

27 June 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM The Queen opens horse show to mark the sesquicentenary of the Metropolitan Police mounted branch, Surrey

Prime Minister attends European Council, The Hague

Deadline for new pay offer to barristers

NUS lobby Department of Education and Science about initial teacher training plans

Decision on Legal Aid fees

REPLAN conference on learning opportunities for unemployed women, Liverpool

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STATISTICS

DTI: Sales and orders in the manufacturing and service industries (March)

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

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PUBLICATIONS

OAL: Export of Works of Art 1984-85 - 31st report of reviewing committee appointed by the Exchequer 1952

DTI: 'British Business' - includes item on UK Presidency of EC - includes interview with Alan Clark

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: European Communities (Amendment) Bill: Conclusion of Committee Stage

The death of Petty Officer John Black RN in Spain (Mr M Latham)

Lords Dockyard Services Bill: Report

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTSOUTH AFRICA

- Sun: A compromise is desperately being sought. You were almost entirely isolated as you dug in your heels over harsh sanctions.
- Mirror: 'Sanctions: market gang up on Maggie'. You are in a tight corner, with only Germany and Portugal supporting you. The French have reneged on us.
- Express: 'Market deadlock on sanctions tussle'. But unlike Nassau, you are not alone.
- Mail: 'Summit triumph - Maggie wins support on South African sanctions'.
- Today: 'Thatcher digs in over summit sanctions call'. You are refusing to budge but are coming under increasing pressure.
- Guardian: 'Thatcher and Howe split on sanctions'. There is a serious dispute between the two of you. An unhappy stage has been reached in your long and formerly close political relationship. Ministers close to both of you are concerned about the effect of the disagreement on the government. At one meeting, when Sir Geoffrey expressed doubts about a peace mission you said: "If you are in that sort of mood perhaps it would be better if you stayed at home".
- You are under strong pressure to bow to the EEC majority.
- Star: Standing almost alone and coming under increasing pressure to compromise, you told your European partners that hard economic measures could benefit Russia.
- Times: 'EEC Summit deadlock on sanctions'. Agreement has been reached on the need to send a "signal" to Pretoria but there are deep divisions on what to do.
- Nearly two out of three Britons believe your sympathies are with the white South African government, according to a Gallup Poll.
- Telegraph: Leader says that while it is right to resist sanctions, the Government must convince the British people that its heart is in the right place - apartheid is totally abhorrent to it.
- The idea of sending a troika of foreign ministers to Pretoria is getting a cool reception.
- FT: EC divided on South Africa imports ban.
- FT: Pretoria hard line confirmed as union leaders freed.
- FT: South Africa 'in war situation' - Boesak.

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

- Ignored by Sun, Mirror, Mail, Star.
- Express: MPs are surprised but some point out that Sir Robert's vast experience at the heart of Government would be invaluable in the power struggle which would follow an election stalemate and a hung Parliament.
- Guardian: Sir Robert's own motivation may have been influenced by his reckoning of the chances that there will be a hung Parliament after the election. He has been spending an increasing amount of time working out the constitutional and practical difficulties of such a situation.
- Times: You are known to hold Sir Robert in the highest esteem and there was no surprise among your colleagues that you did not want a change in such a sensitive and key post so close to an election.
- Telegraph: Neil Kinnock suggests that Sir Robert is staying on because you "might have difficulty finding anyone else to work that closely with". But in practice the decision may suit Labour, enabling it to reckon that it can appoint a team of its own choice as vacancies occur.

NUCLEAR

- Extensive coverage of Peter Walker's speech saying nuclear power is the only answer for a future, fuel-starved world.
- Mail: Leader says it takes a bold minister to shout the odds for nuclear power in the wake of Chernobyl and after the discovery of radioactive Welsh lambs. He has a good case but the public will take some convincing.
- Today: Friends of the Earth accuse Mr Walker of scare tactics. They fear the Government is paving the way for a quick decision in favour of Sizewell.
- Star: Feature headlined 'Living on the edge of darkness' assesses how Britain would cope with a Chernobyl-type disaster.
- FT editorial: Mr Walker has shown political courage in the timing of his speech, but his Armageddon visions need to be taken with a pinch of salt.

