

18 July 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

"College of the Air" announcement

HM The Queen opens new Territorial Army Centre, Cramlington;  
later visits Newcastle branch of NACRO

Prime Minister meets Jim Davidson; Janet Brown to receive copy of  
her autobiography; later gives interview to BBC 2

Black African nations decide on participation in Commonwealth Games

European disarmament conference ends 11th session, Stockholm

European Commission holds its first "Meeting of Reflection",  
Lancaster House

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STATISTICS

CBI: CBI/FT Survey of distributive trades (end-June)

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PUBLICATIONS

DES: Economic and Social Research Council corporate plan 1986-91

HMSO: HMSO trading fund accounts 1985-86 (1400)

HOC: 39th Report Public Accounts Committee - the Rayner Scrutiny programmes  
1979-83 (Noon)

DTI: 'British Business' includes market report on Latin America; DTI guide  
to the Department

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: Dockyard Services Bill: Consideration of any Lords Amendments  
which may be received

Proceedings on the Insolvency Bill (Lords)(Consolidation Measure)

Proceedings on the Company Directors Disqualification Bill  
(Lords) (Consolidation Measure)

Motion on the New Towns (Extinguishment of Liabilities) Order

Adjournment Debate

The future of the West London Hospital (Mr N Raynsford)

Lords Building Societies Bill: Report  
Supplementary Benefit (Requirements and Resources)  
Miscellaneous Amendment Regulations 1986 ) Motions for approval  
Supplementary Benefit (Requirement and Resources )  
Amendment Regulations 1986

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2.  
PRESS DIGEST

BY-ELECTION

- Mirror: "Labour poll victory" - by a 799 majority. Alliance second, Conservatives third.
- Mail: "Labour holds on in poll - just". The result is an embarrassment for Labour which has been well ahead in national opinion polls.
- Star: "Labour's win in narrow victory". The Alliance vote was encouraging and the Tories will write off their result. They never expected to come better than third.
- Sun: "Labour scrape in by 799!".
- Times: "Labour holds off Alliance by 799 votes". The result is a tremendous shot in the arm for the Alliance.
- Telegraph: "Labour win 'safe seat' by-election".

SECRETARIAL ALLOWANCES

- Sun: "Maggie fury as MPs' secretaries land £7,000 rise". The decision makes a mockery of your plea to MPs to set an example.
- Leader says "MPs often complain of the lack of public respect and affection for them. Is it so surprising when they can behave like pigs round a trough?"
- Star: "Maggie furious as MPs grab 52% rise. You intend to take revenge for the embarrassment they have caused you. You are considering setting up a panel to do random spot checks on expenses.
- Express: "MPs' pay vote storm breaks". You showed your disgust in the House.
- Leader says "When it comes to looking after number one, MPs are an example to us all".
- Mail: MPs vote for 60% increases.
- Mirror: Leader says when polls are taken to see which jobs score lowest in public esteem, politicians consistently top the list. "After last night, it is easy to see why."
- "£20,000 expenses for MPs".
- Today: "Premier furious as MPs vote for more expenses."
- Leader says there was something nastily underhand about the way the whacking rise was achieved. It makes it hard for them to speak convincingly about wage restraint when they are exceptions to the rule.
- The "secretary wives of Westminster" welcome the decision.

