

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister departs for Washington (to November 16)

Publication of Criminal Justice Bill

Mr Rifkind addresses Scottish Council, Gleneagles (speech will refer to teachers)

British Nuclear Test Veterans' Association Court action opens

Symposium on Competitive Defence Procurement, London

Defence correspondents visit Greenham Common

STATISTICS

BSA: Building Societies' monthly figures (Noon)

BSC/ Usable steel production (Oct)

BISPA:

CBI: CBI/FT survey of distributive trades (end-October)

CSO: Tax and price index (Oct) (11.30)

DEM: Retail prices index (October) (11.30)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: Debate on the Address (3rd Day)

Adjournment Debate

Green Belt policy (Mr T Jessel)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTKNOWSLEY N/POLITICS

- Labour wins with much reduced majority; Liberals raise vote 20%.
- Sun: Alliance hopes are shattered as Kinnock's man strolls to victory. A disaster for Liberals.
- Today: A hollow victory for Labour.
- Mirror without much fuss "Victory for Labour".
- Express P1: Labour beat off challenge by Liberals - a relief for Kinnock.
- Mail P1: Labour shoot home at poll.
- Telegraph P1: Labour held off strong challenge to win.

- FT: Malcolm Rutherford analyses the process of "political realignment" if you win a third term of office. The most plausible reason that you would fail seems to be the compulsion to slip on a banana skin whilst running out of steam. At the same time, there are quite solid reasons why the Party should win, not by default but in its own right.
- Times: Mr Ridley is expected to make a series of small concessions to Conservative rebels to stave off a serious backbench revolt on next year's RSG settlement.

- Independent: Kinnock and Healey split over implications of Labour's defence policy. Healey told press that American nuclear weapons would act as a deterrent to Soviet nuclear attack. Kinnock said later that there should be no NATO first strike nuclear response to conventional attack.
- Tory students appeal to you to be allowed to continue.
- Telegraph says Labour MPs opposed to unilateral disarmament have made a private appeal to Democratic party leaders in USA to speak out as strongly as Reagan against Kinnock's policies.

- [illegible]

UNEMPLOYMENT

- Down; output up. General election next years looks' more likely.
- Opposition denounce figures as a fiddle. Government encouraged.
- Stockbrokers Williams de Boue suggest unemployment could fall to 2.6m next year and stabilise around 2.3m.
- Sun P8: Boost for Maggie as jobless fall by 95,000 - biggest fall since 1973.
- Sun P2: Jobs joy boost for Maggie.
- Today P2: Jobs cheer for Maggie
- Express P5: Boost for Maggie as the jobless toll drops by 100,000.
- Mail P1: Jobs good news at last. Most encouraging unemployment figures for 13 years; leader says the figures should induce a mood of cautious optimism. If the turn-round is solid it could hardly be better electorally for the Government. If such favourable trends continue the temptation to call a spring election may be irresistible.
- Telegraph P1 lead: Jobless boost for Tories. Britain is getting back to work - Kenneth Clarke. Ministers optimistic. Tory morale further boosted by fall from 8% to 6.2% in seasonally adjusted level of pay rises.
- Guardian P1: Figures on jobs, pay, production give economy election feel.
- Independent: Unemployment shows biggest fall for 15 years. Jobs figures raise expectation of early election. But sterling had another poor day on the foreign exchanges as the markets ignored jobs and output figures and focused on inflation worries.
- Guardian leader says most of the fall in unemployment can be accounted for by more people going on special job measures. The outlook has certainly improved, but it is too soon to be talking of a dramatic change. We still await a fall in the underlying trend of people without real jobs.
- FT gives a cautious welcome to the latest figures but says changes in calculation of the statistics make it difficult to assess to what extent recent declines mark an underlying improvement in labour market condition.
- Times P1 lead: "Poll boost as jobless total drops 96,000". It will add to the belief that you will call a general election soon after a tax-cutting budget next spring.
- FT: October retail sales disappointing according to latest CBI/FT survey figures but industrial production continues to recover.

