

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh attend a reception to mark the 50th anniversary of the Wellcome Trust, Wellcome Building, Euston Road

Mrs Edwina Currie attends news conference at the Waldorf Hotel, London to explain a new system of training for the nursing profession, with the English National Board for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting

Result of European Court action on non-life insurance policies

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STATISTICS

UK Balance of Payments (3rd Qtr)

Housing starts and completions (Oct)

House renovations (3rd Qtr)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Advance Petroleum Revenue Tax Bill: Remaining Stages

Motions on the Appropriation (No 3) (Northern Ireland) Order.

Motion on the Health and Personal Social Services and Public Health (Northern Ireland) Order.

Business:

Adjournments

The cost to health authorities of providing temporary medical and nursing care (Mr M Shersby)

Select Committees: AGRICULTURE

Subject: The effects of Pesticides on Human Health

Witness: The British Agrochemical Association

Lords

Recognition of Trusts Bill (HL): Second Reading

Ministry of Defence Police Bill (HL): Second Reading

Broadcasting Bill (HL): Second Reading

General Lighthouse Authorities (Beacons: Hyperbolic Systems) Order 1986. Motion for Approval.

UQ on Wytch Farm.

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMI5

- Lord Rothschild calls on MI5 to clear his name - not a Soviet agent.
- Government wins leave to appeal against judge's ruling on documents, but case may not end by Christmas.
- Kinnock's man in Turnbull's defence team; Kinnock denies any dealings with him.
- Alliance call for Parliamentary Committee to monitor security services heavily defeated.
- Star: Kinnock's 'mole' in spy case. TV man, says Richard Hickmet. Turnbull says Greengrass was hired as a researcher because he is an expert on security matters.
- Today: Spy case mole? - I've never heard of him says Kinnock. In another story it claims that Kinnock will have to make a grovelling apology before you share the nation's secrets; leader says Home Secretary was quite wrong to turn down Queen's plan for a committee of senior politicians to oversee the security services, and to do so because he implies Kinnock can no longer be trusted. In calling Australia Kinnock may have been foolish but to jump to the conclusion he cannot be trusted is unwarranted.
- Christopher Monckton, in Today, calls on you to cut your losses to use the Irish decision as a face saving way out of the Australian case. Kinnock's conduct has demonstrated one of his greatest weaknesses when compared to you - his inexperience.
- Mirror: TV man in MI5 court clash - British lawyers have protested about a TV producer sitting in secret court hearings. Greengrass helped Wright write his book. Turnbull rejects as "ludicrous" reports Greengrass has been briefing Kinnock; elsewhere: "I am not a spy - Rothschild".
- Express: Row over 'Kinnock mole' in MI5 case; TV producer is named by MP as Labour's hot line. Granada confirm Greengrass is one of their producers and interviewed Wright 2 years ago. He asked for special leave to attend the trial. In another story it says the mole who is keeping Kinnock a step ahead in the Sydney trial is being assisted by one of the journalists sent from London to cover the Wright case - journalist not named. Greengrass went diplomatically to earth yesterday.
- Express leader under heading "This joke has gone too far already" says the news that a Granada TV producer is part of Wright's defence team is breathtaking. He could even see highly secret and sensitive British documents. This is scandalous. It goes on to attack Wright and Judge Powell.
- Lord Chalfont, in Express, on why you had to rap her "loyal" Opposition. It was extremely unwise of Kinnock to contact Turnbull and instead of embarrassing the Government has only succeeded in transferring much of the embarrassment to himself and his colleagues. It might persuade Kinnock that it is not only against the national interest but also his own to play party politics with national security.



KINNOCK'S VISIT ETC

- Sun leader says only God in his wisdom knows why Kinnock risked his reputation by going to the USA when he leads a Labour Party which spits hatred at Americans in general and Reagan in particular, is committed to nuclear disarmament and has berated the Iran affair as a fiasco. This week he should have been in the House to defend his extraordinary behaviour in the MI5 case. The charge is that he has conspired with a Sydney lawyer so a greedy former agent will be free to sell the nation's secrets. Can Kinnock be trusted?
- Mail leader headed "Death of a Salesman" says Kinnock has one talent to perfection: the knack of clutching defeat from the jaws of victory. He blew it in Westland. Now in the MI5 case he's blown it by contacting the defence lawyer and you have pounced and regained the initiative. Meanwhile his tour is proving a washout - with his unnerving sense of political mistiming. His stature this week has been shrinking in the rain.
- Times: Mr Kinnock has warned America that any attempt to pressurise a Labour Government over nuclear defence could have dire consequences for its worldwide intelligence network.
- Guardian leader critical of his visit - says the defence argument has first to be won at home; but defends him against any allegations of lack of patriotism, lack of commitment to national security and unreliability of judgement.
- Independent Kinnock's speech at Harvard is met with scepticism. Unions are to publish pre-election booklet explaining Labour's defence policy.

