

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister records Olympic Games video message

Social Security uprating (rates announced February 24)

OPEC price/production meeting resumes

Foreign Secretary launches ODA annual review

Employment Secretary launches Action for Jobs Commercial (first screening 18.15 (ITV))

MoD introduce new fortnightly list of tenders open for bidding

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PUBLICATIONS

CO: ACARD Report: Information Technology Advisory Panel Report on IT (11.00)

HO: Prevention of Terrorism statistics (Q2) 1986

SO: Scottish Health Service Planning Council annual report 1985 (11.30)

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PARLIAMENT

Lords

Financial Services Bill: Committee (3rd Day)

Apple and Pear Development Council Order 1986. Motion for Approval.

Road Races (Northern Ireland) Order 1986. Motions for Approval.

Criminal Justice (Northern Ireland) Order 1986.

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTPALACE ROW

- Bill Heseltine, Queen's Private Secretary, writes to Times accusing it of 'totally unjustified slur'.
- Andrew Neil, Editor, Sunday Times, promises 'a very strong reply'.
- Sir Anthony Kershaw and other Tory MPs calls on Mr Shea to quit - there has been "a very grave mistake".
- D/Star says it is difficult to believe Michael Shea did not know what he was doing when he answered Questions and verified an article to appear in the Sunday Times. If he was not being malicious we have to assume at least he was being mischievous; and if neither, he was extremely naive. No one emerges with great credit except Queen and you.
- Sun P2: This slur on Queen, by top Palace aide; Sir William blasts 'mole' story.
- Mirror leader headed "Time for the truth" says if the story was true the leaker should be sacked; if not the editor of the Sunday Times should go. If neither goes the position will be impossible. Chairman of Press Council should announce an inquiry and interrogate all involved.
- Express says Michael Shea is refusing to resign; Paul Johnson feature says the Sunday Times is suffering a circulation problem and an urgent need to attract attention to itself. That explains its audacious story about the Queen and you. He believes the essentials to be untrue. The Queen and you will suffer no real or lasting harm from this ill-founded smear.
- Mail leads with letter to Times - Private Secretary names Shea but defend him over the report. An unprecedented intervention by Queen's top adviser.
- Telegraph P1 lead: Shea given Palace backing. Preposterous Queen has departed from constitutional practice.
- Guardian: Sunday Times accused of slur on royal officials.
- Times not unnaturally leads with the letter.



SOUTH AFRICA

- Foreign Secretary has a further meeting with Pik Botha but rejects the idea of holding it in a safari park.
- Today says you have decided against a personal intervention.
- Sun says Foreign Secretary is finally convinced his mission will fail.
- Express reports Organisation of African Unity calling for sanctions against Britain and breaking "diplomatic ties with us".
- Mail leader says Sir Geoffrey has been treated as a peripatetic punch bag in South Africa and the humiliation meted out has not been a pretty sight. You should beware of taking the Botha bait - he is manoeuvring to get you to visit.
- Telegraph says millions of pounds worth of development aid to Commonwealth countries has been put at risk by the row over sanctions.
- Guardian says Foreign Affairs Select Committee will warn on Wednesday that comprehensive sanctions will have no short term effect and instead provoke a surge in business and commercial activity.
- Guardian leader says sanctions are clearly the best long term method of protecting the investments and strategic interests in South Africa which obsess Western leaders.
- FT: Howe urges Pretoria to free Mandela - bid to save mission.



COMMONWEALTH GAMES

- Robert Maxwell accuses Lord Provost of Edinburgh of seeking publicity in an offensive manner by withdrawing invitation to you to visit Games.
- He will welcome you with the courtesy your position demands.
- Federation decides not to punish countries boycotting Games but is to try to tighten things up for the future.

MR TEBBIT'S BROADCAST

- John Prescott MP suggests Mr Tebbit is off his rocker for suggesting lower unemployment benefit in areas where there are jobs to devote more to the difficult areas.
- Government says the idea does not reflect current Government policy and there are no plans for the major legislation it would require.
- Liberals say Mr Tebbit is flying a kite which will be shot down in flames. But Sun says lower benefits would encourage more to seek work. The idea would be simple justice.
- D/Star notes Downing Street was quick off the mark to dissociate itself from Mr Tebbit's remarks. For Mr Tebbit to be at odds with Downing Street is to say the least a little odd.
- Today says Mr Tebbit's act as the Conservative Party's bovver boy is becoming predictable, boring and counter productive.
- Mail says you are upset at "Tebbit's gaffe".
- Telegraph: Tories dismiss (and distance themselves from) Mr Tebbit's dole pay changes.
- Guardian: Tebbit's gaffe greeted with disbelief.



WESTLAND

- MPs to question Attorney General over reports that he threatened to call in police over the Westland leak unless Cabinet Secretary ordered an immediate inquiry.
- Guardian says Dr Gilbert has renewed his challenge to Attorney General to explain granting immunity to Colette Bowe; Sir Humphrey Atkins being asked to recall Committee so that Attorney's evidence may be taken.

