

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

BT call charges increase

Newspaper Society & NUJ & IOJ meet to discuss next year's pay claim

Association of District Councils, transport conference, Reading (to November 5)

EC Internal Market Council

UK/Poland Joint Commission, Moscow

Prison Governors Conference, Bournemouth (to November 5)

"Ultraleisure" fraud trial opens, Lincoln Crown Court

International Water Supply Association annual conference, Rome (to November 7)

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STATISTICS

DOE: Housing starts and completions (Sept)(11.30)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Transport; Wales

Business: Consideration of any Lords Amendments which may be received to the Housing and Planning Bill

Adjournment Debate

Metropolitan Police action on domestic violence (Mr C Smith)

Lords European Communities (Amendment) Bill: Third Reading

NHS (Amendment) Bill: Third Reading

Sex Discrimination Bill (HL): Consideration of Commons Amendments

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PRESS DIGESTHOSTAGES

- One American freed apparently with the help of Terry Waite who gets warm praise from the Star. Today: "Waite in Beirut hostage triumph".
- Express leader says Assad seems determined to show, after the Hindawi trial, what a good friend of the West he is by obtaining the release of American and French, but not British hostages. But if Assad is able to arrange their release he must at best have condoned their captivity.
- Mail says the prospect of further releases of hostages has given Reagan a mid-term election boost.
- Telegraph says Waite has no remit from the FCO to negotiate on behalf of British hostages.
- Times says months of secret negotiations between the US, Syria and Iran to free the American hostages in the Lebanon bore fruit yesterday.
- Telegraph leader gives the release a cautious welcome but a nagging doubt remains about dealing with gangs and even states with an implacable hostility to the West. It is not Mr Waite's good intentions which command the attention of Arab assassins, but the fact that he is assumed to speak for his country.



TERRORISM

- Donald Regan holds out the threat of military action against Syria if it continues to support terrorism.
- Times: European Community governments may now agree to take firm diplomatic action against Syria after studying the British dossier on Syrian complicity in the plot to blow up an El Al airliner.

IRELAND

- Sinn Fein splits over whether it should continue to boycott Irish politics; those for an end to abstention win and hard line group walks out.
- Express says security chiefs are bracing themselves for a new outbreak of violence following the vote.
- Dr Fitzgerald calls on all democratic parties to work to ensure no Sinn Feiners are elected.
- FT: Sinn Fein has voted to take up its seats in the Irish Parliament although UK Parliament will continue to be boycotted.
- Guardian says the end to abstentionism marks the biggest change in Republican strategy since the split between Provisional and Official IRA in 1970 but it is pessimistic about the outcome.
- The Independent says that Gerry Adams successfully steered Sinn Fein to change after 60 years his party's boycott of the Dail.



JEFFREY ARCHER

- Star says Norman Tebbit is leading the fight to clear Jeffrey Archer's name.
- Star diary suggests your nerves must be frayed as Sunday newspapers try to "nail" a prominent Tory with allegations of homosexuality.
- Sun says Tory MPs hiding guilty secrets have been told to come clean by Norman Tebbit to prevent any scandal erupting during a General Election campaign.
- Today quotes Jeffrey Archer as saying he feels vindicated in the light of the News of the World's "innocuous" follow-up story.
- Express says Jeffrey Archer's ambition has been rekindled after reports that he has a firm alibi on the night he is supposed to have met prostitute; he hopes to continue with speaking arrangements; leader headed "Was the public interest really served?" says what emerged from the News of the World yesterday was a lamentably not proven case. It is now doubtful whether the Archer affair is a scandal; rather a bid to ensnare and destroy a public figure. But his ineptitude in falling hook, line and sinker into such an imbroglio alone warrants his resignation.
- Mail says Norman Tebbit is facing a "bring back Archer" campaign from constituency parties.



