

20 June 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Princess Anne begins visit to Canada (to June 27)

Mr Jopling holds press conference on radioactivity in Cumbria and Wales

Wales Area Conservative Party Conference (to June 21)

IPCS meets on air traffic controller job cuts (CPSA meets July 2)

STATISTICS

CSO: Gross Domestic Product (1st qtr-prov)

PUBLICATIONS

FCO: EC No 18 (1986). Agreement in the form of an exchange of letters consolidating and modifying the text of Protocol 3 to the Agreement between the EEC and the Republic of Finland (14.00)

DTI: "British Business" - EC Conference: People & Technology (CBI)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business:

Debate on the Arts, on a Motion for the Adjournment

Adjournment Debate

The film and television industry in Scotland (Mr J Craigen)

Lords

Building Societies Bill: Second Reading

MINISTERS - See Annex

SOUTH AFRICA

- Coverage generally goes off the boil.
- Right wing Conservative MPs say you shouldn't weaken over sanctions; Today says you will do a U-turn.
- Reagan may send Senator Laxalt to talk to Botha.
- South African business leaders to protest today about arrest of trade union officials.
- Civil Rights groups say 3000 may be held under emergency regulations.
- White man killed by black mob in Eastern Cape.
- Mirror: Kinnock accuses you of being appeaser of racist regime - by vetoing sanctions.
- Today leads with "Thatcher: U-turn" - saying you are set to endorse limited economic sanctions as part of an EC package; reports 48 have died this week.
- Express says Kinnock was left speechless when you challenged him to name a single country that was taking more action against South Africa than Britain.
- Mail says you have bowed to the inevitable over sanctions - you have agreed to an airline boycott and a ban on new British investment in South Africa.
- Telegraph says if Conservatives wish to win the next election they must maintain the support of millions occupying the middle ground who find apartheid deeply repugnant. It will be a misfortune for the Tory party as well as Britain if we are seen as resisting the tide.
- Guardian notes that Bundestag yesterday rejected economic sanctions but called for suitable measures from EuroCouncil; leader says all it needs now is strength from you or President Reagan to recognise this is a moral issue and that there is no greater one.
- Times P1 says a Tory split is likely over sanctions.
- David Watt, in Times, says the striking conviction from a recent poll is that two thirds of British public is not greatly concerned about South Africa one way or the other. No reason to suppose sanctions in the South African case will change Government policies. How can we possibly explain the gesture is empty?

ARMS CONTROL

- Reagan welcomes new Soviet proposals in Geneva as potential turning point in negotiations; wants another Summit soon.

POST-CHERNOBYL

- Radiation levels still high in many hilly areas of Britain, say NRPB; Norwegians warned not to eat reindeer.
- Lord Marshall replies in Mirror to allegations of leukaemia deaths near nuclear plants - not right to link them with nuclear power.

STRATEGY TEAM/POLITICS

- Strategy team christened the Tory "A-Team".
- News generally quietly, but well, received - more coverage in qualities than pops.
- John Biffen, whose absence is noted, says it is "a most formidable and election winning combination".
- Guardian says you have squashed Mr Tebbit's idea of a free hand on manifesto.

- D/Star: "Maggie names poll team".
- Sun: "A-Team snub for Biffen" - pays the price for attacking you in exclusion from team to win the next election.
- Mirror: "Maggie plans for 1990s" - you hope to make sure there will be no switch in policy after you retire.
- Today: "Battling Mrs T picks her A-Team to fight for election victory"; Kenneth Lewis MP wants you to invite veteran Tory MPs along to provide some commonsense.
- Express: Call up for Maggie's A-Team. You take personal charge of your bid for a General Election hat-trick. You turn to your "Old Reliables".
- Mail: "Old Guard picked for Tory manifesto".
- Telegraph: Today A-Team prepares for a third term.
- Guardian: "Tebbit snubbed". You curb his manifesto role.
- Times leads with "Top team to mastermind Tory future".
- FT: PM calls top level review for 1990s.

- Mail says Geoffrey Pattie's future looks increasingly bleak after being interviewed by Chief Whip about his council slums speech; your Written Answer implies rebuke.

LAW AND ORDER

- Police report into activities of Manchester businessman and Tory friend of suspended Deputy Chief Constable goes to DPP, but inquiries continue.

SOCCER

- Concern over England v. Argentina World Cup match on Sunday will turn into a revenge match - either on or off the field.
- D/Star hopes it becomes another step towards peace with Argentine. We must remember it is just a game of football.
- Sun leads (somewhat irresponsibly) with "It's war, Senor" - Mexico puts all its military might on war alert for Sunday to avoid a blood bath.
- Mirror: "Tanks out for World Cup clash".
- Express: Judging by some of the tasteless comments seen and heard about the England v. Argentina match, the FCO's warning that it is not a Falklands replay comes not a moment too soon. We should remember it is only a game.
- Mail: Mexico alerts 5000 troops.

