

7 February 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Philippines Presidential Election

PUBLICATIONS

- FCO: Treaty Series No 9 (1986). Exchange of Notes between Government of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Government of USA - further amending agreement concerning air services signed at Bermuda (14.00)
- FCO: Treaty Series No 10 (1986). Additional Protocol to agreement on temporary importation, freedom in hospitals and medical institutions for purposes of diagnosis or treatment (14.00)
- FCO: Treaty Series No 11 (1986). Additional Protocol to European agreement on exchange of therapeutic substances of human origin (14.00)
- FCO: Treaty Series No 12 (1986). Additional Protocol to European agreement on the exchange of blood grouping reagents (14.00)
- DTI: 'British Business' - feature on Laura Ashley PLC; feature on European Investment Bank; also departmental guide to DTI
-

PAY

- DEM: University of Clinical Teachers; (2,300); 5.25% claimed on first year + 6.3% in second year; settlement date 1.4.85
-

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business:

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

- Safety at Sea: Second Reading (Mr A Quarrie)
- Crown Immunity Bill: Second Reading (Mr R Shepherd)
- Redundancy Payments (Reciprocity with Northern Ireland (Amendment) Bill: Second Reading (Mr E Powell)
- Consumer Safety (Amendment) Bill: Second Reading (Mr C Gregory)

Adjournment Debate

- Dispute at Contracts Ltd., South Shields (Dr D Clark)

PRESS DIGEST

- Opposition tries to make hay of new Westland allegations. Government defeats in the House this week and "U-turn" on Austin Rover/Ford.
- George Gardiner MP speaks of a "small but ruthless Mafia" in Tory ranks bent on destroying you as Prime Minister. The overwhelming majority of Tory MPs remain loyal to you.
- Telegraph leader says try as it may, the Cabinet cannot escape the impression that it has momentarily lost its nerve. But it had better find it again soon. Unless BL surprises us all and soon, yesterday's decision is all too likely to look in retrospect like an act of folly performed in a moment of political panic.

BL/AUSTIN ROVER

- D/Star - 14 lines on P2 - U-turn over BL sell off; leader says ham-fisted Whitehall is to drop Leyland models from its fleet and this is guaranteed to knock a few million of the asking price.
- Sun P2: Maggie bans BL car sale in big turnaround; Fowler ganged up with Peter Walker to persuade you to abandon the talks.
- Mirror leader says the Government's decision not to sell Austin Rover was political; it was afraid of losing marginal seats in the West Midlands, but the BL problem has only been postponed. There is a better way than privatisation with AR - sell it to its workers and management.
- Express P2: "Reverse gear Maggie halts US car deal - Tory pressure kills off Austin Rover sell off - fastest U-turn on record. Norman Tebbit interviewed from home.
- Mail P2 - Channon's big climbdown on Ford-BL deal - humiliating. Climbdown all the worse for you because Ted Heath led the revolt.
- Telegraph P1 lead: Austin sale U-turn. Cabinet drops Ford deal: Ministers acknowledged that the sudden change of policy could be taken as a sign of a Government out of touch but they believed the decision should limit the political damage; sketch writer says "The lady, it seems, is for turning after all".
- Guardian: Cabinet insists on Ford retreat - a humiliating reverse.
- Times: "Ministers force Thatcher into Ford-BL retreat". You have been forced into a sharp U-turn in a rebellious reassertion of collective Cabinet responsibility. Your image of strong leadership is further shaken. One source says that your only ally was the Chancellor.
- FT: The ending of the Ford-BL talks was an embarrassing climbdown at the insistence of a majority of the Cabinet against your initial wishes. Sam Toy says it is a "lost opportunity" but Austin-Rover welcomes the breakdown. Senior ministers acknowledge it is a reversal of policy. At one stage you wondered if it was possible to "tough it out". Several ministers are named as having been against this.
- FT leader says that if ministers believe the Austin Rover strategy is sound they must be prepared to support it, if necessary with further cash.
- Guardian leader says that as BL piles upon Westland we are beginning to perceive the problem; America is stripping Europe of its independent manufacturing capacity. We are willy nilly becoming the 51st state. If we are not to become that de facto then Europe is the way we must go at the double.
- FT: A sharp fall in car imports is expected in SMMT figures to be released today.

