

30 May 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Mrs Sakharov

Mr Patten addresses National Association of Head Teachers conference, Cardiff

STATISTICS

DTI: Finished steel consumption and stock changes (1st qtr - prov)

DTI: Company liquidity survey (1st qtr)

PUBLICATIONS

FCO: Treaty Series No. 27 (1986) International Coffee Agreement 1983
(14.00)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTTRESPASS

- Express: Farmer, Les Attwell, of Yeovil, yesterday won a High Court order to have 300 hippies evicted from his land. They leave today, having destroyed his harvest and collected £10,000 in dole money from local DHSS offices.
- Mirror: Leader says Farmer Attwell's victory will just transfer the problem to someone else. The Government must make sure there are enough sites for people who choose this kind of life.
- Today: Leader says Mr Attwell suffered a criminal offence which the police should handle as directly as a burglary.
- Times: Other Somerset farmers began assembling with tractors and other vehicles to keep the hippies off their land.
- Guardian: By and large the law is adequate, leader says. The last thing needed is a panic reaction that would be exploited by those less worthy than Mr Attwell.

DEFENCE

- Express: You have stepped in to try to resolve a squabble over warship design. You have agreed to set up an independent inquiry to decide whether we need long thin ships or short fat ones.
- Mail: You acted after seeing a report by Lord Hill-Norton which said the Government had been misled by its scientific advisers. As a result the Navy may have been buying more expensive and less efficient ships.
- Mirror: A vital warning that enemy planes were attacking was cancelled seconds before HMS Sheffield was hit. Other ships ignored the cancellation and took countermeasures, according to a former petty officer.
- Times: A bitter ideological battle surfaced yesterday over President Reagan's renunciation of the SALT 2 arms treaty, with 3 of America's leading arms control experts attacking the decision as a disaster that would lead to an unprecedented arms race.
- FT: America's allies yesterday launched a campaign to dissuade the US from exceeding the SALT 2 restrictions. Britain has expressed anxiety.

LITTER

- Express: Leader backs the clean-up Britain campaign and says: "Let's get the young unemployed busy collecting rubbish from the highway verges."
- Today: Leader says your reaction to litter shows that you are out of touch with Britain. Ordinary people have been aware of the problem for years. Your remoteness from today's real world is the problem. If you are to regain your popularity there are more important problems than litter needing attention.

POLITICS

- Sun: Labour's bid to capture Britain's black vote in time for the next election ended in humiliation yesterday. Black activists invaded the first meeting of the Black and Asian Advisory Committee at the Commons.
- Express: David Owen and David Steel are to take the BBC to court because they say the Corporation is not giving enough air time to the Alliance.
- John Watson, Conservative MP for Skipton and Ripon, will not stand at the next election because of the rowdy behaviour and childishness of colleagues.
- Express: Leader says Kinnock abroad needs to learn the 'three Rs' - be robust in defence of British interests, respectful to his country and restrained in comments about domestic issues.
- Mirror: Joe Haines says when you suggest you might go on to the "bitter end" you are teasing. You are more likely to call an election earlier in case things get worse.
- FT: Conservatives in Wales could expect the support of only 18% of the electorate, according to a Harlech TV poll.

AID

- Express: Bob Geldof made a vicious attack on the UN last night and described Britain's aid efforts as "puny".

NUCLEAR

- Guardian: Beef and lamb are being tested for radioactivity in Cumbria by MAFF after unexpectedly high levels of caesium were found on grass in the fells.

TERRORISM

- Mail: Hundreds of Britons escaped injury last night when a terrorist bomb hidden in a picnic basket exploded at their Spanish hotel. The Basque ETA group claimed responsibility.
- Today: Ministers believe their fierce lobbying for the US extradition treaty has paid off. Optimism followed yesterday's meeting with US Senators.
- Times: Neil Kinnock, in India, has defended your Government's record on terrorism.

CHERNOBYL

- Sun: Death toll now 23, with 59 others in acute danger.
- Mirror: MPs and environmental groups call for an urgent inquiry into possible links between nuclear power and leukaemia in children.

