

30 April 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM The Queen visits HMSO, Norwich

Prince and Princess of Wales visit Province of British Columbia,  
Canada (to May 6)

Labour Party NEC  
Prison Officers step up disruptive action  
TUC General Council

US Ambassador to London visits Northern Ireland

---

STATISTICS

HO: Statistical bulletin - waiting time in magistrates courts  
HO: Statistical bulletin - Prevention of Terrorism Act (Q1 1986)  
DTp: New vehicle registrations (March)

---

PUBLICATIONS

DES: Assessment of Performance Unit (APU) publication of appraisal of  
their findings in English language  
SO: Scottish Land Courts annual report 1985 (11.30)  
HMT: Treasury Minute in response to the Public Accounts Committee's  
5th-11th Reports 1985-86 (15.30)  
WO: Staff of Social Services Departments

---

PAY

DEM: Civil Service industrial grades; (105,000); substantial increase  
sought; settlement date 1.7.86  
DEM: NHS admin and clerical grades; (130, 500); substantial pay and  
conditions increase; 1.4.86

---

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Scotland, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Commercial Rate Limitation (Scotland)  
(Mr A Kirkwood)

Public Order Bill: Remaining Stages

Adjournment Debate

The appointment of a Chairman for the Rotherham Health  
Authority (Mr K Barron)

Select Committees: FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: United Kingdom relations with the countries  
of South-East Asia

Witness: Foreign and Commonwealth Office

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Wealth and Waste

Witness: Mr John Butcher MP,  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Department of Trade and  
Industry

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: Discrimination in employment

Witness: National and local Government Officers  
Association

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Rules for the Redistribution of seats

Witnesses: Scottish Office

TRANSPORT

Subject: Public Expenditure White Paper

Witnesses: Department of Transport officials

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments

Witnesses: Department of the Environment officials

Lords Debate on the social effects of Government policies

Human Rights and Fundamental Freedom Bill (HL): Third Reading

UQ on South Africa

---

MINISTERS - See Annex

---



PRESS DIGESTWORST NUCLEAR ACCIDENT IN HISTORY

- Russians seek Western help; being severely criticised for not warning neighbouring countries.
- More than 2000 Russians reported dead; but Moscow admits to only 2; suggestions that eventually 10,000 could die in 10 years.
- 100 British students in danger zone; Britain escapes nuclear "cloud".
- Woman in Kiev claims dead buried at a site normally used to dispose of radioactive waste (Mail).
- Left wing MPs, led by Benn, table motion demanding phasing out of all nuclear power stations.
- Predictably, press goes in for possible nightmare repeats in UK, aided and abetted by Friends of the Earth. Some headlines: "Nuclear holocaust" - Mirror. "Nuclear nightmare" (Today). "Help us plea as Russians writhe in nuclear agony" (Today). "Nuclear nightmare is here" (Express).
- Difference between our reactors and Russians, which lack additional containment, brought out; Russians have reactor we rejected.
- D/Star leader says Russians must come clean. No decision on Sizewell can be taken until the causes and consequences of the Russian accident are analysed.
- Mirror leader says whenever there is a nuclear disaster it is always radiation which gets out, not the truth. Nuclear power can be clean, efficient and safe or dirty, inefficient and dangerous. Not telling the truth has certainly made it dreaded.
- Today says there was mounting speculation that the disaster will kill plans to build PWR at Sizewell; leader says nuclear energy offers the prospect of cheap power but only if it commands public confidence. Gorbachev should invite an international team to produce a full report and give nuclear power what it needs to survive - a truly international basis on which to build confidence.
- Express says suicide squads of Russian workers face death by going into the burning reactor; leader on "the terrifying lesson of Chernobyl" says that given the secretiveness of Russian society, we shall never fully learn the truth. British doubts about the Russian reactor in 1947 were well founded. Generation of nuclear energy is not risk free but its record in the West is better than any other major form of energy production. Chernobyl underlines the need for instant vigilance.
- Mail leader cannot condone the almost pathological reluctance of the Kremlin to sound the international alarm.
- Telegraph says anti-nuclear campaigners are planning a demo in London against Sizewell PWR; aimed at D/Energy. UKAEA official says Russian reactors seem designed with a potential for every possible sort of fault; leader says Soviet Union must be reminded by Western Governments that there is a price to pay for membership of the international scientific community - rigorous inspection and built in safety measures. At home Ministers must rise to the "green" and CND challenge.



WORST NUCLEAR ACCIDENT IN HISTORY (Cont'd)

- Guardian says UK Government is bracing itself for a public reaction against its nuclear power policy. leader notes the big difference between 3 mile Island and Chernobyl - American radioactivity was contained, Russian was not. It wants IAEA to sponsor studies into the safest type of reactor.
- Times report says we could of course go back to coal - work on a new type of coal-fired station been going on for months; coverage of accident headed "The Gigantic reactor battle that turned into a killer". Energy consultant believes the lessons to be learned from the accident may be mainly for Russia.
- Times leader says Moscow's response to the accident exhibited no sense of responsibility and is likely to remain a symbol of its bad faith with the world. If the USSR can't be trusted to behave responsibly in a matter such as this, what prospect is there of its showing responsibility in the wider world of international relations? Soviet Union should open its own inquiry into the causes and effects rapidly through the IAEA.
- David Fishlock, in FT, says the gravest question Moscow must face is whether the kind of containment required in nuclear installations in the West could have prevented radiation from spreading so far from the fire.
- FT leader says the accident is emerging as a tragedy for the ideal of the safe and peaceful use of nuclear energy around the world. It is a dramatic test of Gorbachev's good intentions.