POLITICS

- Left wingers in Knowsley N reject Kinnock's plea to support Labour candidate chosen by NEC.
  - Express feature on Owen shows him regarding Knowsley N as a building block for recovery.
  - George Foulkes MP says Labour will crack down on use of Channel Islands as a tax haven.
  - Today nails its colours to the mast: its leader comes out strongly for the Liberal/SDP Alliance; it says British politics need a strong and thrusting Alliance which offers what other parties don't - sanity and commonsense. What the country needs is the steady forward course the Alliance would give it.
  - Today adds that Kenneth Clarke yesterday hinted at more labour laws to curb the worst abuses of the closed shop and ballot rigging.
  - Mail says the London Business School has indicated that next year will be a great year to fight an election. Apart from only a limited reduction in unemployment, it predicts buoyant consumer spending, inflation below 4%, higher investment, improved exports, lower interest rates and substantial tax cuts.
  - Telegraph says Kinnock is now considering whether to appoint a "Green" Minister with responsibility for nuclear power.
  - Times: Knowsley North's Labour Party faces almost certain disbandment after its refusal to accept the nationally imposed candidate. Apathy, rather than the Militant Tendency, appears to be the biggest threat to Labour's apparently safe seat.
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- FT: Select Committee Chairman will meet John Biffen to discuss the clarification of the new guidelines to civil servants on how they should answer the Committees' questions.
  - Financial Times has special profile on Sir Geoffrey Howe.
  - FT article looks at the implications of Mr Tebbit's report on BBC and reports the BBC's refusal to accept there is political bias in their organisation.
  - Peter Kellner, in Independent, says that the 1986 report on British Social Attitudes contains evidence that the public are more in tune with Biffen than Tebbit.



POLITICS (CONT'DS)

- The mood of Tory despair in Scotland has lightened because of the proposed rates reform which is intended to come into effect in Scotland next July (Independent).
- First reports from the 11 Conservative manifesto policy groups established by you in June are expected at Central Office before Christmas. The groups are being serviced at official level by Central Office Research department and Stephen Sherbourne at No 10 (Independent).



AIDS

- Government sets up a committee to lead fight against AIDS. Mirror: Thatcher declares war on AIDS - and a feature on the 1000 deaths from AIDS last week.
- Harley Street doctor, John Seale, now suggests Russians deliberately introduced the virus as an act of undeclared war; he wants you to chair a super-power summit to tackle the disease.
- Times: A new drug - Hiva - which promises to be the most effective treatment yet against AIDS is being tested in British laboratories.
- Young men who try to buy a home together may be refused mortgage insurance by companies who fear they are homosexual and may contract AI

MEDICAL/HEALTH

- First artificial heart implanted in patient in Britain.
- Mirror reports Labour candidate in Halifax attacking Norman Fowler for extending a hospital there but closing another with the net loss of 63 beds in return for £29m investment.
- Guardian says 3 doctors at St Thomas's claim Sterling-Winthrop company threatened them and tried to discredit their research when they discovered its new heart drug was dangerous and ineffective.



WELFARE

- 80,000 youngsters are said to have called the BBC's anti-abuse programme "Childline" in its first five days. Lord Hailsham hails the first successes of legislation to combat international child abduction.
- Mirror leader calls for all-round extra effort to fight child abuse.
- Child Poverty Action Group, relying on DHSS figures, says nearly one in three children are living in poverty, a 65% increase in 6 years.
- Policeman who has researched child abuse suggests that children who are being abused should be able to "divorce" themselves from their parents (Express).
- Times: The BBC yesterday admitted it had no way of knowing how many calls to its Childline free telephone service for children suffering abuse are genuine. It believes there may have been up to 50,000 calls during the first 12 hours when the lines were open, but only 2000 got through. Most of these were adults offering help, but 306 were children. Of these, 10 were referred to social agencies.
- Telegraph says the Childline scheme is valueless unless social resources can be brought swiftly to bear on cases in need. But its casting vote goes in favour of the Childline idea.
- The Independent says that social services are unable to cope with the large numbers of children who are victims of sexual abuse; the Metropolitan Police are failing to tackle domestic violence, according to a study completed in January but not yet published.