SOUTH AFRICA/COMMONWEALTH GAMES

- Sun: Officials of the Commonwealth Games Council for England will meet Games organisers on Sunday to demand the reinstatement of Zola Budd and Annette Cowley.
- Express: "Sanctions: No U-turn by Maggie". You have not shifted your position one inch. The mix-up was due to the wrong interpretation of Sir Geoffrey's speech.
- Three more nations - the Bahamas, Papua New Guinea and Sierra Leone - quit the Games, taking the total to nine.
- Express: Paul Johnson column says "Like a growing number of Britons, I am beginning to think that the Commonwealth in its present form must go."
- Today: "Thatcher softens line on sanctions."
- Mail leader says yours is the elected government with the responsibility to take decisions until voted out of power. "Her Majesty does not need to be told that. Interfering Commonwealth tinpots do need to be told - and in no uncertain terms".
- Article by Robin Oakley on "Two faced Healey".
- Mirror: Leader says two thirds of the British public believe Zola Budd and Annette Cowley should be allowed to compete in the Games (Mirror poll). The boycotters are not winning anybody over. Appeasement has got nowhere.
- Today: Article by Political Editor, Sue Cameron, headed "Maggie, show that you care" says your strident voice is upsetting Queen, country and Commonwealth.
- Telegraph: Mugabe tells African states to think carefully on calls to leave the Commonwealth. South Africa would be happy if the Commonwealth disintegrated.
- Several EEC countries, particularly Denmark, are unhappy with the way Sir Geoffrey is presenting the country's initiative.
- Times: "Thatcher confirms shift on sanctions".
- Geoffrey Smith says there has almost certainly been a significant shift in government policy - not of objectives but of assumptions.
- Lange attacks Games boycott.
- Mugabe may opt for Games compromise.
- Black nations wary of air links ban.
- Guardian: Pretoria is stock-piling cheap oil to beat sanctions.
- You hedged on EEC sanctions with any new measures having to be negotiated point by point.
- FT: Leader says it would be extremely foolish if some Commonwealth leaders were to threaten to walk out just as what could be a coordinated programme of sanctions was coming into being.

PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

- Mail: The Cabinet yesterday opened the way for an election anytime next May. It endorsed a raid on a Treasury "piggy bank" for up to £3bn to spend on health, schools, jobs and helping to keep down the rates bill. And it decided to drop an £80m squeeze on benefits for poorest families.
- Today: "Cabinet set for battle as spending crisis looms".
- Telegraph: The Cabinet yesterday postponed until the autumn a difficult battle to hold down public spending to make room for pre-election tax cuts.
- Leader says there seems little chance of the £144bn figure remaining intact after the bilaterals. The image-makers appear to have decided that the electorate wants higher public spending.
- Times: "Ministers prepare for battle on spending". The contingency reserve could be halved.
- FT: Peter Walker apparently said it was a "ludicrous procedure" to confirm the global total at this stage but received little support.
- A cluster of vote-seeking spending initiatives later this year is claimed to be imminent (Guardian).

MEDIA

- Today: Channel 4's programme "All the Prime Minister's Men" last night claimed that Sir Geoffrey Howe argued for the "managed decline" of Merseyside after the 1981 riots.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Sun: Neil Kinnock accuses the Government of dirty tricks by arranging to debate single payments on the day of the Royal Wedding.
- Mirror: Another shock-horror - children recovering from brain surgery are being turned away from London's Maudsley Hospital because a ward is closed for 6 weeks to save money.
- Today: Health authority chiefs have called for an investigation into consultants who have been suspended on full pay for up to five years.
- Telegraph: Private hospitals are offering to help cut the NHS waiting lists.
- Guardian: Letter from social security tribunal president, Judge Byrt, "gags" tribunal members from commenting on Social Security Bill.

LAW AND ORDER

- Sun: Britain's jails are not fit for animals, says a report by the Commons Social Services Committee.
- Star: Three masked thugs beat up an 87-year-old woman.
- Express: Hundreds of illegal immigrants are slipping into Britain unchecked, according to immigration officials at Heathrow, who say they are understaffed.
- Express: As part of a security drive Dixons shops have started taking photographs of customers who buy expensive goods by cheque after the banks have closed.
- Mail: A gang stole paintings worth £1m from a Swansea mansion yesterday.
- Guardian: Home Office is giving limited access to criminal records because of the ease with which sex offenders can get access to children by telling lies.
- Guardian: West Midlands Chief Constable is calling for publication of secret riot control manual.

LAW AND ORDER (Cont'd)

- FT: A row between the Government and local authorities over funding for police pay may delay the agreed rise.
- The pay of unionised cleaners is 15% higher than non-union workers.

STALKER

- Guardian: Stalker seemed optimistic and relieved after his six-hour meeting with West Yorks Chief Constable, Colin Sampson.