DEFENCE

- Mail reports a hammering for Labour in the Defence Debate.
- Times: "Thatcher blasts Labour on defence" (referring to your interview with Jane's Defence Weekly).

DEFENCE (Cont'd)

- Telegraph covers your Janes Defence Weekly interview under heading "Thatcher warning on unilateral disarmament.
- Independent: Secretary of State for Defence sets limit for Trident warheads. Trident will have 2½ times more warheads than Polaris.

POLITICS

- Times: Geoffrey Smith says that although the Government's prospects look encouraging, you would be wise not to let general election expectations get out of hand. If you do, the election would be likely to be this summer or in 1988, rather than October.

USA

- Reagan treated Col North "like a son" and met him twice a week. Strengthening the growing belief that President must have known of diversion of funds to Contras.
- You will be challenged in the House today by Steel to deny a British connection with America's clandestine deal.
- Express: Bush has decided to stake his political future on loyalty to Reagan.
- Times: George Bush admitted yesterday that the arms deal had damaged the credibility of the US Administration; he won widespread support when he backed the President's search for moderate elements in Iran but said he knew nothing of cash movements.
- US government source says millions of dollars from the deal was used to help rebels in Afghanistan, Angola and Nicaragua.

BRITISH GAS

- Huge sell out (Star); up to 4m thought to have applied. But Sun says application numbers well below target of 6m.
- Mirror - Tell Sid its a sell-out.
- Express leader says that while the number of applications appear to be below expectations, the sale has most certainly not flopped. It is oversubscribed and the process of turning Britain into a share owning democracy has received a significant boost.
- Mail says everyone who applied for shares will get some. Leader says this surely marks the moment when real "public ownership" in this country has come of age. Labour politicians mouthing their renationalisation pledges are spitting into a gale. We are celebrating the birth of shareocracy.
- Times: The "Tell Sid" campaign, which is thought to have delighted and irritated people in equal numbers, is blamed for the lower-than-expected level of applications for shares - between 3.5 and 4 million.
- FT: "British Gas response fails to fulfil Government expectations". The shortfall is embarrassing.

ECONOMY

- Express says the Family Expenditure Survey shows that the gulf in lifestyles between North and South is growing wider.
- FT: The sharp North-South divide in Britain's economic performance and prosperity further underlined in Family Expenditure Survey with average earnings in the South East now about 45% higher than in the North.
- EC study says inflationary wage settlements are at the heart of Britain's unemployment problem. Meanwhile, Government/TUC relations deteriorated further (Telegraph) after clashes at NEDC over regional pay differentials.

BRITISH TELECOM

- Star says when BT was privatised it was promised that the telephone industry would go from strength to strength, but charges have risen twice the rate of inflation and profits have soared. Now OfTel has revealed that complaints rose 65% and the Star has found up to 20% of public call boxes are out of order.
- Mirror leader, referring to Brian Sedgemore's allegation that a French bank has dealt in forged share applications for BT, says this is a serious charge and coming from anyone else would be taken seriously. Sedgemore should put up or shut up.

INDUSTRY

- Star says a Tory Euro MP, Peter Beazley, who called for EC restriction on Japanese car exports has just bought a Toyota.
- Sun claims Home Office have told Allan Stewart MP they will back his Bill to abolish strict licensing laws.
- B/Caledonian orders planes worth £700m from McDonnell Douglas, not Airbus.
- City hit by another scandal - Fraud Squad called into investigate the share dealings of three former traders of Exco International.
- Institute of Directors says Britain's top executives deserve to be paid more.
- Times: Two American financiers may have supported Guinness's share price at the time of its £2.7bn bid for Distillers.
- P & O expected to make £445m takeover bid today for European Ferries.
- Guardian claims Government is "poised" to sign a contract with a US company to computerise the passport office after an investigation confirmed it told staff to lie in order to work in Britain illegally.
- Independent: John Edmunds of General, Municipal Boilermakers and Allied Trade Union says his 15,000 members will seek vital assurances on design, training, safety and emergency procedures.



RSG

- Government attacked from all sides on its new proposals.
- Mail: Rates victory for shires as Ridley changes mind.
- Times: The Home Counties received an early Christmas present from the Government.
- FT: 'Council grant changes will benefit South East'.
- Telegraph: Ridley cuts rates rises for shire counties.
- Independent: Ridley retreats on rates - minister heads off backbench revolt with revision of grant aid for councils; in an interview Mr Ridley says that over 10-15 years the Government hoped to reduce the north-south imbalance by increasing business rates in the south and depressing wages in the north.