SAKHAROV

- Telegraph: Russia has blamed Mrs Bonner's antics in the West for her husband's continuing exile.

INDUSTRY

- Sun: Swan Hunter expect to sack up to 1,000 men next week.

MEDIA

- Guardian: Radios One and Two should be sold to the private sector and allowed to carry advertising, the Peacock Committee will tell the Home Secretary next week.
- Sales of the 'Today' newspaper have dropped below 500,000.

UNIONS

- Sun: 8m letters pile up at post offices as mailmen continue "wildcat strikes."

JUDICIARY

- Times: Lord Hailsham supports the creation of a complaints board to recommend the removal of judges.

SPORT

- Express: Ian Botham is banned from all test and county matches for two months for drug taking.
- Belgium's Justice Minister said last night he would be calling for the extradition of 26 British football fans over the Hersel Stadium disaster.
- Times: Organisers of the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh want the Government to underwrite a possible £1.5m shortfall in their budget.

ECONOMY

- Express: British interest rates could fall to around 8½% by mid-1987 but hopes of sustained low inflation depend on cutting wage costs, says the OECD.
- Times: In every other country except Britain growth in real labour costs has moderated. Here they are rising 8% a year. If we fail to get our share of rising world trade we have only this factor to blame.

EDUCATION

- Express: Headmaster yesterday demanded that the Government should repay them with hard cash for their loyalty during the teachers' strike.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Star: Continuation of its campaign against the "hell hole" of the Mount Pleasant Hotel where 150 children-in-care are said to live alongside rapists, child molesters and drug addicts.
- Four nurses may face manslaughter charges because of a mistake involving a drugs dose that caused the death of an 82-year-old patient.
- Times: 24 nurses have put up their savings to join a £15.3m management buy-out of their private nursing agency.
- In a letter to you, the Royal College of Nursing asked you to reconsider the three-month freeze on their pay award.

FALKLANDS

- Star: Last night you rapped Argentina for sinking the Taiwanese trawler, ordered the FCO to issue a tough "hands off" warning and put the Falklands garrison on full alert.
- Times: Leader says that at a time when Argentina is presenting itself as full of sweet reasonableness such use of force can only remind everyone of Galtieri.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Guardian: South African police have been helping black "vigilantes" to cause death and destruction in the townships.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Times: Peter Archer, Opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, has backed plans for abolishing the Northern Ireland Assembly.
- Telegraph: The Labour Committee on Ireland has supported Ken Livingstone's opposition to the extradition of IRA terrorists from Holland and condemned Mr Kinnoek's criticism of him as "deplorable".
- Guardian: Loyalists yesterday announced the formation of a Friends of the Union group to promote the case against the Anglo-Irish Agreement in Britian.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- HO: Mr Hurd visits West Midlands; later speaks at Anglo Asian Conservative Association, Birmingham
- SO: Mr Rifkind addresses City of Glasgow Businessmen's lunch, Glasgow
- WO: Mr Edwards addresses British Aggregate Construction Materials Industry's annual luncheon, Cardiff
- MAFF: Lord Belstead attends Hill Farming Advisory Committee meeting, London
- MOD: Mr Lee addresses Manchester North West Bow Group
- DEN: Mr Hunt visits National Girobank to launch Endless Energy Ltd's Strainercyde, Bootle
- DHSS: Lady Trumpington visits new Social Services block followed by a visit to a general hospital, Guernsey
- HO: Lord Glenarthur visits Sudbury Prison
- SO: Lord Gray opens extension at Mallaig Harbour
- SO: Mr Stewart addresses National Bedding Federation Conference, Gleneagles
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DOE: Mr Waldegrave departs for World Conservation Strategy Conference, Canada (to June 7)
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TV AND RADIO

"Headlines, Deadlines"; BBC Radio 4 (20.20): An interview with Alan Watkins, Political columnist of the Observer, about the relationship between journalists and politicians

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.45): With Edwina Currie MP; Ronn Todd, General Secretary TGWU; Roy Watts, Chairman Thames Water Authority and Jonathan Porritt, Director Friends of the Earth
