

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prince of Wales visits environmental projects, Cardiff

Prime Minister visits the South Eastern Area

Labour NEC meets again to consider Liverpool Militants

Deadline for renewal of UNIFIL mandate

Association of University Teachers Women's Section annual meeting

Broadcasting and Entertainment Trades Alliance (rules revision) annual and trade group divisional conferences (to April 21)

Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, conference, Blackpool (to April 20)

Result of Prison Officers Association ballot on industrial action (possible)

STATISTICS

CSO: Tax and price index (March)

CSO: Cyclical indicators for the United Kingdom economy (March)

DEM: Retail prices index (March)

PUBLICATIONS

DTI: "British Business" - includes guide to Government statistics

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS
Corneal Tissue Bill: Remaining Stages
Tobacco Products (Sales Restrictions) Bill: Remaining Stages
Companies Bill: 2nd Reading

Adjournment Debate

London Borough of Newham's request for partnership status
(R Leighton)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTLIBYA

- Newspapers dominated by latest terrorist outrages - execution of three Britons in Beirut and search for Arab who put his pregnant girlfriend on an El Al flight to Israel with a bomb timed to go off just after take-off. Some reports say it would have gone off over Windsor; great concern that normal checks failed to find explosives.
- Beirut gang snatch British TV employee on way to airport; empty British Embassy attacked with rockets.
- British bases on full alert.
- Kinnock uses weekly lobby meeting to blame you for death of three hostages in Beirut and says you provoked terrorism.
- American Congressmen heap praise on you for your support of raid.
- Russia promises more weaponry and support for Libya.
- Express says Tripoli was under martial law last night, about half the 5,000 Britons in Libya trying to get out.
- Michael Heseltine calls for a special international force to crush Gaddafi and to free the world from terrorism.
- American tourist bookings for UK holidays very much reduced because of terrorism.
- Backing for Reagan foreign policy leaps from 51 to 76%.
- USA orders 500 of its people to leave Sudan.
- Sun leader, on father of the executed man who claims you were responsible for his death, says neither you nor Reagan gave the order. Sooner or later the forces of decency in the world have to make a stand. That is not 'provoking' terrorists in Kinnock's cowardly phrase.
- Mirror's main headline, about Heathrow arrest, asks "How can we fight evil like this?"; leader on "reaping the whirlwind" says it would be the gravest mistake to believe that future acts of terrorism would never have occurred but for the American raid.
- Express Parliamentary sketch says Kinnock's mask fell off yesterday; the strain of being statesmanlike was just too much for him when you tripped him up and made a fool of him; leader, beside a feature on Gaddafi's worldwide terror outfit, says "it is this evil against which Reagan struck such a timely and vitally necessary blow. But no single blow will be enough. Terrorist reprisals must be punished in their turn. This is the only way, in the long run, to make gangster regimes stop their killing." Centre page feature in memory of WPC Yvonne Fletcher.
- Mail says having taken our stand at least we know where we are and that the safety of our citizens depends on the precautions we ourselves take. It was time trade, credits and flights to Libya were suspended.
- Telegraph says there would be strong opposition in the Cabinet if Reagan sought permission to use British bases for a further raid; leader says Home Secretary will be failing in his responsibility if he does not tell the country the people are at increased risk. Exceptional vigilance is called for. And does Britain now intend to retaliate militarily for the death of the hostages? And if not, why not?

LIBYA (CONT'D)

- Ferdy Mount, in Telegraph, says you should have said no to Uncle Sam's advances; your sacrifice may cost you the next General Election.
- Guardian leader warns against holding you or Reagan responsible for yesterday's terrorist killings and incidents.
- Virtually the whole of the Times front page taken up with various aspects of crisis.
- Geoffrey Smith, in Times, says in political terms you need the operation to succeed even more than Reagan.
- David Watt, in Times, says the British Government, and you in particular were put in an intolerable position by the American desire to use their bases in Britain. And it is all very well for Heath and Callaghan to say they would have refused permission. But things have changed since they were in office. The binding sense of shared destiny between the USA and Europe is being eroded very rapidly and it is deeply worrying.
- Times leader, seeking to persuade its readers, many of whom have written in objecting, presents the case for the raid and says for European Governments to decry an action they invited by their resolute inaction is cant of a high order.
- Malcolm Rutherford, in FT, on "Why Mrs Thatcher was right", but says the circumstances should not be allowed to recur. He believes you reached the right decision in the circumstances because the USA was going ahead anyway and needed an ally or a friend; you owe them a debt because of their help in the Falklands; you would have found it difficult to go on seeking US support against the IRA; there is a good deal of hypocrisy in Europe who had no alternative. The best way for Europeans to stand up to the USA is to have an agreed approach of their own. Your very brave act will do you little good at home at least in the short term.

LAW AND ORDER

- Guinness Kidnapping: Three men in court in Dublin. '

- Police fear consequences for drug smuggling if Customs industrial action at Heathrow.

- Short term prisoners may be released if POA goes on strike. Guardian sees us in for a long, dull slog with the POA.

