

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM The Queen attends a Reception at Guildhall to mark the 150th anniversary of the Newspaper Society

The Prince and Princess of Wales visit the production of the film "Living Daylights", at Pinewood Studios

Prime Minister begins North West Regional tour (to Friday)

Prime Minister's interview for Woman's Hour broadcast on BBC Radio 4

North Atlantic Council - Ministerial meeting (to December 12)

EC: Employment and Social Affairs Council chaired by Lord Young

Start of publicity campaign on Air Weapons Misuse in West Midlands and Greater Manchester police areas

One day strike by DHSS staff in South-East

STATISTICS

Provisional figures of vehicle production (November)

Capital Expenditure by manufacturing and service industries (3rd Qtr-rev)

PUBLICATIONS

CO: Annual Review of Government-funded R and D

BSO: Investment Intentions Survey

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Treasury; Home Office; Prime Minister

Business: Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Bill: 2nd Reading and Money Resolution
Motion on the Draft Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978 (Continuance) (No. 3) Order

Adjournment Debate

The Arts Council Budget for 1986/87 (Mr T Banks)

Lords

Family Law Reform Bill (HL): Committee Lord Chancellor
Health and Personal Social Services and Public Health
Appropriation (No 3)(Northern Ireland) Order 1986
UQ on fighting in built-up areas training facilities at
Copehill Down, Wiltshire

PRESS DIGESTDEFENCE

- Kinnock seen to be backpeddaling a bit over his unilateralism - on the nuclear umbrella and the pace at which he gets rid of US weapons. His plans roundly condemned and shot at - except by Mirror and Today who don't comment and Guardian which sings his praises.
- George Younger condemns the plans as "desperately dangerous", and says they could bring conscription.
- David Owen says they are a policy of a "fearful, neutralist, third-rate Britain" and "deserve and will get the contempt of Britain".

Treatment

- Star P8: Kinnock's retreat; softly, softly on ban the bomb. We will run for shelter under America's nuclear umbrella and document makes no mention of the time scale for removal of US bases from British soil.
- Sun: P2: Kinnock cop out. He'll kick out US bases, but ask for US protection. Climbs down and accepts 'immoral' protection of US nuclear umbrella.
- Mirror P2: Labour declares war on the bomb. Target is real defence not nuclear pretence.
- Today: P1: Kinnock beats a hasty retreat - dramatically backtracks on plans to reject UN nuclear protection and rush Britain into bomb free age.
- Express P1 lead: Labour defence plan verdict: Kinnock's third rate Britain - runs into a wall of damaging criticism. Inside story lists the "steps to military incompetence".
- Mail P1 lead: Labour hedges bets over ban the bomb defence plan. Kinnock's nuclear boomerang. He has started to get cold feet and they may end up as one of the great U-turns in post war history. It looked last night as if he has ended up with a policy that will please no one.
- Telegraph P1 lead: Kinnock softens his line. Labour accepts nuclear NATO. Norman Tebbit, in the USA, says that if Britons voted for a Labour Government at the next election the electorate would have "collectively taken leave of its senses".
- Independent P1 lead: Labour defence split revealed. Healey steps out of line as Tories and Alliance take on Kinnock's non-nuclear Britain. In a radio interview he said that existence of nuclear weapons within NATO would certainly be an effective deterrent against Soviet first strike.
- The Times P1 lead: Kinnock fudge over nuclear pull-out date; political highwire act to prevent electoral damage. European Military chiefs sceptical of Labour's commitment to conventional weapons.
- Guardian P1 lead: Kinnock plans careful talks on US missiles - pledge of NATO loyalty and boosting of conventional weapons.
- FT P1: Labour seeks public backing for defence plans which have drawn widespread criticism.

