

23 July 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister attends wedding of Prince Andrew and Miss Sarah Ferguson, Westminster Abbey; hosts lunch for Governors-General; later attends Lobby Party, HoC

Edinburgh City Council meets to consider revocation of Prime Minister's invitation to Commonwealth Games

European Parliament Foreign Affairs colloquy, London

Welsh and Scottish RSG announcements

TUC General Council

PUBLICATIONS

DOE: Construction - new orders (May) (11.30)

WO: Index of production and construction for Wales (1st qtr) (10.30)

PUBLICATIONS

DOE: Coxon Report on Carsington Dam collapse (15.30)

DOE: Government response to Environment Select Committee Report on radioactive waste (15.30)

HOC: 45th Report Public Accounts Committee - Financial Control and accountability of the Metropolitan Police (Noon)

HOC: 44th Report Public Accounts Committee - preventive medicine (Noon)

HO: Report of the Horseracing Betting Levy Board 1985

SO: Legal Aid annual report 1985 (11.30)

DTI: Export Credit Guarantee and Overseas Investments Act 1978 annual report for year ended 31.3.86 (11.00)

PAY

DEM: NHS laboratory staff; (17,700); 11.6% has been claimed; 4.7% has been rejected; settlement date 1.4.86

PARLIAMENTCommonsQuestions: Environment; ScotlandBusiness: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Companies (Disabled Employees Quota)
(Mr R Boyes)

Social Security Bill: Consideration of Lords Amendments

Wages Bill: Consideration of Lords Amendments

Agriculture Bill: Consideration of Lords Amendments

Adjournment Debate

The proposal to introduce a £2 note (Sir Marcus Fox)

Select Committees: SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CHANNEL TUNNEL BILLLords Financial Services Bill: Committee (2nd Day)

Building Societies Bill: Third Reading

MINISTERS _ See Annex

PRESS DICESTROYAL WEDDING dominates all.

- Mirror thinks Poet Laureate's effort for the occasion hardly seems worth his official fee of a barrel of wine. [It is, however, reasonably comprehensible.] Set to music and proceeds for National Children's Home.
- Telegraph diary says sourly that probably the best that can be said of the poem is that it is firmly within the traditions of the post.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Reagan calls on West to resist the emotional clamour for punitive sanctions - Bishop Tutu promptly says West can go to hell. . . . country
- S African Government claims to have captured the most effective ANC unit operating in/
- You are ready to fly anywhere in the world for talks with Botha (D/Star).
- Mail leader on Foreign Secretary's "impossible mission" says he is going not because he is a sucker for punishment but because he believes negotiation offers a less blood-stained way forward. He goes on behalf of the West and has to prove that the process of negotiation has been utterly exhausted.
- Telegraph says the Howe mission is 'crucial for Thatcher' - it has profound implications for the future of your premiership.
- Sanctions will put black mining jobs in danger and South Africa's coal mining industry is preparing for retrenchment (Telegraph).
- Guardian leads with "Thatcher right on sanctions, says Reagan", and with you sticking to the Government's line on Sir Geoffrey's talks.
- Times leads with possibility of your meeting Botha.

PALACE ROW

- Sun says finger of suspicion is pointing at Michael Shea as source. Mirror says Mr Shea laughed off the suggestion.
- Today says Sunday Times editor accused Queen's advisers of lying and is ready to print further disclosures about how the story was obtained without naming source.
- A wall of silence on Royal mole - D/Star.

PALACE ROW (Cont'd)

- Sun leader says we may never know whether Tory Grandees were behind a Palace plot to discredit you. But we do know a dismaying number of Tory MPs and even Ministers are disloyal to you. But what could they do if they got rid of you? A new style Labour Government that would take the country so far down the road to Marxism there would be no way back.
- John Vincent, in Sun, has no doubt there is a plot afoot but this wretched episode will not do anything to help the Commonwealth or dislodge you.
- George Gale, in Mirror, quoting Enoch Powell, asks who is the dirty dog? There is far too much smoke for there to be no fire. Someone yapped, and the suggestion that Tory Grandees are behind it smacks of the truth.
- Today says you and Queen last night tried to patch up the "constitutional row".
- Express: Maggie calls a truce at Palace; you try to defuse row.
- Mail: Junior Ministers claim Queen is indignant at the way an attempt has been made to drag her into politics. You no doubt made light of it at the audience.
- Telegraph: Thatcher seeks to end rift. You made it clear to Queen you want a swift end to it. You gave no sigh in Commons you had been unnerved by weekend reports.
- Hugo Young, in Guardian, says that until the Queen's opinion is formally expressed, which it never will be, it is no more meaningful or reliable than idle gossip. As such it is hardly the stuff of a constitutional crisis.
- Geoffrey Smith, in Times, thinks you personally and Government collectively will have been damaged by this episode because some of the mud will stick.
- Peter Riddell, in FT, says that everything that happens in British politics in July needs to be heavily discounted. So the Palace controversy should not be exaggerated. One of the charms of the Sunday Times story is that little can be proved or denied. But at a deeper level the episode highlights the reservations the traditional British establishment has about the social outsider and her counter revolution.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

- Total number of withdrawals 30 with Grenada, Mauritius, Virgin Islands, Brunei joining boycott.
- Kinnock accuses you of causing boycott (Mirror).
- High Court rules Annette Cowley out of games - ineligible because she has no permanent home in England.
- George Gale, in Mirror, describes boycott as blackmail and says countries of the Commonwealth have behaved over the Games in a thoroughly nasty, spiteful, hateful way towards you and whites. A politically motivated Commonwealth which drags the Queen into the political arena and imperils the monarchy is a beast we would be better without.
- Times claims that Sports Minister encouraged Games Federation to bar Annett Cowley and Zola Budd. Dick Tracey says it is "total fiction".

