

25 July 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM The Queen visits Lords Cricket Ground for the England v New Zealand Test Match

Prime Minister meets representatives of the Boys Brigade; later presents British Standards Institution Certificate to Norville Optical

ACAS Conference on teacher appraisal (weekend conference)

House of Commons rises for summer recess (to October 21)

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STATISTICS

DTI: Sales and order in the engineering industries (April)

DTI/CSO: Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (June) (11.30)

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PUBLICATIONS

HOL: 19th Report Select Committee on European Communities: Delegation of powers to the Commission (08.30)

OAL: Report by the Minister for the Arts on the Public Lending Rights Scheme 1985/86 (Noon)

DTI: British Business' - includes articles on West Berlin market; advanced manufacturing technology; product liability

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PAY

DEM: Primary and secondary school teachers in England and Wales; (453,000): discussions continue; settlement date 1.4.86

DEM: Probation Officers; (6,300); 8% sought; 6% being considered by unions; settlement date 1.7.86

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: Timed Summer Adjournment Debates (until 1500 hours)

Adjournment Debate

The role of the Commissioner for Local Government Administration (Mr J Heddle)

Lords Consolidated Fund Bill: All stages (if it has been received from the Commons).

Finance Bill: Second Reading and Remaining Stages

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PRESS DIGESTWESTLAND

- Charges of disreputable and improper conduct by Defence Select Committee.
- Michael Foot calls on Sir Robert Armstrong to resign.
- Michael Heseltine says he feels vindicated by the report.
  
- Mirror says £3.7bn was wiped off share values amid fears the report could cost you the election.
- Sun P2: Maggie guns down her 'copter critics; Westland fight back - you leave the Commons attack in tatters.
- D/Star: P8: Westland probe clears Thatcher, but improper leak is blasted
- Mirror P2: Savaged! Tories' dirty tricks exposed by MPs. 'Sordid intrigue' slammed by Steel; but guess who's in the clear? - you. Steel accuses you of cover up; leader says you are reeling on the ropes. The sordid intrigues over Westland demonstrate a repellent style of Government.
- Joe Haines, Mirror, preictably comments on 'Whitehall's Watergate'. Report shows that at the highest level of Government and Civil Service there is no scruple, no principle and no shame. He doesn't believe you didn't know about the leak or that Charles and I didn't tell you.
- Today P1: Stonewall Thatcher - cover up fury as Premier cleared on leak; leader says the real culprits in Westland - Heseltine and MoD. As often, IT says, the real question has not even been asked: Why Westland was allowed to get into difficulties in first place. This was because Heseltine and MoD failed to handle defence procurement competently. Sue Cameron says that if there are any more bananaskins you could find that your luck has run out.
- Express P1: Westland: Maggie cleared, but 5 top aides are savaged by report. Many MPs have lingering suspicions that the whole story has not been told and probably never will be; leader says the report does not get off the ground. It comes out right at the start of the silly season and merely reminds us how trivial the whole business really was. What on earth makes the Committee think it should have been wasting its time looking into a leak? - a piece of self important busy-bodding. And it's rich for the Committee to say it was disreputable to leak the Solicitor General's letter when members of the Committee have been assiduously leaking the report's initial findings for the past two weeks
- Mail P9: Maggie rages over tricks charge; report accuses two of her staff of dirty tricks and charges Head of Civil Service with unprofessional conduct. Probably first time in history the Private Office of No 10 has been accused of dirty tricks to discredit a Minister and the long term implications of that charge are incalculable.

WESTLAND (Cont'd)

- Telegraph P1: Westland leak report clears Mrs Thatcher of any direct involvement. Relief among Ministers and Tory MPs. Sketchwriter Pearce says you were at your most "grisly" in the Commons. Leader on "a leak too many" says the report adds damaging phrases without shedding much fresh light. What was done on this occasion, with the assistance of Mr Ingham's office at No 10, overstepped the mark to the point of bringing the system into contempt. Officials, even with the Prime Minister's confidence, need to take stock and clean up their act.
- Guardian predictably leads P1 with "Westland report tarnishes Thatcher"; leader says the Westland affair was clearly a terrible shambles and a tale of hypocrisy, double dealing, personal vendetta and manipulation, shot through with evasion and mendacity. A horror story to be weighed in the wider balance of Government dismay.
- James Naughtie, Guardian, says that only Michael Heseltine holds on to most of his reputation. Charles Powell and Bernard Ingham emerge badly as the organisers of the leak. Picture it lays out of the Thatcher administration is an ugly one. The report will be difficult to reply to.
- Times P1: Thatcher veto on censure of top aides. You flatly reject main conclusions of the report.
- Times devotes 2 pages to summaries of the reports. Geoffrey Smith says it cannot be satisfactory to leave specific charges of misconduct against officials where they are without disciplinary action or adequate explanation. As a first step on general principles it would be wise to separate the posts of Cabinet Secretary and Head of Civil Service.
- Times leader says there is no longer a Westland crisis but a Westland sore which will run a little yet. The report is triumph for Sir Robert but the need for change is now clearer than it has been. B. Ingham took too much upon himself but much of his conduct would be unremarkable if he were a political appointee and his bulldog enthusiasm for politicking goes well beyond what can be tolerated in a Government official.
- FT P1 lead: Prime Minister defends Cabinet Secretary against attack over Westland. Report contains little of substance not disclosed or discussed at the time. Possibly short lived impact. Many politicians think the public is not interested in the details.
- FT: Parliamentary report: Tories rally to back PM over Westland attack; leader headed "The end of the affair" says three points stand out:
  - Government needs clearer industrial policy objectives
  - Westland never a clear cut case between Europe or USA
  - breakdown of Government machine which the report rather understates.
 You must keep a grip on what Cabinet colleagues are doing; that it hopes is the end of the affair.

