

25 April 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister visits North East and attends Bilderberg Conference

Princess of Wales opens new extensions of Chiltern Nursery Training College, Reading

National Association of Local Councils conference, Llandudno (to April 27)

Institute of Social Welfare Conference, Worcester (to April 26)

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STATISTICS

DTI: Sales and orders in the engineering industries (January)

DTI: Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (March)

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PUBLICATIONS

DHSS: SI 1986/586 The Medicines (Products other than Veterinary Drugs) (Prescription only) Amendment Order 1986

HOL: Sub Committee E on Privileges & Immunities of MPs - 8th Report (08.30)

HOL: 10th Report Select Committee on European Communities - farm price policy (Vol 2) (08.30)

HOC: 2nd Report Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (11.00)

DTI: 'British Business' - Queen's Awards for Export and Technology; market report on Latin America

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business:

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

Obscene Publications (Protection of Children, etc) (Amendment) Bill: Remaining Stages (Mr W Churchill)

Dog Fighting (Penalties) Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr H Grenway)

Pensioners' Right to Heat, Light and Communications Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr J Corbyn)

Adjournment Debate

Public prosecution policy: the case of Mr John Williams (Mr G Bright)

Lords Dockyard Services Bill; Second Reading.  
Housing (Multiple Occupation) Bill (HL) Second Reading.

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MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTDUCHESS OF WINDSOR

- Death of Duchess of Windsor the main topic, and covers many pages - "the century's greatest love story."
- Pops wonder if Princess Diana will get Duchess's £10m worth of jewels.
- Mirror says young people today would find it difficult to understand the passions and enmities which the abdication crisis aroused. It is better to let those passions die with the Duchess.
- Mail say it is entirely right she should be buried at Windsor.
- Telegraph says the abdication came about through defects of character in the King who was too self centred to see what monarchs are called upon to see above the heads of others.
- Times says by common consent abdication almost certainly brought Crown lasting benefit.

LIBYA

- Fears that the Oxford Street bomb may be a message from Libya that they are still in the terrorist business in Britain. But Sun says Scottish National Liberation Army claims responsibility.
- Police say it went off prematurely before rush hour. Today: Massacre averted by only a few hours.
- Home Secretary announces new Euro-drive to beat terrorists with tighter extradition laws, and joint US/EC action.
- US police give Mark Thatcher a round-the-clock guard after threats; you are believed to have personally requested the guard.
- Americans deny they dropped cluster bombs on Tripoli.
- Express says Gaddafi is battling to keep control of Libya and has been officially removed as his country's mouthpiece.
- Today says even before yesterday's Oxford Street bomb America was running scared of terrorism in Europe; this should tell Reagan, better than any clamour of protesting politicians why Europe was less than enthusiastic about Libyan raid. He must show more sensitivity to Europe's feelings.

LIBYA (Cont'd)

- Express says that in roughly similar circumstances you would say "Yes" to another US request; story claims last year EC handed Gaddafi a £78m subsidy in cut price foodstuffs.
- Telegraph: Reagan gives Syria and Iran warning of military force if there was proof they were sponsoring terrorism; prints your Written Answer detailing Libyan support for terrorism in UK. Reports that Russia is putting pressure on Gaddafi to lower his international profile and concentrate on sorting out Libya's internal problems.

YOUR APOLOGY

- Not mentioned by D/Star, Sun, Mail.
- Mirror: Maggie sorry for slur on Kinnock.
- Express says your outburst was not surprising when you know what sort of things you have to put up with at Question Time. Any Marxist could have told Kinnock that his question was "objectively" helping Gaddafi.
- Telegraph sketch writer briefly says the full text of your remarks is less dramatic.
- Hattersley, on TV, sees in the apology part of your destruction.
- Times P1: Thatcher forced to apologise.

ECONOMY

- £ reaches 3-year high at \$1.5355.
- Row over new rules, announced by Written Answer, which extend the waiting period for certain classes of the unemployed for dole money from 6 to 13 weeks, saving £20m.
- Michael Heseltine, in Liverpool, calls for a national urban renewal agency privately and publicly financed. Times says Government is negotiating with large scale private developers to take on joint responsibility for redevelopment of derelict inner city sites.

INDUSTRY

- Shell and ICI fined £12m between them by EC for belonging to price fixing cartel.
- Mail, commenting on survey of shareholders, says it looks as if your aim of advancing from a home owning democracy to one of citizen shareholders is well on the way.
- CEGB and SSEB sign £1.6bn deal for reprocessing nuclear fuel at Sellafield.
- Swan Hunter expecting to shed 2000 jobs after losing first oiler order.