ECONOMY

- Times says US economic growth in Q2 of this year was the weakest since the last quarter of 1982.

INDUSTRY

- B/Gas returns £685m profit and is considering cutting prices next year - boostshopes of raising £8bn in privatisation (Express).
- B/Rail turns round a £420m loss for previous 15 months into £1.2m profit. Mirror says the price is jobs.
- FT, which owns half of Economist, refuses to allow Economist to increase its borrowing limit from £1.2m to £30m - but row seems to be mainly procedural.

PAY

- Police to get 7.5% from September 1. Local authorities say if they don't get Government assistance with funding they won't be able to pay next year's award.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Nicholas Ridley accused by MPs of giving an election "bribe" to councils with RSG settlements.
 - £1bn rates aid as Tories cast an eye to polls - first gun of election campaign (Today).
 - Mail: Ratepayers should see their bills frozen next year.
 - Telegraph makes RSG its front page lead: £1bn extra for councils; spending squeeze eased by Ridley. Councils welcome "looser controls".
 - Guardian says Mr Ridley tries reality but at best RSG is a freeze in real terms.
 - Times: Ridley moves to keep rate rises down; leader says this settlement represents a great defeat for the Government.
 - FT praises the Government's good sense on local government spending and took the wind out of the Opposition's sails with the first sensible RSG statement since coming to office. Mr Ridley's political good luck to be the messenger.
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- Bristol Council for Voluntary Services insists gays, blacks, lesbians and disabled must all be represented on its grants committee - Jonathan Sayeed MP says its "daft".
 - Left wing councils which fail to make nuclear civil defence preparations face cash penalties.

EDUCATION

- Commons votes to abolish capital punishment by a majority of one.
- Today says Kenneth Baker yesterday hinted at a major new cash injection for teachers' pay, but with strings.
- Today profile of Kenneth Baker who admits to the fault of being too kind.
- Ealing Council - now Left - forced by angry parents to shelve policy of "outlawing" discrimination against lesbians and homosexuals.
- Kenneth Baker, according to Telegraph, says Government has not ruled out a student loans system.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Royal College of Nursing says nurses are no longer content to be hand maidens of doctors but want a better partnership with them to provide better treatment.
- Telegraph hopes that in today's debate the Government will not retreat from its curb on single payments abuse.

POLITICS

- Sam McCluskie, NU Seamen, beats off Left challenge by Ken Livingstone to retain treasurership of Labour Party (Mirror).
- Hard Left tells Kinnock it is not prepared to accept watered down Socialist policies.
- Telegraph says you are planning to get out and about in Britain as part of a new campaign to relaunch Conservative Party in run-up to the next election.
- Times says Benn will back Kinnock until the election. With Kinnock in Downing Street the battle for unbridled Socialism would be renewed.

LAW AND ORDER

- Britain allowed in 55,400 immigrants last year - increase of 4,400 on 1984.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Proportion of Roman Catholics in NI Civil Service increased by 6% between 1980 and 1985 to 33.6%.

RUSSIA

- Today on Guardian report of manifesto for reform put about in Moscow, says they will not believe that the reform of the Soviet regime is genuine until racial and religious apartheid in Russia begins to decrease. Guardian says if Soviet Union is to be taken seriously as a political and economic power as well as a military one, it cannot ignore for ever what its own loyal critics tell it.

NEW ZEALAND

- Common Market deal on EC butter imports.

SAUDI ARABIA

- Concern lest British couple suffer execution by sword beheading for murder.

CHINA

- Expels British correspondent of New York Times for going into areas closed to foreigners.

MIDDLE EAST

- Telegraph says Peres' flight to see Hassan has given Arab world an unpleasant surprise and Peres risks much less than Hassan. Such evidence of independence and maturity is rare in the politics of the Middle East and will be welcome to all but the meddlesome in the West.

- Times says trip may represent a throw of the dice by a Premier (Peres) with little time left.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MAFF: Mr Jopling attends reception for Corporation of London, HoC
- MAFF: Lord Belstead visits Royal Welsh Show (Mr Robinson (WO) also visits), Builth Wells
- MOD: Lord Trefgarne makes flight with Boeing to view AEW equipment
- DHSS: Mr Whitney attends British Dietetic Association Symposium, London
- HO: Mr Shaw participates in civil defence planning conference, Brighton
- HO: Lord Glenarthur addresses British Fire Protection System Association
- SO: Mr Stewart attends Commonwealth & International Conference on Sports Banquet, Glasgow
- DTI: Mr Pattie addresses Policy Studies Institute, London
- DTp: Mr Mitchell visits Tamworth and Birmingham to look at BR catering facilities
- WO: Mr Robinson attends Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, Builth Wells
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TV AND RADIO

- "The Royal Wedding"; BBC1 (06.15); ITV (06.15); BBC Radio 4 (10.30)
- "File on 4"; BBC Radio 4 (16.05): Repeat of Tuesday's programme
- "Diverse Reports"; Channel 4 (20.30): A diverse and thoroughly jaundiced look at the media's coverage of the Royal Wedding
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