INDUSTRY

- B/Rail orders £35m worth of electric locomotives from GEC.
- Sun feature on City whiz-kids - analysts - earning £200,000 a year.
- Sun leader says one way to ensure that the interests of water consumer are protected after privatisation is to instal meters to encourage the consumer to be economical.
- Express leader calls for scrapping of illiberal licensing laws; they should be abolished rather than tinkered with.
- Mail leader praises West Midlands Consumer Services Dept. for exposing deceit practised on motorists by "face fitting" exhaust centres; they knock £16 off for those who fit exhausts themselves.
- Argyll raises its bid for Distillers by £300m to £2.3bn.
- Times: Kenneth Fleet examines your success in changing attitudes and awards you four out of six.
- FT: Manchester passenger transport is to shed 2,000 workers in order to become commercially viable.

SELLAFIELD

- 800 men down tools after radiation scare, protesting about a lack of information.
- BNFL says they were never in any danger.
- D/Star says a lot of straight answers are needed into the deeply worrying questions raised by the leak. The situation is alarming.
- Mirror says milk from farms around the plant was cleared of radioactive contamination.
- Times leader says there is genuine public concern about these accidents. MoD and BNFL cannot adopt a dismissive or defensive posture.
- Guardian says 2 workers were contaminated by the leak.
- FT says Irish Government intends to hold urgent talks with British authorities after this latest leak.

MEDIA

- D/Star claims you are backing its campaign against violence on TV - after your Question Time yesterday.
- Sun lists those banning it on account of Wapping - Lambeth and Southwark and Lewisham councils and Yorkshire miners; leader says it was outrageous. Eric Hammond EETPU should have been summoned by TUC but it should not worry him because the TUC is discredited.
- Mirror claims EETPU looks likely to obey the TUC's rulings; Guardian says it is likely to accept most of the directives.
- Telegraph gives a reasonably kind review to B. Ingham's speech on the media and ends up with a political point - it is from Westminster that speculative journalism gets its lead with no doubt some committed reporters assisting an Opposition which cannot win votes but only win scandals.
- Times: The High Court yesterday granted an injunction to News International against SOGAT over the printing of the News of the World in Manchester.
- Kinnock has maintained his ban on Lobby briefings, but yesterday called a separate briefing with Murdoch reportees excluded.
- Guardian sees the TUC as having pulled back from the brink and sees 7 days of hard thinking ahead for Mr Hammond.
- 12 Times journalists who have refused to go to Wapping face dismissal if they do not report by 18 February.
- Sun leader says by far the best TV news is put out by Channel 4.

ECONOMY

- £ firmer.
- Philips & Drew say at least the Chancellor now has only £1bn left for raising personal tax allowances.
- TUC calls for £8bn investment programme in Budget to create 1m new jobs in 3 years.
- Mail says that last month Britain increased her export of cars to Japan by 50% but the total number involved was only 168, and we are second in the league table of car exporters to Japan. What could better illustrate their stubborn refusal to practise free trade.
- FT: Nigel Lawson is still aiming for £1bn tax cuts in the Budget, despite falling oil revenue.
- Times: Britain and Russia yesterday announced a new long-term economic and industrial cooperation programme.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Islington Council staff threatened with the sack if they tell Irish jokes.
- Ken Livingstone admits GLC is handing out £9bn in a final GLC fling, including £25 among Loony Left groups (Express). Mail says the "present should permit rates to be pegged or even cut."
- Lambeth ruling Labour group proposing to call parks and other amenities by unpronouncable names of prominent world blacks.

INNER CITIES

- Next to no coverage of initiative in most 'pops'. Mail puts it on P19 - £8m task force plans.
- Times: John Prescott says Kenneth Clarke made a 'mouse of a statement compared to the scale of the problem'.
- Yesterday the General Synod adopted the Church report on inner cities as official policy.
- Guardian reports Labour charges of a "con trick" over the initiative.
- FT: A substantial report on the inner cities initiative says that the development highlights interdepartmental rivalries. Environment has lost comprehensively to Employment.
- Leader headed 'Micro-aid for the inner city' says if Mr Clarke can achieve much with aid that works out at £27 a head he should have a Knighthood.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Express leads with Crown immunity from prosecution for dirty hospitals; leader says justice can now be done. Times says pressure will now mount for the abolition of Crown Immunity for all Government buildings.
- Lords upholds LA's decision that a family of 4 living in one room with no cooking or washing facilities were not homeless and therefore not entitled to be rehoused.
- Government to launch a £3m factual advertising campaign on AIDS.