1922 COMMITTEE

- Sun: Tories 'will rule until year 2000' - super confident Mrs T promises Tory troops she will lead them to victory at next election and stay in office to year 2000. You delighted Backbenchers.
- Today: Thatcher plea for unity after difficult months.
- Express: Tories put on alert for poll, but not too soon. Many MPs impressed by your energy. Jerry Hayes MP, a critic, says you did not look like a Prime Minister with her back to the wall - bubbling with enthusiasm and new ideas.
- Mail: Maggie's winning message to MPs.
- Telegraph: Election call to Tory MPs - you name the issues on which you hope to secure a third term - defence, law and order, sound money. Signs that the party is rallying round its leader in the face of personal attacks.
- Guardian Back page: Thatcher looks to future - you urge party to turn its mind away from trouble of the past year and towards the next election.
- Times P1: Message to boost Tories' morale. A defiant, good humoured and upbeat performance.
- FT: End of term rally from Thatcher. Pledge a reinvigoration of policy.

POLITICS

- Don Concannon MP not to seek re-election following serious injuries in car crash.
- David Steel bets on a Spring '87 election.
- Today says no doubt the Labour Party/TUC choice of day to announce their latest plans on trade union legislation and wages on Royal Wedding Day was deliberate. The less publicity, they must have thought, the better. A national minimum wage is a recipe for unemployment and wage inflation.
- Mail leader on the SDP/Libs Alliance under strain says their latest document "Partnership for Progress" shows however how far they have come. Times: Alliance relegates proportional representation.
- Charles Moore, in Telegraph, says you can only succeed in your own bossy way and since you are now forbidden to do this (by Cabinet Government) the Government is no longer succeeding at all. You should perhaps be left to do it your way.

PALACE ROW

- Paul Johnson, in Express, says you and Queen have an excellent working relationship and respect each other. And Queen did not dissent from your handling of the coal strike. Could it be that the Sunday Times has been taken for a ride yet again?

SOUTH AFRICA

- Foreign Secretary suffers another lecture from Kaunda in front of TV - Kaunda sees an Anglo/US conspiracy.
  
- Sun leader suggests that in ranging yourselves against sanctions, you and Reagan may be conscious that each of your countries has racial problems.
- Express feature on sanctions busters already at work in South Africa.
- FT says US Administration may consider action against South Africa.

COMMONWEALTH GAMES

- Opened by Prince Philip, and Bermuda call off boycott at last minute.

INDUSTRY

- Postal workers to get a £25 bonus out of £136m profits.
- B/Shipbuilders lost £137m last year - double 1984's.
- Rail link to Stansted given go-ahead - so is second Severn road bridge.
- Express reports a threat by Immigration Officers to bring Heathrow to a halt next month because of lack of staff; Express says they have a point about a shortage of staff but they are going the wrong way about making it.
- Eddie Shah no longer in day-to-day control of Today newspaper, according to Telegraph. Sales 300-400,000, half that needed to make a profit.  
FT: Power at Today shifts to Lonrho.
- Lambeth Council forcing a furniture workshop to close with loss of 146 jobs because it says wages are too low.
- Lord Marshall tells TUC electricity prices would rise by as much as 40% if Government ordered the phasing out of nuclear power stations.

PRIVATISATION

- Sun - huge State sell-off by Tories; you unveil ROF, Leeds; Unipart; Leyland Bus sales.

EDUCATION

- Tory No Turning Back Group call for more parent power in schools to restore discipline and academic standards. Mail leader says Kenneth Baker seems responsive enough to listen to their ideas.
- Guardian says pay package will offer teachers 11.5% this year heavily weighted in favour of lowest paid.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- D/Star calls for more of the millions spent on health services every week to be devoted to cervical cancer screening, in line with recommendation of a PAC report.

LAW AND ORDER

- Stockwell "strangler" claims his 8th victim - 8th pensioner, a woman, aged 80.
- 65 held in highly organised police raid on Brixton in search for drugs which are found along with revolver and ammunition.
- Millionaire who escaped a police murder charge jailed for 14 years for his part in Heathrow £26m bullion raid.
- Age limit to jury service being raised from 65 to 70.
- Youth, 18, who set fire to Handsworth Post Office gets 4 years youth custody - Douglas Hurd unwittingly talked to him when he visited Handsworth after riot.
- Commons Select Committee wants more police action against racial attacks.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Harry Flynn, alleged leader of INLA, arrested in Paris.

PEOPLE

- Perez de Cuellar, UNSG, has successful heart by-pass operation.

TURKS AND CAICOS

- Whitehall takes over (Express).

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DOE: Mr Ridley visits Newcastle-upon-Tyne
- SO: Mr Rifkind visits Royal Museum of Scotland & Ferranti, Edinburgh
- DTI: Mr Channon visits South East region
- DTp: Mr Moore visits Folkestone and Dover on the Channel Fixed Link
- HMT: Mr MacGregor opens new offices of Roger Hayward Associates Ltd
- HMT: Mr Lawson visits West Midlands; addresses Nuneaton Conservative Club; gives interview to Radio Mercia; later addresses Coventry S.W Conservative Association
- DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith opens Robertson Research facilities, Aberdeen
- DEN: Mr Hunt visits Markham Colliery, North Derbyshire
- DOE: Sir George Young speaks at Working lunch with the Board of the Halifax Building Society
- HO: Lord Glenarthur visits Lincolnshire Fire Brigade
- SO: Lord Gray meets Crofters Committee of NFU, Inverness
- SO: Mr Stewart visits Garden Festival and Highland Games, Stoke-on-Trent

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TV AND RADIO

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