EAST/WEST - WASHINGTON

- You receive personal message from Gorbachev on eve of your visit to Reagan.
- Today: Gorbachev arms plea to Thatcher the 'go between'; feature says you and Reagan will find the old magic has gone out of the relationship because Reagan has been pushing his luck with you.
- Mirror: Maggie plays postman - reference to Gorbachev letter.
- Express says you emerged last night as the key figure in US/Soviet arms talks with the letter from Gorbachev. Gorbachev letter to go-between Maggie.
- Mail leader says you should be ready to tell Reagan a few home truths about Falklands/CAS resolution; abolition of ballistic weapons and Trident; and dealings with Iran. You have been America's most dependable ally. If that situation is to continue Washington had better ensure that in future Britain's national interests are not ignored.
- Independent: Thatcher has blunt words for Reagan. You are expected to express intense disapproval of striking bargains with terrorists.
- Guardian says part of your purpose this weekend is to see where a Conservative Britain would stand if arms negotiations were to succeed. Hella Pick says you are in a mood for lecturing, even hectoring, your favourite Western leader.
- Independent says you are expected to talk bluntly to Reagan in striking bargains with terrorists.
- FT: British officials resist the idea that you are acting as an intermediary in delivering Mr Gorbachev's personal message to Mr Reagan.
- Times: The Russians are confident they will soon have a counter to America's SDI. Decoy missiles, space mines, land-based lasers and space shrapnel are all being studied.

DEFENCE

- B/Aerospace gets £1bn order from MoD for new Rapier missile - export orders could bring in another £2bn worth of business. Will guarantee 10,000 jobs.

HOSTAGES/TERRORISM

- Reagan admits "small" secret arms sales to Iran as part of an attempt to rebuild relationship with country of vital importance to West. He denies arms for hostages deal.
- Mirror P2: Surrender! Reagan admits he sold arms to terrorists. Joe Haines, in Mirror, says he can't respect a man who in effect has paid a ransom for the release of hostages; that will ensure more hostages will be taken in future.
- Express leader says Reagan's arms for hostages deal with Iran is a bad and depressing blunder. With this single act he has destroyed his right to urge civilised states to ostracise terrorist sponsoring regimes. He has made himself look foolish and has let down staunch allies like you.
- Guardian P1 lead: Reagan accused of Iran cover-up.
- Times: Tomorrow, you will be talking to a President who has been wounded in his conduct of foreign policy and who may have more severe damage to come. Iran is more embarrassing than any other issue.
- Times: According to reports from Washington, an international network of ships and planes, supported by mysterious middlemen who charter vessels from legitimate as well as shady companies, exists for the sole purpose of ferrying US military equipment to Iran.

HOUSING

- Star leader on building societies, attacks Guardian Society for refusing to repossess a house in Windsor which Hell's Angels bought by conning £58,000 out of them and then making life unbearable for neighbours. Sun leader asks who says crime doesn't pay? Building societies come into being to help decent families own their homes not to provide gang hideouts for thugs.

LAW AND ORDER

- Street muggings up 17% in London in first 9 months of this year.
- More than 50 MPs sign motion demanding new consideration of death penalty.
- Prisoners end Peterhead hostage incident by setting jail roof on fire.

MEDIA

- Man killed in fall practising a stunt for BBC TV show.

AIDS

- Edwina Currie comes out in favour of blunt speaking in campaign against disease.
- Commons to debate the issue next week.
- Wellcome to spend extra £20m on AIDS drug research.
- Star says Edwina Currie launched her own war on AIDS last night - reference to New Society interview in which she opts for girls under 16 getting the pill without parental veto; leader sees her intervention as a welcome injection of practical commonsense.
- FT: Mr Major announces discussions underway with IBA on crucial role of education in fighting the spread of AIDS. Mr Fowler to meet the BBC soon to discuss the issue.
- Times: At its next meeting the AIDS Committee will discuss the possibility of providing free condoms.

ENVIRONMENT

- Times: The Church of England is to try to raise £10m to establish church projects in inner cities.
- Times: MAFF and DOE are fighting over which department is in charge of developing "green" and rural policies. There are suggestions that MAFF may have inspired reports to seize the limelight before a meeting yesterday of senior ministers under your chairmanship.

INDUSTRY

- Sun wants to know why the Government shouldn't privatise coal. You should put it in the next manifesto. Scargill can then become leader of the Labour Party and do for it what he did to NUM.
- NUM repudiates Scargill and votes to take £35m pay offer, subject to condition that their members will lose pension entitlements in any future strikes lasting longer than a week.
- Today says that if NUM can't persuade Scargill to quit it should make sure his power never runs in the NUM again.
- 5m of the 8m who have asked about B/Gas shares certain to buy some.
- DTI to investigate Morgan Grenfell man who resigned for breach of rules for alleged insider dealing. He threatens to reveal other inside dealers (FT).
- Times: The Trade and Industry Select Committee conceded defeat yesterday in its attempt to prise information from the Bank of England about the tin crisis.
- FT: Austin Rover car output falls by 18.5%.