POLITICS

- John MacGregor says taxpayers will be struck "numb" by increased demands if Labour forms the next Government. Labour denies reports it will have to borrow £18bn.
- Express leader says any idea Labour has reformed itself should be abandoned for the party has learned nothing from its past. Hattersley will be forced into wilder schemes to pacify the increasingly powerful Left. With a Labour Government in Westminster we will have Liverpool and Lambeth on a national scale.
- Today claims you are to have a long election campaign to enable Kinnock and other opponents to make fools of themselves.
- Mail says the Tory party wants to track down 500,000 Britons living abroad; their votes could tip the result in a close general election.
- Telegraph says if there is one area where there is a broad consensus it lies in the belief that your policy in respect of trade unions has been right. Is Mr Kinnock to submit a policy which returns us to square one?
- Times says David Owen is under Alliance pressure to be more flexible over defence policy.



INDUSTRY

- British motorcycles are selling better.
- Full scale negotiations expected to resume soon to get a settlement of Wapping dispute.
- Major relaunch of Today newspaper planned; Observer convinced that printing is to be transferred to Today premises.
- Big NCB and Electricity Council operating profits foreshadowed.
- Power plant industry says Sizewell B is unlikely to be built and there is no prospect of early orders for coal fired power stations.
- FT claims that major investors are to steer clear of Chunnel's £200m share placing.

UNIONS

- Communist seeking election as general secretary of NU Seamen; challenging its present assistant general secretary and Labour Party treasurer, McCluskie.
- Eric Hammond, EETPU, to be at centre of 3 rows at TUC conference - resisting NGA demands to pull out of Wapping; opposing new national minimum wage; and Scargill's call to scrap nuclear power stations.
- AEU offering to end demarcation in engineering industry in return for shorter hours.



UNEMPLOYMENT

- Kenneth Clarke to launch a plan today to get inner city youngsters off the dole queues in five areas with more Community Programme places.
- Chancellor describes present rate of wage increases as "madness" in end of term report to Conservative MPs.

POVERTY

- John Major rejects Labour's claim that a third of the population are living in poverty.

TRANSPORT

- 9 killed, 42 injured in Humberside rail crash. British Rail alleged to have ignored warnings from villagers and from a D/Transport inspector.
- Mirror feature asks if BR's cost cutters have put lives on the line.
- Today leader says there is no such thing as a safe unmanned level crossing. BR must not make financial cuts which cost lives.
- Mail says BR is to press ahead with 22 more automatic crossings on the line on which the crash occurred.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Telegraph says Government is considering speeding up plans to replace domestic rates with the new community charge. Government gathering confidence it is on right tracks (FT).
- Guardian says Government is considering taking powers to deduct rates and community charge directly from wage packets and social security benefits.

EDUCATION

- Teachers and LEAs strike a deal on pay and conditions - five out of six unions agree in principle. Guardian says things are back to square one because of Government's warning to keep down cost.
- Sun attacks Bishop of Durham for advocating closure of church schools. Men without faith themselves can hardly appeal to the faithful.
- Telegraph quotes a New York professor as saying Britain is 10 years ahead of USA in teaching children how to confront complex technological problems in ways that fit them better for jobs market.

LAW AND ORDER

- Telegraph feature says Tories are failing to take whip hand in law and order debate.
- CND seeks High Court ruling today that MI5 telephone taps to gether information for party political purposes are illegal.



PEOPLE

- Express quotes DT as saying you will be staying in Britain this August for political and social reasons.
- Telegraph and Guardian each devote half a column to your opening of World Chess Championship.

MIDDLE EAST

- Terry Waite helps to free American priest, one of 4 hostages held in Lebanon.

RUSSIA

- Kremlin to get £10m bill from UK Government for the effects of Chernobyl.

BERNARD INGHAM



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MOD: Mr Younger lunches with Max Hastings

DEM: Mr Clarke visits Middlesbrough

DEM: Lord Young opens Merton Training Consortium, Wimbledon; hosts reception for press launch of Action for Jobs Commercial

SO: Mr Rifkind attends Ceremony of the Keys, Holyroodhouse

DTP: Mr Moore visits Ashford, Kent on Channel Fixed Link

MOD: Lord Trefgarne makes public announcement on defence contracts

DES: Mr Walden attends World Chess Championship

DEM: Mr Trippier attends RTITB lunch, Wolverhampton; visits Genesis Project, Stafford

DOE: Mr Patten hosts dinner with construction industry chiefs

DOE: Mrs Rumbold gives interview to Radio Invicta on Channel Fixed Link

HO: Mr Shaw speaks at opening of Conference on International Association for Identification

SO: Mr MacKay opens sheltered housing development, Oban

DTP: Mr Mitchell and Mrs Rumbold take part in 'phone-in programme for Radio Invicta, Maidstone on Channel Fixed Link

DTP: Mr Mitchell chairs 6th Channel Fixed Link consultative committee meeting, Sittingbourne (Mrs Rumbold (DOE) attends)

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TV AND RADIO

"Scales of Justice"; ITV (20.30): New series on the service provided by the legal profession

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