

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

American mid-term elections

Home Secretary attends Council of Europe Conference on Terrorism, Strasbourg

CSCE Vienna Review Meeting opens

United Nations debate on Afghanistan

STATISTICS

BOE: Capital issues and redemptions (during month of October)(1430)

OPCS: Live births, stillbirths and deaths; registrations 30 August-26 September 1986

HMT: UK Official reserves (Oct)(1430)

PUBLICATIONS

C&AG: Report by Comptroller and Auditor General: The Financial Management Initiative (11.00)

HoC: 3rd Report of the Select Committee of Procedures - short speeches (11.00)

HoC: 6th Report Trade and Industry Select Committee - Tourism in UK - Government reply (11.00)

NAO: National Audit Office - Appropriation Accounts 1985/86 Vol IV - Classes IV & V; Industry, Trade and Employment, Arts and Libraries (11.00)

NAO: National Audit Office - Appropriation Accounts 1985/86 Vol V - Classes VI & VIII; Transport, (Part IV), Housing and other environmental services (11.00)

NAO: National Audit Office - Appropriation Accounts 1985/86 Vol VI - Class IX; Law, order and protecting services (11.00)

NAO: National Audit Office - Distribution of German Enemy Property Acts 1949 and 1952 - Account 1984-86 (11.00)

NAO: Public Lending Right Accounts 1985/86 (11.00)

PAY

DEM: Fire service; (41,300); negotiations to begin in accordance with pay formula; settlement date 7.11.86

DEM: NHS ambulance officers; (3,700); talks on restoring differentials reducing number of ranks and revising grading definitions and conditions of service have taken place; offer expected; settlement date 1.4.86

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Defence; Employment; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Organ Donor Cards (Mr G Lofthouse)

Consideration of any Lords Amendments which may be received to the Housing (Scotland) Bill

Motion on the Channel Tunnel Bill

Adjournment Debate

Housing in Basildon (Mr D Amess)

Select Committees: TRANSPORT

Subject: Financing of Rail Services

Witness: Secretary of State for Transport and Departmental officials

Lords Housing and Planning Bill: Consideration of any Commons Amendments and Reasons

Deacons Ordination of Women Measure. Motion for Approval

UQ to ask HMG whether it is not time that the principles on which parole is granted or refused should be clarified

MINISTERS - See Annex

3.
PRESS DIGEST

SAUDI ARABIA

- Nurses expelled for drinking say religious police burst into their illegal drinks party and clubbed their boyfriends; they say there is drink at every party.
- Three girls in jail, said to be in a dirty cell with 30 women and children.
- Sun leader, headed "Ali Baba, desert hypocrites" links the despatch of our former Ambassador with the "barbarous" treatment of the nurses for having a few innocent drinks. Yet everyone knows how these self appointed puritans of the desert behave when they travel to Britain.
- Mirror under heading "When in Riyadh" says the deported nurses have only themselves to blame because they broke Saudi laws.
- Express says the FCO was sitting tight despite the growing concern of MPs over the harsh treatment of the nurses; it is felt we are trying to avoid a rift in advance of the Prince and Princess of Wales' visit. Timing of expulsions being linked with Sir James Craig's despatch. Leader has a lot of sympathy for the nurses. They were treated unfairly even though they had been warned of the consequences of breaking the law. But the Saudi action is foolish and short sighted. Until the authorities change their attitude and make a few concessions to the modern world, people should not go to work there.
- Independent says the expulsions cast gloom over the Royal visit.

