

PRESS SUMMARY - JAN 25

NO TIMES AND SUN BECAUSE OF MURDOCH STRIKE

WESTLAND - Your crisis not over yet. Resignations of top officials from Downing St and Mr Brittan's office certain to be demanded (Daily Star).

Kinnock says Brittan must not be regarded as a sacrifice that will satisfy demands for a full and honest explanation.

Meanwhile, Bristow takes his holding up to 17%.

D/Star - Brittan ~~out~~ - but Maggie says she wants him back.

Mirror - Brittan quits - Tory MPs revolt brings down Thatcher Yes Minister. Even if you manage to persuade Tory MPs to close ranks there will remain deep unease about the affair. On inside page - Out goes the monkey; what about the organ grinder? In practice, Brittan blames you and thinks you have thrown him to the lions to save your own skin. Joe Haines says the resignation has bought time for you and that you have been wondering aloud to close friends and family whether you should lead the Government into the next election.

Express - New Government crisis as second Minister within 15 days. Maggie's ranks close as storm grows over leak. The worst case against her would be if she were found to have dissembled over her account of the leaked letter inquiry.

Mike Evans, Defence correspondent, Express, says damaging evidence has emerged that Leon Brittan and No 10 set up the Solicitor General to write the letter that was leaked. Senior Whitehall source says there was written proof of this and that in his second letter to Heseltine he says he had no reason to complain about Heseltine's point, ^{and that} the Solicitor General made very damaging remarks about constitutional abuses

Mail - The blood sacrifice - Brittan quits: I can't go on like this. Now leaves you exposed as the sole target.

Comment

D/Star - It was inevitable, not only to rescue his beleaguered Prime Minister but also to save the good name of British politics. For integrity is the real issue. Much evidence that Brittan had been less than wholly candid. You now face an uphill struggle.

Express - under heading 'now let's get on with it' says it is a pity that Mr Brittan did not decide to go sooner. He did not act wisely but who did? A small molehill

was transformed into a mountain, the silly game played by some people in Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet. *Some* will now be hoping that they can see the beginning of the end of this wretched affair and proceed to urgent and important tasks.

Mail - Yesterday the backbenchers had their way. Pathos ribaldy and suspicion snarl and snap at Margaret Thatcher. Only the most staunch and robust loyalty of her own can save her. The analogy between Watergate may be as inexact as it is unsavoury. The deepening crisis is not about helicopter or leaks but when the PM learned what the Private Office had done.

Andrew Alexander in Mail says Westland is getting out of hand - and by that he to Ministers being found out doing the sort of things do (until they become ex-Ministers when of course they attack their successors for doing it). A more real scandal is the unofficial market in Westland shares.

Telegraph - says Brittan has been the victim of remarkable *W. Brittan* in recent weeks at the hands of Mr Heselting. Mrs Thatcher fails in 'Dont go plea)

FT - Brittan resigns over leak. Downing St sought to squash speculation about the future of Bernard Ingham and members of the Private Office. Solicitor General heard to observe the *he* and knew what it was like 'to be a solicitor to both the Mantague and the capulets'.

Malcolm Rutherford in the FT, asks if you can survive. The answer is probably yes. It is hard to put one's finger what the crisis is. It is really about why the crisis was allowed to develop on such trivia. Thinks you are growing careless in the use of power. There *is* something observable in other leaders in other countries that after 5 years judgement begins to wane.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Unionists lose one seat to SDLP in by-elections

Bitter setback (D/Star) to their campaign to wreck the Anglo Irish Agreement

Voters reject Ulster pact (Mirror) but suffer a setback with Mallon's election

Unionists lose seat in referendum flop' (Telegraph)

Loyalists gain a hollow victory (Mail)

Tainted victory for Unionists lets in SDLP deputy leader (Guardian) who elsewhere say that paramilitary are ready to step into the political vacuum

Guardian leader is headed "Saying No to the future"

FT: Unionist setback: failure to raise vote significantly.

Ken Livingstone joining Sinn Féin this week-end to commemorate anniversary of Bloody Sunday

MEDIA

Express Newspapers arranging to meet union officials next week to discuss reduction of workforce by one-third; hoping for most of it by voluntary redundancy

INDUSTRY

Setback for UDM; Leicestershire miners vote 2-1 to stay in NUM

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Governors of a church school at Liverpool who tried three times to get their caretaker sacked after complaints that he was away from work too often has been made a governor by Militant controlled council: he is a Left wing union official

EDUCATION

Peace hopes in school strike. Five of teachers' unions and employers agree on a formula to end the dispute.

But NUT, standing outside, to ballot its members

Guardian: Teachers settle pay dispute with extra 1%

LAW AND ORDER

Home Secretary says there is no justification for deportation proceedings against Libyan admitted to UK

UGANDA

rebels on verge of capturing Kampala. Government close to collapse. Civilian casualties said to be heavy.

B Ingham

25.1.86

25 January 1986

PRIME MINISTER

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WESTLAND

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- Kinnock says Brittan must not be regarded as a sacrifice that will satisfy demands for a full and honest explanation.
- Meanwhile, Bristow takes his holding up to 17%.
- D/Star: Brittan out - but Maggie says she wants him back.
- Mirror: Brittan quits - Tory MPs revolt brings down Thatcher. Yes Minister. Even if you manage to persuade Tory Mps to close ranks there will remain deep unease about the affair. On inside page - "Out goes the monkey; what about the organ grinders?" In practice Brittan blames you and thinks you have thrown him to the lions to save your own skin. Joe Haines says the resignation has bought time for you and that you have been wondering aloud to close friends and family whether you should lead the Government into the next election.
- Express: "New Government crisis as second Minister/^{resigns}within 15 days. Maggie's ranks close as storm grows over leak." The worst case against her would be if she were found to have dissembled over her account of the leaked letter inquiry.
- Mike Evans, Defence Correspondent, Express, says damaging evidence has emerged that Leon Brittan and No 10 set up the Solicitor General to write the letter that was leaked. Senior Whitehall source says there is written proof of this and that in his second letter to Heseltine, Solicitor General says he had no reason to complain about Heseltine's point; and that the Solicitor General made very damaging remarks about constitutional abuses.
- Mail: "The blood sacrifice - Brittan quits: I can't go on like this." Now leaves you exposed as the sole target.

COMMENT

- D/Star: It was inevitable, not only to rescue his beleaguered Prime Minister but also to save the good name of British politics. For integrity is the real issue. Too much evidence that Brittan had been less than wholly candid. You now face an uphill struggle.
- Express - under heading "Now let's get on with" says it is a pity that Mr Brittan did not decide to go sooner. He did not act wisely but who did? A small molehill was transformed into a mountain by the silly game played by some people in Mrs Thatcher's Cabinet. Tories will now be hoping that they can see the beginning of the end of this wretched affair and proceed to urgent and important tasks.