LAW AND ORDER

- Sun: John Stalker could soon face a charge of bringing discredit on the force, according to the Police Complaints Authority.
- A motorist was found guilty of drink-driving after a death crash, even though tests showed he was below the legal limit at the time of the crash. Four hours earlier doctors established he was well over the limit.
- Two Scottish engineers have been freed from jail in Nigeria after serving two years. A judge ruled they were innocent of flying a plane out of the country during a state of emergency.
- Express: Douglas Hurd is set to crack down on pleasure outings for patients at mental hospitals.
- Times: Patrick Magee could have been arrested a year before he committed the Brighton bombing, but the police blundered.
- The BMA wants random breath tests.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Mirror: Doctors at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, Kent, have taken newspaper advertising space to apologise for delays in treatment caused by government cutbacks.
- Mail: Labour plans to inject an extra £500m a year into the NHS if it wins the next election.
- Star: A 10-year-old boy who broke a window - his first offence - was locked for 4½ years in assessment centres, council homes and special units. The Star calls for an inquiry.
- Guardian: Labour would retain the Conservative's main administrative reform of the NHS - general managers.

TERRORISM

- Sun: 13 injured when bomb exploded on conveyor belt loading Boeing 737 of El Al airline at Madrid airport.
- Express: A British terrorist serving a life sentence in Cyprus for three murders is to be freed in return for the release by the PLO of two innocent Cypriot students. Israel and Europe will lead the storm of protest at Cyprus's surrender to terrorist blackmail.

POLITICS

- Sun: Neil Kinnock will scrap the SDI deal with the US if Labour win the General Election.
- Express: Norman Tebbit attacks tax hypocrites who blasted Lord Young for saying that people with jobs had never had it so good.
- Reg Prentice, 62, is to quit the Commons at the next election.
- Times: A big behind-the-scenes struggle is taking place in the Conservative party over who will take over as chairman of the powerful National Executive Committee.

CENTRAL TV INTERVIEW

- Today: Half page devoted to your interview with Central TV, headed 'A woman's place is in the Commons, says Maggie'.
- Times: 'Thatcher support for women'.

ECONOMY

- Mail: Britain almost slipped into the red last month as oil exports fell to the lowest level for six years. The balance of payments was just £34m in May.

INDUSTRY

- FT: Plan to extend TVEI training scheme.

UNIONS

- Mail: British Rail boss, Sir Bob Reid, last night threatened 40,000 with the sack if they vote for a strike.

ITALY

- FT: Italian Government under threat after defeat in Parliament on law relating to local government finance.

SPIES

- Mirror Joe Haines quotes New Statesman claim that underneath the new International Conference Centre is a Government spy headquarters.

HOUSING

- Sun: The Government is considering paying council tenants in cash to quit their council homes and go out and buy another property on the private market.

BL

- Guardian: Leader, commenting on reports of new talks between DTI and GM, says "It is difficult - but not impossible - to believe that the government would risk a fresh political storm by forcing BL to sell off Land Rover against the will of its senior executives."

PRIVATISATION

- Times: John Moore pledges the government to sell all state-owned industries.

MEDIA

- Telegraph: You are furious that the Peacock Committee seems not to want to clamp down on sex and violence on TV.
- FT: Cabinet split over Peacock report proposal to auction all ITV franchises. Statement next week on Peacock Report.
- FT: John Lloyd, Industrial Editor FT, to edit New Statesman.

JIM COE

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DES: Mr Baker meets German Minister of Research and Technology

DEM: Lord Young attends Action for Jobs breakfast, Leicester

DOE: Mr Ridley speaks at ADC Conference, Eastbourne

DHSS: Mr Fowler opens Ridge Hill Unit, Chelmsley Mental Hospital; gives interview to Central TV, Birmingham

DTI: Mr Channon visits West Midlands; addresses Business & Technical Education Council

WO: Mr Edwards opens Laura Ashley's new distribution complex, Newtown; visits KTK, (Newtown) Ltd

DEM: Mr Trippier opens South Sefton Enterprise Agency, Bootle

HO: Lord Glenarthur visits Wormwood Scrubs

SO: Lord Gray addresses AGM of Animal Diseases Research Association, Edinburgh

SO: Mr MacKay addresses Psychiatric Nurses Association, Stirling University; later visits Cornton Vale Prison, Stirling

SO: Mr Stewart visits Bauteil Manufacturing Group Ltd (Engineering), Newton Mearns; appears on STV programme "ways and means"

DTI: Mr Howard addresses London Standard Conference

DTI: Lord Lucas opens Rank Xerox Industry Year Open Day, Welwyn Garden City

DTI: Mr Morrison visits Workington

HMT: Mr Stewart addresses Businessmen's luncheon club, Bedfordshire

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TV AND RADIO

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.45): The Rt Hon Kenneth Baker, the Rt Hon John Smith, Paddy Ashdown, Joan Barrell (Publisher Company magazine)

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