POLITICS

- Kinnock confirms Shadow Cabinet in post to next election, but adds Dr Clarke to his environment team and gives Bryan Gould job of campaign coordinator in place of deposed Robin Cook.
- Mail says Hattersley announced yesterday that a Labour Government would take new powers over pension funds to allow councils to invest part of their fund in "socially responsible" projects, and to prevent funds going abroad, eg to South Africa.
- Mail says that Kinnock last night lit the fuse on a nuclear time bomb which could blow apart party unity - a reference to the appointment of David Clark as spokesman on environmental protection. He is now in inevitable collision with Dr Cunningham who has been deprived of a key part of his brief.
- Telegraph leads with story that the high profile non-nuclear defence strategy adopted by Kinnock has split young voters. Gallup shows 16-29 age group almost evenly divided on unilateralism. But 47% say they will vote Labour and 31% Conservative, Alliance 19%. Conservatives return to second place in Scotland.
- In another front page story the Telegraph says Kinnock has opened up the possibility of a rift within the Shadow Cabinet on nuclear waste by upgrading the Green issue. It has left much confusion in Labour ranks who feel it is stoking up trouble.
- Guardian leads with Kinnock sowing the seeds of a continuing power struggle by giving two members of his top team responsibility for the environment after a weekend of in-fighting. Cunningham says he is the boss; Clark says he has equal status.
- FT: John Cunningham emerges unscathed from the Shadow Cabinet reshuffle.
- Independent: Kinnock faces 'green' battle.
- Hugo Young, in Guardian, says either the Hattersleyites still believe in what they've always believed about nuclear defence, in which case they are ratting on their principles; or they have stopped believing and become the acceptable face of unilateral disarmament.

- A drummer in a pop group, a former Olympic gymnast and the head of a pirate radio station are among the new recruits to the Conservative campaign to win support among young voters.

BY-ELECTION

- Labour candidate in Knowsley N in hospital - sneezes and puts his back out; unable to move. Hopes to resume campaign tomorrow.

HOSTAGES

- Terry Waite visited Damascus the day before the American hostage freed; this is seen as an attempt by Syria to improve their image after the Hindawi affair.
- Waite, according to Mail, is set to return to the Lebanon to seek the release of more kidnapped.
- Telegraph leader says it would be scandalous if the UK had turned a blind eye to the disappearance of Mordechai Vanunu, Israeli nuclear scientist.
- Independent wishes Waite every success in freeing more hostages - but not at any price.

MEDIA

- Norman Tebbit to meet Bill Cotton, BBC, over his allegation about bias.
- Star says it now appears CCO is opening a second front against the BBC with an attack on "Casualty"; this is dangerous nonsense for it is drama not a documentary - a work of fiction. To suggest it is a piece of insidious anti-Government propaganda is an insult to the voters' intelligence.
- Mail goes around hospitals to find staff panning Casualty for going over the top. Independent findings support this.
- Telegraph says some Tory Home Affairs Committee members were critical of Mr Tebbit's campaign against the BBC - clumsy, heavy handed and over the top.
- Times: The news and current affairs department has acknowledged that it made one significant mistake (linking the Hindawi plot to the bombing raid) and some minor errors in its coverage of Libya.

MEDIA (CONT'D)

- The Commission on Racial Equality says that Britain's television broadcasters are continuing to put out programmes that stereotype blacks and other minority groups.
 - Independent says NOP suggests Mr Tebbit has misjudged the mood of the country; three quarters of those polled think the BBC is neutral.
 - William Rees-Mogg criticises Mr Tebbit's attack and says BBC can hold its head high over Libya.
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- BBC withdraws invitation to Kinnock to give Buddy Holly impression in charity show for fear of political bias after other political leaders decline to take part.

ECONOMY

- Mirror claims that "11,000 jobless have lost their dole under the Tories' controversial Restart scheme". Guardian reports Civil Servants are being turned into bounty hunters by new dole rules by being given targets for cutting register.
- Mail on London Business School outlook, says it is music to Tory ears. Moreover, it looks as if the Chancellor will get away with his gamble to put up interest rates as little as possible. The Government is overdue for lucky breaks.
- Soaring house prices and higher living costs are forcing firms to increase London weighting by up to 22.7%.
- FT: The planning system for new homes in the South East has become pure farce, with total confusion between different planning authorities, says the House Builders Federation.
- FT: Britain will eventually have to join the EMS in spite of the dangers, says the President of the CBI.
- Cambridge Econometrics say Britain's emerging trade gap will last into the 1990s.