BL

- Privatisation plans postponed - Opposition says it is a humiliating and total reversal for Government policy. Some Tory MPs protest, too. Mail says future of David Andrews now in question.
- Guardian leads with Cabinet retreat and Tory MPs incensed by rejection over buy-out; says this and other orders represent an erosion of your influence over Cabinet.
- Guardian leader: "thus ends one of the most damaging periods in the recent history of relations between Whitehall and the public sector"! What makes the intervention unforgiveable was that it was totally unnecessary, spawned of dogma and nurtured by ignorance.
- FT says many Tory MPs and Ministers are embarrassed at the apparent about-face and irresolution shown by the Cabinet over the issue.

MEDIA

- Murdoch takes page adverts to explain the offer of printing plant to unions - an "offer unparalleled in history of industrial relations".
- Sogat wins back £6m of its £17m sequestered assets, arguing that branch and chapel funds are separate from national assets.
- Observer cleared of bribing Civil Servant - editor says case was brought to try to punish the Observer for embarrassing the Government.

EDUCATION

- NUT threatens more action in schools after court rejects its appeal against exclusion from ACAS process.

POLITICS

- Express says just after Labour's PPB promising "more bobbies on the beat" a Left wing candidate in Notts launched a scathing attack on the police who, she says, are out of control and on the rampage. Mail says this effectively demolishes Kinnock's new approach to law and order.
- Telegraph says history will brand the final years of the great Socialist MCCs as the golden age of professional agitation.
- Ferdy Mount, in Telegraph, says if the Government wants to make the schools or anything else work properly it must face the Commons head on. A Government which fails to mobilise its majority to answer the most obvious needs of the day seems scarcely worth the trouble of electing.

LAW AND ORDER

- Prisons hit by work to rule in Southern half of Britain.
- Sun, annoyed over Lord Hailsham's trying to put violent crime in perspective, says it is time he retired.
- John Carlisle MP cancels speech at East Anglian University after Left wing students had blocked entrance to hall.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Telegraph expects you to renew talks with Unionists shortly. Guardian sees the overtures as a "subtle climbdown" by Molyneaux and Paisley.

SPORT

- Claims that 30 English soccer fans could face manslaughter charges in Belgium after Heysel stadium tragedy; Belgian Government seeking extradition. Sun says we shall cooperate.
- UEFA head says British clubs face at least another year out of Europe because of the level of violence at club games this season.

SPAIN

- Sun portrays you as giving King Carlos a flea in the ear over Gibraltar - a reference to pledges to people of the Rock during Questions.

US

- American Justice Department recommending Attorney General to ban Waldheim from USA.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling opens new teaching and library block, Lancashire College of Agriculture and Horticulture, Myerscough, Lancashire
- DEM: Mr Clarke visits Leicester (all day)
- DOE: Mr Baker visits West Midlands
- HO: Mr Hurd visits Norwich Prison
- SO: Mr Rifkind attends Bilderberg meeting and later hosts reception
- DTI: Mr Channon addresses EMF confederation; meets Dr Watanabe
- DEM: Mr Trippier delivers speech to CBI Conference, Haydock Park
- DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith attends launch of Houlders Hyperbaric Centre, Aberdeen
- DEN: Mr Goodlad opens NACRO Energy Efficiency project, Cheshire
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave visits the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, Taunton
- DOE: Sir George Young launches 1000th security grant scheme, Hammersmith
- DOE: Mrs Rumbold visits Leeds/Bradford - urban programme
- DHSS: Lady Trumpington opens Belvoir Day Centre, Cambridge
- HO: Mr Shaw visits Piccadilly Radio, Manchester
- SO: Mr Ancram and Mr MacKay visit Bield Housing Association and Abbeyfield Housing Association, Oban
- SO: Mr Stewart opens STEG seminar on quality control, Glasgow
- DTI: Mr Morrison visits Data Magnetic, Clwyd
- DTI: Lord Lucas visits Enterprise Express, Portsmouth
- DTP: Mr Spicer opens new coating plant for Tilcon Ltd, Worcestershire
- DTP: Mr Bottomley opens Gateshead Metro Centre Interchange
- WO: Mr Roberts opens factory extension, Squibb Surgicare Ltd, Deeside
- WO: Mr Robinson visits industrial locations, Llandrindd Wells

TV AND RADIO

"The Blackboard Ballet"; BBC 2 (20.00): A discussion programme about education and parents worries about standards of discipline and levels of academic achievement in schools

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.45): With the Rt Hon Enoch Powell MP, the Rt Hon Jim Prior MP, Gavin Laird, General Secretary AUEW and Becky Bryan