TEACHERS

- Sun leader on teachers' strikes this week wants all local authorities to take out injunctions against NAS/UWT; it says it is shameful the ILEA is refusing to do so out of blind political prejudice against Tory labour legislation.
- National Confederation of Parent-Teachers Association "condemns absolutely" the classroom chaos they say will result from teachers' half day strikes.



EDUCATION

- Egon Ronay finds comprehensives provide better school meals than public schools.
- Mail says Kenneth Baker is planning to give schools the power to manage their own budgets.
- Times: Head teachers would be given a veto over the appointment of all staff to their schools and greatly strengthened powers to determine how school budgets are spent under a radical package of proposals being prepared for the Conservative manifesto.
- A study published in a journal "School Organisations" shows that children of average and above average intelligence do better in grammar schools than in comprehensive schools.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Sun attacks Nottingham's Labour council for reserving use of a swimming pool for homosexuals on Sunday evenings.
- Telegraph takes the lid off a "fairly typical" week - AIDS, Gay Charter and Nelson Mandela Christmas cards - in the life of Labour controlled Manchester City Council.



ECONOMY

- FT: London Business School suggests tax cuts and higher exports are the way to stimulate growth and the British economy should be able to adjust painlessly to the collapse of oil revenues.
- Times: The Government intends to hold down public spending to its planned level next year in spite of the £500m extra cost of the teachers' pay deal. Ministers hope to finish talks on spending this week so that the Chancellor can make a statement on Tuesday of next week. Independent suggests the statement will be on Thursday.
- Telegraph says tax cuts in budget hang on the Saudi oil price rise.
- Guardian says Sir Jeremy Morse may emerge as compromise choice as IMF director.



INDUSTRY

- B/Telecom unions say the company is failing the public; since privatisation there are more delays for repairs.
- Scargill to ask NUM to throw out British Coal's pay offer which is linked with pension penalties in the event of strike action.
- Today says a plan to levy blank record tapes has been shelved.
- Personnel director of First Leisure Corporation says the people most at risk from a Labour Party/TUC minimum wage of £80 are the very ones they seek to protect - part-timers, unskilled and the young and inexperienced.
- Times: The Government is about to embark on a concerted drive to improve the quality of public purchasing.
- Times: Bank borrowing by farmers has more than doubled in the past 10 years and now exceeds £6bn, while the price of farmland has halved since 1979.
- FT: A report by B/Telecom trade unions alleges that privatisation has resulted in a poorer service and increased charges.
- FT feature examines the Government's case for more assistance from the European Regional Development Fund. According to the article the demands present a bleak picture of the most disadvantaged areas of the UK. Labour will review their regional policy and want to create new agencies to help.



MEDIA

- Today says the Government is drawing up plans to break up the BBC after the next election; privatising Radios 1 and 2; putting local radio up for auction; more use of independent TV producers; and pay as you view.
- Mirror says the BBC defends its hospital "Casualty" programme, criticised by Edwina Currie, as true to life.
- Jon Akass, in Express, says the Tories have done pretty well out of TV but Mr Tebbit has cause for complaint. However, the issue is like the weather, you can complain about the climate but not the cold wind.
- Mail leader says a warning instinct should tell the Tories that a concerted campaign against the BBC in an election year could prove counter productive, especially when the attack is directed at BBC coverage of those topics where the Government has found greatest difficulty in carrying public opinion with it. Mary Kenny in Mail says it is not Left wing views that are the BBC's problem - it is that they do not earn their living in a free market and are funded by a coercive tax.
- Times : Relations between the BBC and the Conservative Party look poised for another jolt this week after the disclosure that Edwina Currie is considering whether to complain about the programme, "Casualty".
- Independent says, however, that doctors and nurses back the Casualty programme.
- Guardian says Cabinet overruled Norman Tebbit when he planned to use the Government's name to launch his attack on BBC bias.
- Ian Aitken, in Guardian, says the essence of the complaint now being launched against Mr Tebbit by Conservatives is that he has allowed paranoia to obliterate commonsense.