PRISON DISPUTE

- Dispute expected to escalate today, with fears of an all out strike.
- Dissident workers locked out of Gloucester prison and 23 prisoners climb on to roof.
- Home Secretary says a "no-strike" agreement for prison officers would have to be considered.
- Today leader says prison officers have taken advantage of weak management to create a lifestyle for themselves. That style is in the worst tradition of British industry. Prison officers deserve to be well paid but they cannot be allowed to remain in charge of the system they are supposed to serve.
- Mail leader thinks Home Secretary is a shade too politically macho on this issue. Could it be that Mr Hurd would not mind bringing the crisis to a head if it gave him the excuse to ease overcrowding by releasing non-violent prisoners? Many of his present fans in the Tory Party might consider that too clever by half. (NB; France set to expel all foreign prisoners, including 200 Britons, to reduce overcrowding.)
- Telegraph: Prisons head for chaos.
- Times: Home Secretary to issue guidance to courts today.



INDUSTRY

- NCB claims to have cut its costs to £50m last year.
- NUM's court battles have cost union £1.79m.
- Deadline for NUM's acceptance of pay offer runs out today; back pay will then be forfeit. Scargill claims UDM membership has dropped 11,600 as men return to NUM.
- Express says common sense has prevailed; the Chancellor has undone the damage he would have caused by ADRs at 5%.
- CBI says manufacturers expect a sharp improvement in output, though not enough to boost employment.

UNIONS

- Right Winger Bill Jordan chosen to lead AUEW; offers Labour qualified support of/ voluntary pay restraint
- Peter O'Toole, Spike Milligan and June Whitfield refuse to toe Equity line banning appearances in South Africa.

MEDIA

- Murdoch extends deadline for his acceptance of printing plant offer from May 7 to May 30 to give unions further time to study its viability.

EDUCATION

- 550,000 children now being educated privately, according to census.
- Professor John Vincent, in Sun, says nationally spending on schools is up and the average teacher is £800 better off than when Labour left office, but ILEA record shows where extra spending (doesn't) gets you.
- Lynda Chalker new name canvassed for Education Secretary.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Government plans to sell off nurses' homes attacked by Trevor Clay, Royal College of Nursing.

HOUSING

- Mail says Haringey council tries to stop people buying council houses by using every little mistake on an application form to delay and frustrate would-be buyers into giving up.



POLITICS

- David Steel, in first of a series of articles by political leaders, says Tories have deepened the sense of division in Britain between haves and have nots.
- Robert Blake, in Telegraph, says the Government is in danger of drifting off course; Tories should keep their nerve and get on with the job.
- Conservative Ministers urging party to drop Saatchi and Saatchi - fallin behind other parties.
- Times says SDP/Libs are trying to put a £10bn over 5 years limit on the increase in expenditure envisaged in their manifesto.

LIBYA

- Sun does not share Tory fears that your Libya policy could cost votes, but if the Government does wish to lose the election it should go on being mean towards nurses.
- EC calls for emergency meeting on fall in tourism following Libyan raid.



DUCHESS OF WINDSOR FUNERAL

- Sun says the funeral was a shameful affair. A pet dog might have been buried with more dignity and affection than was shown to Duchess.
- Mirror: A funeral without tears.
- Mail: Even in death there seems no forgiveness.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Concern over leaks from NIO after Tom King's dinner at home of head of Northern Ireland Civil Service. picketed by 'Loyalists'.

JAPAN

- Wave of sabotage hits country in demos against Hirohito, 60 years on throne.

ITALY

- Agreement keeps Craxi in power for the rest of this year at least.

NORWAY

- Coalition collapses after losing confidence vote on proposed petrol tax. Mrs Bruntland, Labour, expected to take over from Mr Willoch.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling visits Hunter Saphir plc, Faversham
- DEN: Mr Walker addresses small business bureau national conference, Surrey (Lord Young and Mr Trippier also attend)
- DEM: Mr Clarke visits Leeds (all day)
- DOE: Mr Baker opens new housing estate, London
- DTP: Mr Ridley opens Associated British Ports freight terminal, Southampton
- MAFF: Mr Gummer addresses Federation of fresh meat Wholesalers meeting
- MAFF: Mrs Fenner visits GEC Centenary exhibition, Wembley
- DEM: Mr Lang visits Bristol and Weston-Super-Mare to address Disablement Advisory Service Conference
- DES: Mr Dunn visits Oxford local education authority
- DES: Mr Patten visits Oakwood High Schools, Manchester
- DEN: Mr Goodlad visits Ewbank Preece, Brighton
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses Royal Society of Arts conference on 'Caring for the Environment', London
- DOE: Mr Patten speaks at International Water Proofing Association and Flat Roofing Council Congress, London; later opens a housing scheme in Kingston, Surrey
- DOE: Mr Tracey visits south-west
- DHSS: Mr Whitney presents cheque to British Paraplegic team, London
- DTI: Mr Pattie attends launch of 'Airbus Wing', Bristol; launches small firms merit award for research and technology, London
- DTI: Lord Lucas attends Pottery Industry annual dinner, Stoke-on-Trent
- HMT: Mr MacGregor addresses Electronic Engineering Association dinner
- 

TV AND RADIO

"MoD"; BBC 1 (20.10): "Paying the Piper": an examination of the current state of the MoD and the shape of wars in the future

---