: Opponents of the rail link are preparing to attack the decision.

ADEN

- Express: Royal Yacht Britannia pulls off second daring mission, rescuing further 208 people on Sunday after 440 on Friday.
- Mirror: About 1,000 people, including more than 50 Eritons are still waiting to be rescued. Article suggests the rescue will keep Britannia off the scrapyard for a few more years.
- Mail: "Heroes of Britannia". Second rescue is easier than the first. Hardline Marxist Abdul-Fattah Ismail appears to have won against President Ali Nasser Mohammed. Leader says now it is Russia rather than Britain that is carrying the "White Man's Burden".
- Times: Two Royal Navy warships are also involved in the rescue.

WATER PRIVATISATION

- Express: The Government will next month launch a big new sale of liquid assets when it announces plans to privatise water.

AIRPORT SECURITY

- Express: Britain's major airports are wide open to terrorist infiltration because of "scandalous" weaknesses in security. A reporter was able to get a job as a cleaner without proper identity checks. Leader says if cost of air travel has to rise in order to pay for better security, then so be it.
- Mail: Sussex Chief Constable decides against openly carrying guns at Gatwick. Police Federation and many senior officers feel Heathrow decision was wrong.
- Telegraph: El Al has suspended today's weekly flight from Tel Aviv to Manchester in row over plan to move check-in desks.

PRISONS

- Mirror: HM Prison Rudgate, Yorkshire, was open all hours for drink, sex and drugs.
- 50 women prisoners ran riot on New Year's Eve because of staff shortages at Styal Prison in Cheshire, which houses IRA bomb girls among other serious offenders.
- Sun: Disgusted prisoners have tried to kill Moors murderer, Ian Brady, by poisoning his food.

POLITICS

- Express: Labour's former Chief Whip, Michael Cocks, sacked as candidate for Bristol South after 16 years as an MP. Dawn Primarolo, far left Avon County Councillor, replaces him.
- Sun: Cocks says his dismissal will help the Alliance.
- David Steel says he will not be prepared to form a coalition with the Tories unless you are replaced.
- Leader says you need not tremble at stories of a possible pact between Heseltine and Peter Walker. Unless he is sacked, Walker will still be round the Cabinet table when the General Election comes.
- Telegraph: Steel says an Alliance government is now "tantalizingly close"
- Times: Leading article examines election pluses and pitfalls for Tories.

SMOKING HEALTH WARNING PLANS

- Express: The Government wants to replace the present health warning on cigarette packets with a less "bossy" one. BMA attacks the plan.

ECONOMY

- Telegraph: Finance Ministers and central bank governors of British, USA, Germany, France and Japan ended meetings in London yesterday by expressing satisfaction with progress made in cutting value of dollar. But they failed to agree on new initiatives on international interest rates or ways of relieving Third World debt.
- FT: 'G5 sees prospect of lower interest rates', but rules out concerted moves.

STATE INDUSTRY CHIEFS

- FT: National industry chiefs are seeking greater autonomy from Whitehall.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Telegraph: Thousands of Ulster loyalists opposed to the Anglo-Irish Agreement staged a series of weekend rallies.
- Times: Unionists confident of huge poll support.

RATES

- Express: Up to 40 Tories are expected to rebel in the Commons tonight against Government plans to raise rates in the Shires.
- Mail leader has no sympathy with Tory rebels. There are too many ready to parade their social consciences but too craven to ask their own constituents to pay. Report says 50 Tories are set to rebel, despite appeals from Ministers, but Mr Baker is not planning any last-minute concessions.

HEALTH SERVICE

- Express: Leader welcomes Health Ministers' review of regulations that allow dirty hospitals to evade prosecution by hiding behind Crown immunity. ITV World in Action documentary tonight will highlight the problem.
- Mirror: Hospital kitchens are so dirty it is a miracle more patients don't die of food poisoning.

TERRORISM

- Express: President Reagan is planning to kidnap gunmen involved in attacks on Americans. The CIA is poised to go anywhere to grab suspects even if international law is violated. US officials are concerned about the reaction of you and other allies.
- Mirror: Terrorists all over the world may be using British passports, which are alleged to have been sold by corrupt officials, in the Passport Office.

DRUGS

- Express: Chief Constables fear proposed legislation to crack down on drug barons will give villains early warning that law is closing in on them.