ECONOMY

- Hopes of further cut in base rates boosted with £ up to \$1.5217.

- OECD offers a strikingly improved forecast for Western economies.

- Guardian leader says there are 4m people out there unemployed who may be forgiven for thinking that the recovery has been conjured up by statisticians.

INDUSTRY

- Sun leader, on return to profitability of S. Wales coalfield with miners earnings up £25 a week, says had the men followed Scargill there would have been no rises and no jobs.
- Seamen's union voting today on a call for a national ferrry strike in protest over Townsend-Thorensen breaking its own ferry strike.
- Today says Government's great sell-off of nationalised industries will continue if it is re-elected - coal, rail, GPO, Girobank; report of John Moore speech.
- John Cunningham MP attacks Labour critics who want to shut down the nuclea power industry.
- Civil Service is failing to attract bright recruits because of poor pay.

TRANSPORT

- Deaths on roads last year lowest for 31 years.
- Chell claims a new petrol additive will soon make for cheaper motoring - it makes petrol burn slower and does not require engine adjustment.

SUNDAY TRADING

- D/Star says the unholy alliance of cynical opportunists party hacks, worthy but eccentric do-gooders who killed the Bill must not be allowed to get away with it. It starts a campaign to bring back the Bill. Kinnock has never spoken a more untrue word when he said MPs had voted in accordance with wishes of British public.
- Telegraph diary says Government supporters are blaming Douglas Hurd for the failure of the Bill.

MEDIA

- Sun reports its highest ever sale of 4,297,000.
- Mail reports a trade magazine as saying Shah's Today has only 4 weeks to succeed; still failing to meet its targets.
- NUJ votes 158-146 to start disciplinary proceedings against Murdoch's 600 journalists.

EC

- Could pay farmers up to £50 a week to retire early so that their land can be switched to other uses than food production.
- FT says that by staying outside the EMS Britain will continue to provide a controlled experiment of interest to professional economists but little joy to British industry.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- GLC's gift of £36m to hundreds of voluntary groups ruled illegal by Lords

EDUCATION

- Peers ban caning by majority of 2.
- Today says perhaps closure of Dartington Hall shows how the progressive dream has turned into a dismal anti-educational permissiveness.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Mirror says desperately ill children, with brain cancer, face being turned away from S. London hospital because of cuts.
- Michael Meacher says private contractors in NHS hospitals will be sacked if Labour comes to office.

SPORT

- Telegraph reports genuine football fans organising to isolate hooligans and bringing down the segregation barriers.

HOUSING

- Birmingham buys back 1,200 defective council houses sold to tenants; Government will be asked to help meet the cost.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEN: Mr Walker addresses Retail Consortium Conference, London
- HO: Mr Hurd visits Tynemouth Crime Prevention initiative
- SO: Mr Rifkind opens new Tollcross fire station, Edinburgh; later with Mr Ancram meet COSIA to discuss local government finance, Edinburgh
- DTI: Mr Channon addresses Kantron Instruments, Watford
- MAFF: Lord Belstead opens Centre for Agricultural Strategy Land Use Alternatives for United Kingdom Agriculture Conference, London
- MAFF: Mrs Fenner visits Dow Chemical Co Ltd, King's Lynn; later Seed Co, Milne Masters, Docking
- MOD: Lord Trefgarne attends opening of new submarine escape facility, HMS Dolphin
- DEM: Mr Trippier opens Bury Enterprise Agency, Lancashire; speaks at Vital Topics seminar, Manchester Business School
- DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith opens Caleb Brett Laboratory, Inchcape plc, Aberdeen; attends Scottish Development Agency Exports Awards, Aberdeen University
- DOE: Lord Elton visits Blackburn
- DES: Mr Patten addresses Secondary Examinations Council
- DES: Mr Walden attends Ditchley Foundation Conference on Science and Technology Planning and Resource Allocation
- FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses opening session of Chatham House seminar about EC Presidency
- HO: Mr Waddington visits Middlesborough
- HO: Mr Shaw visits Wetherby forensic science laboratory
- SO: Mr Ancram meets COSIA to discuss Ethnic Minorities, Edinburgh
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MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC) (cont'd)

- SO: Mr Stewart opens BIM workshop on "Excellence in Industry", Renfrew; later visits Community Programmes at Salvation Army, Barrhead and Quarries Homes, Bridge of Weir
- DTI: Mr Butcher addresses National Society of Quality circles annual conference; guest of honour at Yale Materials Handling Ltd, Wolverhampton
- DTP: Lord Caithness visits Stansted and Gatwick airports (all day)
- WO: Mr Robinson addresses Welsh District Councils' Waste Disposal seminar, Llandrindod Wells; addresses Royal College of Gynaecologists and Obstetrics dinner, Cardiff
- WO: Mr Roberts attends rates presentations, West Glamorgan and Dyfed County and District Councils
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TV AND RADIO

- "Six Men"; BBC Radio 4 (9.05): Repeat of Sunday's programme
- "Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.45): With Ray Whitney MP, Brenda Dean, Sir Alex Jarrett and Oliver Watson
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