LAW AND ORDER

- Home Secretary to get report on Essex police murder inquiry blunders tomorrow.
- FT: says there is pressure on the Government to end confusion over Sunday trading following differing interpretations of the law by local authorities. The Government is unlikely to sponsor any legislation before the next election but could support a private members' bill in the next Parliamentary session.
- Times: The Government has decided to abandon its plans to remove the right to jury trial for cases of petty theft.
- The Government will be seeking powers in the Commons tomorrow to tackle peace convoys and other trespassing groups.
- Telegraph says the police are seeking a bigger role in fighting drug smugglers.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

- Star, waging a campaign against them, says white poppies are banned from Cenotaph next Sunday; police will make sure groups do not place white poppies on it.

JDI ARABIA

35 British nurses deported for drinking.

REGION

Bishop of St Albans condemns as "blasphemous" a charity Christmas book produced by a team of TV comedians and writers.



REFUGEES

- Times: The UN has asked Britain to double its intake of Vietnamese "boat people" as an example to other countries.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Times: The South African Government claimed at the weekend that alcohol was found in the blood of at least 2 Soviet crew members of the plane in which President Machal died.

EAST/WEST

- Times: President Reagan believes the prospects for peace are better than at any time in the past 40 years.

FALKLANDS

Times: George Shultz has told Argentina that he was surprised by Britain's move to extend its territorial waters round the Falklands.

Guardian says Western diplomats are warning that the new fishing zone may have forced Alfonsin to make concessions to his critics in the armed forces.

NARD INGHAM



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Lord Young visits MSC, Sheffield and Doncaster
- DEN: Mr Walker visits Winfrith
- SO: Mr Rifkind addresses Scottish European Conference for Businessmen, Glasgow; later lunches with Scottish TV senior management, Glasgow
- WO: Mr Edwards addresses NFU (Wales) Conference, Aberystwyth
- MAFF: Mr Gummer attends BOCM Silcock dinner, London
- MAFF: Mr Thompson visits Hiram Walkers blending and bottling plant, Kilnalid
- DES: Mr Dunn visits Norfolk local education authority
- DES: Mr Walden meets Principal of Ruskin College
- DEM: Mr Lee attends presentation to local employers on employment of disabled people, Reading
- DEM: Mr Trippier addresses National Council of Women in Great Britain study day on tourism, Maidenhead; later addresses CBI Conference on non-statutory training organisations
- DOE: Lord Skelmersdale addresses Brentwood and Basildon Industrial Council dinner, London
- FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses Scottish European Conference for Businessmen
- HO: Mr Waddington addresses Kent Univeristy Conservative Association
- OAL: Mr Luce delivers Museum of London Lecture
- DTI: Mr Howard addresses FT Delegates Conference on Financial Services Bill; gives interview to TVS 'Coast to Coast' on fireworks; attends reception to open new Saloman Brothers HQ
- HMT: Mr Brooke lunches with Executives of the Financial Times
- WO: Mr Robinson meets members of Wales TUC, Cardiff

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DEM: Mr Clarke visits Brussels
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe departs for Vienna - CSCE meeting (to November 5)
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave visits Paris, Madrid and Lisbon (to November 4)
- FCO: Mr Eggar departs for Washington and New York (to November 7)
- DTI: Mr Clark chairs EC Internal Market (Mr Butcher attends)
- DTP: Mr Bottomley opens Road Haulage Association Conference, Sorrento (to November 4)

TV AND RADIO

"Panorama"; BBC 1 (21.30): Cervical Cancer and Men - Richard Lindley reports

"World in Action"; ITV (20.30)