UNIONS

- Mirror: Militant print workers closed Euston Station temporarily yesterday in an attempt to keep the 'Sunday People' from newsagents.
- Mail: Arthur Scargill is showing signs of making a comeback - and instilling fear in Labour's leaders.
- Telegraph: Action by Civil Service unions has ruined an attempt to monitor unemployed blacks and Asians attending benefit offices.
- Times: Austin Rover may change abrasive management style to win worker cooperation.

TEACHERS

- Sun: Leader says until teachers are ready to be sensible they should sample life on the dole.
- Mail: Three teaching unions yesterday rejected a call by the NUT to join a one-day strike. Talks resume tomorrow at ACAS.
- A father who claims his daughter has lost interest in school is withholding part of his rates in protest.

PAY

- Express: Two in five British workers - almost nine million men and women - earn only "Scrooge" level wages, according to the Low Pay Unit.
- Telegraph: CBI says pay settlements are edging down.

PRINCE CHARLES

- Mirror: Charles is planning a series of hard-hitting speeches demanding immediate action to create jobs. The aim is to shake the Government out of its complacency.
- Star: The Prince is reported to have been dining with job creation experts. Leader says if he upsets a few Whitehall applecarts he will do the country a considerable service.

LESOTHO

- Telegraph: Chief Jonathan calls on Britain and the west to mount a Berlin-style airlift to his country.

SALMONELLA

- Times: The Salmonella outbreak traced to Farley's baby food factory has cost the company £4m so far.

DEFENCE

- Times: Britain's Berlin Infantry Brigade is to buy West German made troop carriers, without considering Vickers alternatives.
- There are rising hopes that HMS Hermes will be sold to India.

TIN

- Times: Britain's diplomatic campaign to resolve the crisis may be succeeding. France and the Netherlands have dropped their objections.

BRITON HELD IN SPAIN

- Mail: Tourist, Ralph Appleby, held in a Spanish jail for 16 days for wearing see-through swimming trunks is said to be close to breaking point

UGANDA

- Mail: Anglican Bishop of Kampala calls on Britain to end fierce fighting. There are growing fears for hundreds of Britons in the city.

LAW AND ORDER

- Express: Government and broadcasting authorities are to get together in bid to solve the problems of TV violence. Home Secretary hints at joint research.
- Soccer thugs nearly killed an innocent fan, then threw business cards after him with the message "Congratulations, you have just met Millwall".

INNER CITIES

- Star: Two thirds of new parsons say they won't work north of Birmingham or on council estates.

JIM COE



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Sir Keith Joseph visits Leicester Polytechnic
- DEM: Lord Young opens Hotel Industry Marketing Group Seminar, London
- DEN: Mr Walker opens NCB (Enterprise) exhibition, HoC
- HO: Mr Hurd gives interview to Radio London on black Londoners
- DTI: Mr Brittan leads discussion at Westminster Industrial brief, London; attends Country Landowners' Association lunch, London; meets Soviet Deputy Minister for Instrumentation and control systems, London
- MAFF: Mrs Fenner addresses Port Health Authority annual dinner, London
- MAFF: Mr Gummer addresses Lincoln and District Agricultural Society
- DEM: Mr Trippier dines with Rank Organisation, London
- MOD: Mr Lee addresses World Meteorological Office dinner
- MOD: Mr Stanley gives British Forces Broadcasting Services interview on the year ahead
- FCO: Mr Eggar addresses the Latin America Trade Advisory Group
- DHSS: Mr Whitney visits Suffolk House, Iver Heath, Bucks
- SO: Mr MacKay meets COSLA on World Administrative Radio Conference, Edinburgh
- SO: Mr Ancram visits Dens Housing Estate, Dundee; later opens house at Cleghorn Housing Association
- SO: Mr Stewart attends presentation at Career Development Loan Scheme, London
- DTI: Mr Channon meets Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, London
- DTI: Mr Howard visits Advertising Standards Authority, London
- DTI: Mr Pattie visits National Film & Television School, Beaconsfield
- DTp: Mr Mitchell attends Transport Act regional seminar, Manchester

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling attends EC Agriculture Council, Brussels (to January 21)
- MAFF: Mr Gummer attends EC Agriculture Council, Brussels
- DEM: Mr Bottomley attends Council of Europe, Madrid (to January 22)
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TV AND RADIO

"Money Box"; BBC Radio 4 (10.00): Repeat of Saturday's programme

"Open Space"; BBC2 (19.35): "The Shadow of Suicide". Talks to three families affected by suicide which is now as common as road deaths

"World in Action"; ITV (20.30)

"Panorama"; BBC1 (21.30): "Shah-Grabbing the Front Page Lead". Fred Emery goes behind the scenes of Eddy Shan's new national newspaper

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