INDUSTRY

- Peter Walker to visit Chernobyl next month.
- FT: Range Rover is preparing for its US launch.
- The appreciation of the yen against the pound could provide a significant boost to British exports to Japan.
- Short Bros of Belfast made a net loss of £35m in the year to 31 March.
- The Association of British Chambers of Commerce has given the Chancellor "disturbing evidence" of complete stagnation in export performance and a worsening outlook.
- The flood of computer faults which marred the opening of the new Stock Exchange system has slowed to a trickle.
- A disused South Wales power station could be the first to reopen under private management.
- Guardian describes British Gas as a pointless privatisation. It says not a penny of the money raised is being earmarked for increased investment. The Channel Tunnel could have been built unaided with the proceeds. One by one the nation's pictures pass into private hands while the wall on which they hung remains grubby and peeling.

UNIONS

- FT: GCHQ staff federation has overwhelmingly approved pay and grading structure that will divorce them from the rest of the Civil Service.

TRANSPORT

- Times: The Government faces further embarrassment tomorrow over the Channel Tunnel when at least two, and possibly three, of the nine-man select committee dissent from its findings.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Bernie Grant intending to spend £0.5m on 24 super-loos for gypsies, according to Sun; many of his long term council tenants have no inside toilets.
- Fierce attack by Star columnist on deputy leader of Manchester City Council - an "Identi-Trot".
- FT: Hammersmith Borough employees have been offered a minimum wage of £127 a week, giving some workers rises of 40%.

EDUCATION

- John Vincent, in Sun, says the treatment of the British schoolmaster who spoke at a lunchtime Conservative meeting and was then told not to return is plain political censorship and stinks.
- Teachers vote to support Miss McColdrick in Brent by striking.
- Stuart Sexton accuses Government of sounding death knell for 1500 village schools.

TEACHERS

- Kenneth Baker attacks 20,000 teachers who went on strike for half a day yesterday over pay - "scandalous".
- Express leader says striking teachers are doing neither themselves nor their cause any good. Mr Baker's offer has been almost universally hailed as fair and generous and should be accepted.
- Mail says David Owen yesterday threw his weight behind the Government in the battle with the teachers; calls on unions to negotiate on the Government's offer - to refuse would be madness; leader on new and generous offer from Government says ordinary hard working and modestly paid citizens may be forgiven for wondering what the hell is going on. The suspicion grows that the politicised leadership of the teaching unions will do anything rather than allow the Tories, in the run up to an election, to preside over a reasonable settlement.
- FT: Local authority employers aim to recover the political initiative by agreeing with the unions a restructuring of the Government's salary offer.
- Guardian: Kenneth Baker gives teachers a legislation ultimatum; now seems to be very little chance of avoiding a Government imposed deal.

RSG

- Sun says you face a backbench revolt and a handful of PPSs are threatening to resign unless Nicholas Ridley finds more money for 12 county councils.
- 7 MPs are threatening to resign unless RSG proposals are revised. It is rapidly becoming the most serious backbench revolt of the present Parliament (Times).

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Medical team moves in to Stonehouse, Gloucester, to try to find source of meningitis epidemic.

AIDS

- Every member of Armed Forces is to be given advice on how to avoid the disease.
- Exeter GP calls for AIDS victims and carriers to be locked up in hospital.
- Mail leads with Government ready to launch a crisis programme to stop AIDS becoming the greatest plague since Black Death.
- Paul Johnson, in Mail, says Labour is introducing new and sinister double standards in its approach to AIDS. Its alliance with the homosexual lobby especially in local government entails real risks of hastening the spread of the disease.
- Times: The Government is likely to inject several million pounds into the AIDS campaign. The first tests in Europe of possible vaccines against AIDS are to be made early next year on human volunteers.
- The SDP want £20m immediately from the Government to fight AIDS.
- Guardian says the setting up of a committee under Lord Whitelaw could be an important step towards a more serious approach to the disease but it must be something more than a PR exercise.
- Independent calls for more education and more spending.