EDUCATION

- First GCSE exam courses will go ahead in September in spite of attempts by teachers' unions to block them as part of dispute over pay.

LAW AND ORDER

- American black Muslim leader banned from entering Britain, held at Heathrow on arrival from Chicago.
- Mail leader says sales of kits to enable people to sniff cocaine should be banned by law; it is a shocking indictment of society in which we live that a large number of shopkeepers are prepared to sell them

TIN

- FT: The Government has bowed to pressure from fellow members of the ITC and made a conditional offer of £50m to help fund a rescue.

DEFENCE

- Richard Perle, US Assistant Secretary for Defence, says the Labour Party is almost unique in its potential for divergence in and destruction of NATO.
- 4,000 CND supporters try to blockade Molesworth.
- Times: The Labour Party has reacted angrily to criticism of its defence policy by Mr Perle.
- FT: France hopes its aerospace industry will get 15-20 percent of the European Fighter aircraft to be built in partnership with Britain, West Germany, Italy and Spain.

IRELAND

- Mother and sister of pop star held hostage for 3 hours by IRA gunmen in Londonderry.

IRAQ - accused of using Iranian prisoners of war for chemical warfare experiments.

ISRAEL

- Times: Peres threatened yesterday to strike back hard if there were any terrorist attacks against Israel.

SOUTH AFRICA

- FT: Pik Botha says other governments have already been contacted about the possible release of Mandela and further discussions may not be necessary before he is freed.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling visits Redesdale Experimental Horticulture Station; later addresses Cumbria Society dinner, Penrith
- DES: Sir Keith Joseph attends NAAACE Conference, Newcastle
- HO: Mr Hurd visits Campsfield YCC, Kidlington
- SO: Mr Rifkind gives interview to 'The Scotsman' and Glasgow Herald; later hosts reception for Inward Investors, Edinburgh Castle; meets Scottish Council Development and Industry
- WO: Mr Edwards visits N Wales; addresses Llandudno Hotels & Restaurants Association, silver jubilee dinner
- MAFF: Lord Belstead visits John Innes Institutes, Norwich
- MOD: Mr Lamont visit Royal Ordnance Factories, Leeds
- MOD: Lord Trefgarne visits Royal Marines, Deal and Kneller Hall School of Music
- DOE: Lord Elton visits Merseyside
- DOE: Sir George Young visits Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Maidenhead
- FCO: Mr Renton addresses Banbury Peace Forum
- HO: Lord Glenarthur addresses Kinkardine - Deeside Conservative Association
- SO: Mr Stewart visits Linn Products Ltd, Glasgow; addresses Conference on Technology in the factory environemnt, Glasgow; visits Glasgow College of Technology
- SO: Mr Ancram visits Age Concern Project - housing grant and improvement advice centre for the elderly- first in Scotland
- SO: Mr Mackay attends Scottish Committee Hospital Medical Services dinner, Edinburgh
- DTI: Mr Howard lunches with BP, London
- DTp.: Mr Mitchell visits SE Regional transport Office for presentation on its work
- WO: Mr Robinson visits 'Heart Beat Wales', Cardiff

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith addresses Sanderstolen Energy Policy seminar, Norway
- FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for Nairobi to attend Head of Mission Conference (to February 12); then Dar es Salaam (to February 16)
-

TV AND RADIO

"Here to Stay"; ITV (12.30): Trevor Hyett talks to a group from London's gypsy community

"A Question of Economics"; Channel 4 (14.30): 'Is the City Doing a Proper Job?' Asks who does the City serve

"What the Papers Say Awards"; Channel 4 (20.00): the Rt Hon David Owen presents this years awards

"A Week in Politics"; Channel 4 (20.15)

"Law in Action"; BBC Radio 4 (20.20): Joshua Rozenberg present legal topics

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.45): with the Rt Hon William Rodgers, Joan Lestor, David Mellor and Katherine Whitehorn

"How to Survive the 9 to 5"; Channel 4 (22.30): "Stress is a Four letter Work". First of four programmes on stress at work and how to beat it