MARK'S ENGAGEMENT

- Many comment on the solemn photo-call.
- Star says you are planning to set up a dynasty for Mark and will accept an hereditary title when you retire.
- Sun: Mark shows off his fiance but refuses to look happy about it.
- Today with a two page spread on the engagement says Mark was so glum and his blonde was struck dumb.
- Mirror coverage headed "Well, would you smile if Maggie was your mother-in-law?"
- Express: The Iron Laddie and his unsmiling bride to be take a bow.
- Mail: A picture of happiness (almost). leader says Mark has to put up with a great deal of leg pulling from the media but his is the last laugh with a charming fiance and every prospect of a good career in the USA. It wishes him luck.
- Telegraph: Camera-shy couple hide ring. Thatchers say they adore Diane whose father wakes up to a telephone call from you.
- Independent: Picture of Miss Burgdorf on P2 under headline: New Model T quick off the mark. Diary item draws unfavourable comparison between Mark's photocall and the Soviet Ambassador's performance with the press at Downing Street.
- Guardian: Picture P2.
- Times: Report and picture on page 2.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

- Hawke Government joins Britain in trying to ban publication of Wright MI5 book.
- Express: Civil Sir Robert cools it on arrival in Sydney.
- Independent: Ministers have threatened Australian Government with denial of access to GCHQ intelligence unless it backs Britain over Peter Wright case.
- Guardian says the memoirs of a former woman MI5 officer are to be published in Ireland despite earlier attempts to suppress the book in London - and it prints extracts.
- Times: The Government plans to fight all the way any further attempt by the defence lawyers in the Peter Wright case to acquire top secret documents about the security service.

EC

- Express says EC could cave in to French demands and slap a tax on British lamb exports.

ISRAEL

- Express says British diplomats have been told to step up their investigations into how Vanunu disappeared from London. Andrew Faulds MP says Vanunu has been tortured.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- 14 Unionist MPs lift boycott of Commons to table, with Tory sympathisers, condemnation of Anglo-Irish Agreement.
- Telegraph review of the Agreement says the Queen's Speech put seal on Government's commitment to it.
- Unionist parties ban paramilitaries and cut in essential services during Commons' protest parades.
- FT: Government to review the strategic plans of Short Bros to see how its performance can be improved.
- Times: The RUC yesterday warned Loyalists planning protests to mark the first anniversary of the Anglo-Irish Agreement to beware of the dangers of demonstrations being exploited by criminal and subversive elements.

UGANDA

- Independent: Profile of President Museveni says he has liberated Uganda from nearly two decades of grisly human rights abuse.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Times: About a quarter of the people living in three densely populated districts in Johannesburg, legally reserved for whites, are coloureds, Indians or blacks. The whites turn a blind eye.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DES: Mr Baker visits Lincolnshire local education authority

DEM: Mr Clarke visits Brimingham and addresses Loughborough Association of University Teachers

DHSS: Mr Fowler opens maternity unit Sandwell Health Authority, West Bromwich

HO: Mr Hurd visits East Sussex Probation Service; addresses East Sussex Magistrates' Association

WO: Mr Edwards meets delegation of Scottish journalists, Cardiff; visits AB Electronics, Fforest Farm Industrial Estate, Cardiff; presents Nursing Awards to newly qualified SENS; speaks at Institute of Bankers bi-annual dinner, Carmarthen

SO: Mr Rifkind addresses Conference of Scottish Council (Development and Industry), Gleneagles

HMT: Mr Lawson on 'Any Questions', Oxted County School, Surrey

MOD: Lord Trefgarne visits IBM, London

DES: Mr Walden addresses NATFHE Conference, Regent's College

DEM: Mr Trippier launches video "Tourism and Leisure - Jobs with a Future", London

FCO: Lady Young addresses 300 Group; addresses Nancy Astor Commemoration luncheon

DHSS: Mr Major visits Artificial Limb and Appliance Centre, Essex

DHSS: Lady Trumpington visits Dunfermline Social Security Office

DHSS: Mr Lyell addresses seminar on Welfare Rights Work in Local Authorities', London

HO: Lord Caithness attends presentation of Elton Trogny, Frankland Prison

HO: Mr Mellor speaks at Oxford Union debate on policing

SO: Mr Lang addresses Seminar on EC Research and Development Programmes, Renfrew

HMT: Mr Brooke visits Customs and Excise Office, West Midlands; later addresses Chester, Wrexham and District Institute of Bankers

WO: Mr Roberts presents Industry Year awards, South Wales Electricity Board, Cardiff

WO: Mr Robinson visits Swansea City Council

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

OAL: Mr Luce visits various arts institutions, Belgium

TV AND RADIO

"CD - Beyond the Law"; BBC 2 (20.00): Glyn Worsnip investigates the abuses of diplomatic immunity

"A Week in Politics"; Channel 4 (20.15): With Nick Ross

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.45): Nigel Lawson MP, Roy Jenkins MP, Frances Morrell and Ann Leslie