LAW AND ORDER

- Chris Smith MP claims that battered wives are getting a raw deal from the police who often do not take it seriously.
- Customs & Excise capture £4m worth of cannabis on Wales beach and save two suspected drug smugglers from drowning.
- Independent says you have backed demands by Mary Whitehouse for obscenity laws to be tightened.

TERRORISM

- Belgium to recall its Ambassador from Syria.
- David Waddington hints at tougher UK immigration controls on Syrians.
- Lord Chalfont in Express on "the Russian connection behind Assad's evil empire".
- FT: The world's airlines are to put pressure on governments for a new international treaty to combat terrorism.

PEOPLE

- Michael Aspel's son 28, in Australia is dying from brain tumour.
- Princess Michael under attack for telling Carol Thatcher, in interview "I have got a better background than anyone else who's married into the Royal Family since the war, excepting Prince Philip".
- John Browne MP trying to get his wife jailed, according to Mirror unless she pays him £51,000 maintenance.
- Times: You are about to clip Mr Baker's wings by making Liz Drummond, a former No 10 Press Officer, Head of Information at DES.
- John Smith, Sports Council, announces Council backing for £8.5m sports arena at Liverpool's Albert Dock.

MOZAMBIQUE

- Chissano named president to succeed Machel

FALKLANDS

- FT: Argentina has won the support of Brazil and Uruguay for its call for a special session of the Organisation of American States to discuss Britain's new fishing zone.

EC

- Express says Commission is trying to get us to impose 15% VAT on new homes.

LIBYA

- Diplomats claim Gaddafi's daughter, reported killed in American raid, is alive.

IRELAND

- Times: Dr Fitzgerald yesterday urged all democratic parties in the Republic to form a united front to keep supporters of terrorism out of the Dail.
- FT: Haughey says Fitzgerald's reaction to the Sinn Fein plan is highly irresponsible.

EAST/WEST

- FT: The US is expected to propose a formal system of human rights verification when the Helsinki Review Conference opens in Vienna today; Gorbachev said yesterday he wants another Summit, provided it was productive.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MAFF: Mr Jopling addresses UK Association of Frozen Food Producers luncheon, London

DES: Lord Young opens English Tourish Board's training conference

DEM: Mr Clarke makes inner city visit, Manchester

DTP: Mr Moore addresses Channel Tunnel Seminar, London

MAFF: Mr Thompson attends AHTAG presentation lunch, London

DES: Mr Walden addresses Association of Voluntary Colleges Conference; opens Paragon Hill Independent School, Hampstead

DEM: Mr Trippier launches Midlands Consortium for Graduate Enterprise, Warwick University

DEN: Mr Hunt opens Reed International's coal-fired boiler plant, Aylesford

DOE: Mrs Chalker addresses 54 Club, HoC

DHSS: Lady Trumpington opens Redcourt Home for Elderly Mentally Ill, Liverpool; later visits Sefton General Hospital, Liverpool

DHSS: Mr Major gives interview to London Programme 'Crisis of Local Offices in London'

HO: Lord Caithness addresses annual conference of Prison Governors, Bournemouth

OAL: Mr Luce speaks at Manchester Evening News Theatre Awards ceremony

SO: Mr Ancram opens Taxi Trade exhibition, Glasgow

DTI: Mr Howard opens Home Safety Research Conference

DTP: Lord Brabazon opens Surveyor General's Conference, London

DTP: Mr Mitchell addresses Chartered Institute of Transport 60th anniversary lunch, London

HMT: Mr Brooke visits Operation Raleigh HQ

WO: Mr Roberts attends European Investment Bank reception, London

TV AND RADIO

"File on 4"; BBC Radio 4 (19.20): Nuclear safety post Chernobyl

"First Tuesday"; ITV (22.30): Includes children who wait - shortage of liver donors