SECURITY SERVICE

- Telegraph: The Government has taken an unprecedented step in its attempt to stop the publication in Australia of the memoirs of former MI5 officer, Peter Wright. Sir Robert Armstrong will give evidence in the civil action in Sydney in November.

TERRORISM

- Express: The US senate approves the extradition treaty.
- Ulster's Appeal Court upholds appeals by 18 Belfast men against convictions three years ago on the word of an IRA supergrass.
- Telegraph: After the senate approved the extradition treaty, President Reagan telephoned you with the news. You were delighted.
- Guardian: The treaty is described as your victory.

ROYAL FAMILY

- Star: Princess Diana and Sarah Ferguson admit they went into a club dressed as policewomen.
- Mirror: It will cost at least £500,000 to police the wedding - and the Government have offered the Metropolitan Police no extra money to pay for it.
- Times: The Azores is said to be the destination for the honeymoon, according to Lisbon sources.

TRANSPORT

- Sun: The Civil Aviation Authority wants the Government to increase airline night flights at Heathrow and Gatwick to meet the growing demand for holidays. But nearby residents want a total night ban.



DRUGS

- Star: Pop star, Paul McCartney, warns young people to stay away from drugs.

PEOPLE

- Mirror: Article by Joe Haines headed "Chariot on fire" says Prime Ministers don't have nine lives. You are running out of crises you can survive.

INDUSTRY

- Sun: Sir George Jefferson gets a £60,000 pay rise - doubles the rate of growth in British Telecom profits.
- Telegraph: The employees' consortium running Vickers cut £25m off the original British Shipbuilders' price for the first Trident submarine, Peter Levene told the PAC yesterday.
- Times: British Airports Authority profits up 20%.

UNEMPLOYMENT

- Mail: "As the jobless list grows, wages go on soaring".
- Mirror: Lord Young is accused of fiddling the figures.
- Today: "Fiddle fails to hide jobs gloom".
- Eight million wage éarnering are living on the breadline, according to the shop assistants' union, USDAW.

PRIVATISATION

- Times: The privatisation of British Gas is threatened by a law which gives workers the power to delay a transfer of a public service to the private sector.

NUCLEAR

- Times: Chernobyl's reactors to restart in October.

IMMIGRATION

- Guardian: Immigration officers are being switched from southern ports to Heathrow to cope with volume of arrivals and backlog of applicants.

JIM COE

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MAFF: Mr Jopling meets Polish Ambassador, London

DES: Mr Baker addresses CLEA conference, Coventry

DEM: Lord Young speaks at Outward Bound Trust AGM, London

DOE: Mr Ridley visits East Midlands

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses European-Atlantic dinner

SO: Mr Rifkind and Mr Ancram meet COSLA, Edinburgh; later Mr Rifkind hosts dinner for Editors of Scottish Daily Newspaper Society, Edinburgh Castle

DTI: Mr Channon presents the TSW Business Awards, Plymouth

HMT: Mr Lawson addresses Southgate Dining Club

WO: Mr Edwards attends annual Institute of Directors lunch, Cardiff; opens Ystradgynlais Community Hospital

MOD: Mr Lee visits Ferranti, Edinburgh

MOD: Lord Trefgarne visits GEC

MOD: Mr Freeman visits Hydrographic Department, Taunton

DEM: Mr Trippier opens office development in Northwich; speaks at 'Action for Jobs' presentation, Leeds

DEM: Mr Lang chairs Advisory Council on race relations, London

DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith attends Gas Services offshore launch of secondary life support for divers, Aberdeen

DOE: Mr Tracey attends Pearl Assurance International Athletics, Birmingham

FCO: Lady Young addresses English Speaking Union International Summer Conference

HO: Mr Mellor speaks to drugs conference, York; participates in Derby drugs forum

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

HO: Lord Glenarthur visits Hertfordshire and Cambridge Fire Brigades

DTI: Mr Morrison visits North East

DTP: Mr Mitchell unveils plaque celebrating launch of Andover Minibus service

WO: Mr Roberts visits Llechwedd Quarries

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TV AND RADIO

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.45): Lynda Chalker MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Alan Watson, Peter Snape MP, Esther Rantzen

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