

29 May 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

EC Meeting of Health Ministers, Brussels

EC/Africa Working Group meeting, The Hague

Lord Hill Norton publishes report on short, fat ships

STATISTICS

DEN: Energy Trends (March)

WO: Digest of environmental statistics

PUBLICATIONS

WO: Activities of Social Services Departments in Wales

PAY

DEM: NHS ambulancemen; (18,000); 7 per cent sought; settlement date
1.4.86

DEM: British Waterways Board manuals; (2,300); settlement date 1.6.86

MINISTERS - See Annex

INDUSTRY

- Express: The Chancellor fires the first shot in a new Government strategy aimed at abolishing the annual pay round. He urges the nations' bosses to invest in new jobs rather than squander money on wage increases.
- FT: The reduction of oil companies exploration and development budgets is having a serious effect on North Sea drilling
- Company sector performance is improving rapidly, says a Management Today survey.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

- Times: The Treasury is facing a big battle to hold down local authority spending but is determined to stick to its targets. Kenneth Baker and Nicholas Ridley have been given an extra two weeks to submit bids.

ECONOMY

- Sun: Britain's bank balance soared into the black last month with a £1bn turnaround in trade. For the first time since February we exported more manufactured goods than we imported.
- Express: 'Britain bounces back'
- Times: Mr Lawson says there will soon be a vigorous resumption of growth. Tax cuts, lower mortgage rates and falling inflation has given a big boost to spending power.
- Telegraph: Hopes of another round of interest rate cuts rose in the City after news of the dramatic improvement in the trade position.

ELECTRICITY PRICES

- Sun: '£3 (a quarter) power bill cuts on the way'. An announcement is expected next week. Industry may benefit straight away but families could have to wait until the autumn.
- A contingency plan for building a number of coal-fired power stations in the south has been prepared by the CEGB in case Sizewell is delayed.

NUCLEAR

- Mirror P1: Picture of boy with teddy bear under splash headline 'Did radiation kill this boy?'. Story claims Leukaemia among children living near power stations is much worse than official figures show. Two-page spread on 'Radiation - what is really going on'.
- Times: Moscow now says up to 1,000 people were injured as a result Chernobyl.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Star: P1 leader says "We've run for Africa. We've sung for Africa. We've done everything we can to save the lives of the children of Africa. It's time to save the lives of the children of Britain." Highly critical of Government child welfare policies.

LORD YOUNG'S REMARKS

- Guardian: Hugo Young says of Lord Young's "You've never had it so good" comment that anyone who believes what he said was an electoral embarrassment might as well cease to run under the Conservative banner.

LAW AND ORDER

- Sun: Sir Kenneth Newman warns that he is prepared to use plastic bullets and water cannon against rioters.
- Shadow home affairs minister, Robin Corbett, says police plans could turn Britain into a battlefield, with tanks in the streets.
- John Gummer was mobbed by hippies last night when he visited a farmer trying to evict "peace people" off his land.
- The President of the NFU is to see Home Office Ministers next week to press for the problems of trespass to be tackled in the Public Order Bill (Telegraph).
- Today: Leader says plastic bullets are a mistake. They will turn the police into an enemy. "Look what has happened in Ulster."

DEFENCE

- Mail: The TA's medical service is about 25% under strength.

IMMIGRATION

- Sun: Tory fury erupted last night over a pledge by Neil Kinnock to scrap Britain's immigration laws. Leader says he has an extraordinary compulsion to offer foreigners all sorts of gifts - first the Elgin marbles, now immigration. He cannot play around with the happiness, the safety and the future of the nation.
- Express: Leader says Britain needs to know exactly what Labour intends on immigration.
- Mail: Labour has raised the immigration question. They cannot complain if it is now opened up for robust debate.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Express: The majority of mainland Britons want Ulster absorbed into the Republic or given independence according to a BBC poll.
- Times: Ministers are preparing for a lengthy period of direct rule.
- FT: Douglas Hurd says in Washington that the chances for the extradition treaty are reasonably good.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Mirror: Roy Hattersley warns that you bear a terrible responsibility if the failure to take sanctions against South Africa results in a bloodbath and the break up of the Commonwealth.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- SO: Mr Rifkind addresses Association of Chief Police Officers dinner, Anstruther
- MAFF: Mr Gummer and Lord Belstead attend Suffolk Show
- DTI: Lord Lucas addresses Institute of Civil Engineers Seminar, London
- HMT: Mr Brooke addresses the Exporters Association of Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce and Industrialists annual lunch
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Mr Clark visits Seoul (to June 2)
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TV AND RADIO

"Tomorrow's World"; BBC 1 (20.00): The Prince of Wales presents his award for Industrial Innovation and Production

"TV Eye"; ITV (21.30)

"Question Time"; BBC 1 (22.00): With Becky Bryan: Sir James Cleminson; Bryan Gould MP and Edward Heath MP