ECONOMY

- Institute of Directors says Britain's workers are turning their backs on strike happy union bosses.
- Sun hails the good news - strikes at their lowest level since the war; B/Telecom workers' shares double in value; Jaguar treble; Cable and Wireless up fivefold; National Freight up 2200%. 'And the bonanza will roll on with B/Gas'. No wonder the shop stewards' cry of "Everybody out" is becoming as rare as a ten bob note. John Redwood in Guardian on spread of capitalism.
- Express says High Street stores are enjoying a summer boom.

INDUSTRY

- Bridgend businessman to burn down his factory today in protest against red tape; says that but for bureaucrats he would be employing 46 making a new electric plug.
- BT reports pretax profit of £1810m - up 20%.
- Advance orders worth £10m for new Rover 800 Executive.
- Express says B/Gas will be the biggest ever flotation - but the real story is the boost it will give to People's Capitalism.
- B/Airways offering staff three months off without pay to help out wage bill and soften effects of slump in American business.
- PAC seriously criticises efficiency of ECGD which may need £3bn bail out by Government by 1990.
- Union leader says GM is to take over B/Rail's locomotive workshops and cut 80% of jobs.
- Oil jobs in Grampian region fell 3000 last year.

MEDIA

- Sacked Murdoch printworker jailed for 12 months (eight suspended) for attack on Sun sports writer.
- Fresh talks next week to try to end Wapping dispute.

UNIONS

- GCHQ staff who rejoined union will lose money after disciplinary hearings.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Mixed reception from 'pops' whose approach is low-key.
- Council 'mafia' face curbs - Mirror.
- Clampdown demand over 'jobs for the boys' - Today: leader says local Government has become increasingly political and needs reform. In their overweening political ambition some councils have set out to challenge the authority of central government. If Widdicombe report were implemented in full, local government would be a far more orderly and commonsense business.
- Express, however, says the report says Left wing councils should keep the right to hand out ratepayers' money to fringe groups.
- Mail leader says council abuses of power have suggested a new meaning for "rotten borough". Criticises Widdicombe for not tackling abuse of adjacent councils putting one another's members on the payroll. Stronger medicine is needed.
- Telegraph P1 lead: £14,000 pay plan for councils; officials may face election bar.
- Times leader does not seem to think much of the whole exercise.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Surgeons say patients are having to wait "a dangerously long time" for NHS operations (Mirror); Britain is bottom of league for number of surgeons per head of population (Mail).

SPORT

- Businessmen rally to save Commonwealth Games. Mirror headline: Mirror saves the Games - a reference to Maxwell becoming chairman of Games company.
- Express headline: "The Daily Express launches a crusade" (to save the Commonwealth Games).

PEOPLE

- Anna McCurley MP's marriage breaks up.
- Sun says MP Chris Smith wants to ban P3 girls but defends right of homosexuals to buy sado-masochistic porn mags - Sun says he is a funny fellow.
- Mrs Tebbit to leave hospital this weekend - Express another victory over IRA.

AFGHANISTAN

- Today feature of freedom fighters - "bold rebels who could crush Russia".

PAKISTAN

- Frigates order now in melting pot (Telegraph).

EC

- France and Germany block cheap air fares plan - want more time to consider it (Today).

LIBYA

- Gaddafi denies he's mad or losing power in meeting with journalists.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Assembly holds final session early today before dissolution; Loyalists plan a rebel assembly.
- Irish Government is to tell Gaddafi not to back IRA.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DES: Mr Baker visits Suffolk Schools

DEM: Lord Young opens new building of Aston University and new Gestetner factory, Wellingborough

DOE: Mr Ridley attends Mersey Conference, Liverpool

HO: Mr Hurd attends Conservative Party Conference, Wales

SO: Mr Rifkind meets Scottish Economic Council; later meets COSLA; addresses Scottish Federation of Housing Associations Stirling University

HMT: Mr Lawson addresses Welsh Party Conference

DES: Mr Walden launches local collaborative project, South Bank Polytechnic

DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith attends opening ceremony for Petroleum Engineering Building, Edinburgh

DEN: Mr Hunt visits Cadley Hall Colliery; later visits Transmitton Ltd, Ashby

DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses Paintmakers Association annual dinner, Torquay

DHSS: Mr Major visits Rheole Old People's home, St Ives

DHSS: Mr Whitney attends alcohol advisory service conference, Swindon

DHSS: Lady Trumpington visits Staffordshire - Family Practitioners Committee, Stoke-on-Trent

HO: Lord Glenarthur visits Lewes and Northeye prisons

SO: Lord Gray opens Invergordon and Golspie housing association schemes

SO: Mr MacKay attends ASH awards ceremony, Edinburgh

DTI: Mr Morrison visits Dee Electronic, Clwyd

DTI: Mr Pattie addresses CBI Eureka Conference, London

DTP: Mr Bottomley opens Kempston Cycle route, Bedford; later visits Northants Police crime prevention unit, Wellingborough

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

MOD: Mr Stanley visits Kuwait (to June 22)

TV AND RADIO

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.45): The Rt Hon Shirley Williams, the Rt Hon Norman St John-Stevas MP, Germaine Greer, Clive Jenkins

"Caring in the Community"; Channel 4 (22.30): Five very different experiences of the caring situation