LAW AND ORDER

- Brighton man, 20, charged with murder in October of 2 girls who lived near him.
- Shops ordered to stop selling crossbows to under-17s.
- John Stalker said to be sick with worry how he will pay £22,000 legal bill and has been off work 2 weeks suffering from nervous exhaustion.
- Lord Longford, in Express, says his public campaign to get Myra Hindley released could be working against her.
- Times: Research by 9 Left wing Labour councils shows that the police are more likely to side with the wife-beater than the battered woman.
- David Mellor claims battle against heroin is being won.

IRELAND

- Two IRA men back behind bars in Northern Ireland after being extradited from Holland.

EDUCATION

- Mirror claims that a Berkshire school will give sausage and mash to poorer youngsters who can't afford to pay for turkey Christmas dinner.
- Claims that truancy figures in the ILEA secondary schools are their worst ever (Express).
- Times: Kenneth Baker last night warned Conservative MPs to brace themselves for disruption in schools next year; the Government now believes the law giving the Government power to impose a deal can become law by Christmas rather than February.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Mirror feature on scandal of cervical smear testing delays because of lack of money.
- Mirror claims that a student nurse who was raped at knifepoint is in trouble with Nottingham School of Nursing for taking too much time off work.
- Church of England report says welfare state benefits the better off instead of the poor.
- Mail says ICL has asked how an NHS contract was awarded to the firm which employs Edwina Currie's husband and brother-in-law.
- Times: The husband and youngest child of a woman who died from AIDS two months ago are also carriers of the virus.

SWEDEN

- Mail leads with a report that 12 top detectives investigating Palme's assassination have resigned en masse because they have been thwarted from conducting a proper inquiry by political pressure. Police believe murderer tapped 'phone of Palme's British mistress.

EC

- Times: Signs of concern that the European Summit could be so lacking in substance as to be a failure emerged in Whitehall yesterday. No one wants to see you chair a meeting issuing ritual denunciations of AIDS, terrorism and food mountains. The hunt for a worthy issue continues.
- Sir Michael Butler writes in Telegraph on how Europe could change the way of the world; and considers EC's most important achievements so far.
- Independent: Last ditch effort at the weekend by you to save your job strategy. Delors says our presidency has bypassed the most difficult issues. Euro nonsense over Euro noise as Teddy Taylor criticises proposals to introduce fines for lawn mower noise greater than the fines for common assault, speeding and kerb crawling.
- FT: Jacque Delors calls for renewed backing from heads of government on harsher action to scrap barriers to internal trade; an end to "horse trading" over cash for EC R&D programmes and an unemployment action plan involving union deregulation and wage restraint.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DTI: Mr Channon visits Merseyside (to 5 December)
- DEM: Mr Lee in Dublin for European Foundation for Improvement of Living and Working Conditions meeting
- DEM: Mr Trippier meets with Historic Houses Association, Leicestershire
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits South West Examinations Board, Bristol
- DES: Mr Dunn addresses CAIE Conference (Council for the Association of Teacher Education)
- DHSS: Mr Lyall attends North Eastern Region Managers Conference, The Granly Hotel, Harrogate
- DOE: Mr Patten visits Trafford (proposed Urban Development Corporation)
- DTI: Mr Pattie opens Technology Transfer Conference in London
- DTP: Mr Bottomley opens Ferndown Bypass, Dorset
- HMT: Mr Macgregor to address the Engineering Industries Association and the Daventry Conservative Association
- HO: Mr Waddington addresses Organisation of Muslims
- MAFF: Mr Gummer attends Worshipful Company of Butchers lunch, Butchers Hall
- MAFF: Mr Thompson visits Royal Smithfield Show; later attends Milk Marketing Board receipt, House of Commons
- OAL: Mr Luce speaks at Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme Awards ceremony, Diss, Suffolk
- SO: Mr Ancram meets confederation of Scottish local authorities (COSLA) Housing Committee, Edinburgh
- SO: Lord Glenarthur visits hospitals in the Lothian Health Board area
- WO: Mr Roberts attends European Investment Bank reception, Savoy Hotel, London
- WO: Mr Robinson speaks at inaugural meeting of All Wales Committee on drug misuse

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for Uganda (to December 7)
- MOD: Mr Stanley visits Berlin (to 5 December)
- MOD: Lord Trefgarne visits Cossor, Harlow
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TV AND RADIO

"40 minutes" programme; BBC 2: First of two programmes on the work of the Civil Service Selection Board

"Advice Shop"; BBC 1 (09.45); What you can and can't do on supplementary benefit

"Union World"; Channel 4 (18.30): Programme for and about trade unions

"Open Space"; BBC 2 (19.40): A look at the NHS hierarchy at all levels

"This Week"; ITV (21.30)

"Question Time"; BBC 1 (22.00): With Sir Robin Day are Bryan Gould MP, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Peter Sutherland, Susan Thomas

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