DEFENCE (Cont'd)Comment

- Sun leader headed "The Great Pretender" says he is the Great Pretender of public life. His motive for his humiliating contortions over defence are obvious: he is trying to suggest to the nation that he, and not the rampant Left wing, is in charge of the Labour Party. He is fooling himself. Never in a million years will the British people allow themselves to be naked in the world.
- Columnist in Today says the electorate aren't going to wear this policy.
- Express under heading "Stop the world Neil wants to get off" says the policy would leave us wide open to nuclear blackmail. And nuclear weapons are far cheaper than conventional forces. It is not a defence policy for modern Britain in a modern world, but one for a Britain believing it possible to say "Stop the world, we want to get off".
- Paul Potts, in Express, analyses "Labour's new policy for suicide" says that while Kinnock sees the keys to Downing Street slipping through his fingers Conservatives are busy mapping out your next Cabinet. Incredibly after 8 years you are more popular than any other political leader in Britain.
- Mail leader headed "Wriggling on the hook" says that inside the promotion pack was unconditional nuclear surrender. Instead of bargaining for arms reductions Kinnock, the naked unilateralist, would smile one of his engaging smiles and throw himself on the mercy of the Kremlin. Labour's policy threatens to shatter the Western Alliance and destabilise our continent. Our NATO allies are openly aghast. So yesterday there was softening. But who is Kinnock trying to con? The nearer the election the more certain it seems Labour's declared defence policy will turn out to be Kinnock's suicide note.
- Telegraph says Labour Party now faces a major political crisis entirely of its own fashioning. This is a Tory opportunity. It says the case for an appeal to the country before March is very appealing on economic grounds, too.
- Independent leader says the uncompromising, uncomprehending self-indulgent character of Labour's defence policy seems destined to give a new lease of life to Thatcherism.
- Times editorial says "as a Prime Minister he (Kinnock) could not push through policies like these without doing grave harm to British security, safety and national interest. With policies like these he may never get to try".
- FT: inside article examines Labour's case for a new military strategy; leader says they have neither intellectually sound argument nor attractively packaged electoral policy. Serious defects in the Government's defence policy - for example on procurement - are passing unnoticed. Labour has voluntarily distracted attention from the areas where the Government is most vulnerable: unemployment, poverty and the economy. It is unilaterally disarming itself.
- Guardian says we have a potentially precious prize - the leader of a major party in a Western democracy who genuinely seeks to turn back the ratchet of nuclear armament and a party striving to propagate new ways and new concepts in a continent which desperately needs them.

POLITICS

- Neville Sandelson, in Mail, explains why the SDP must vote Tory.
- MARPLAN, in Guardian, puts Labour one point behind 39/38/Alliance 21.

EDUCATION

- Independent: TUC leaders seek talks with you on teachers' pay bill.
- Times: Tory threat to guillotine teaching pay dispute Bill.
- FT: Tories unmoved by accusations over teachers' bill.

OTHER DEFENCE

- Two RAF Tornados collide in mid-air off Lincs/Cambs - no-one injured.
- Jim Prior says disgraceful MoD leaks are undermining NIMROD.

INDUSTRY

- Harvest Hampers, of Wigan, ceases trading when owners vanish; a lot of Christmas customers left without £25-£83 hampers.
- Today on Britain heading for a credit crisis as Christmas approaches.
- Today leader on the productivity in the pits says it suggests union leaders are wrong to claim morale is at an all time low.
- Plessey wins £250m Iranian radar order - and gets export licence.
- FT: You launch £420m science research scheme.
- FT: Stockbroking firm predicts two years of growth for the construction industry.
- Independent: Coal industry could be privatised under a management/union buy-out in the next Conservative Parliament, Peter Walker says in exclusive interview.
- Independent: Cost of cleaning up drinking water contaminated by routine farming activities will reach £200m in order to meet EC standards, according to Government working party report.
- CEGB wants oil fired power stations in South.

ECONOMY

- Today leader on the Prince of Wales' efforts to ease economic plight of the North says the Government's neglect of half of England is scandalous and short sighted and the consequences will be with us for decades.
- Survey shows that Britain, across a basket of 144 goods, is the real bargain basement for cross-Channel shoppers.
- Treasury Select Committee claim Government is trying to cover up a switch in economic policy - U-turn on public spending controls, monetary policy and use of interest and exchange rates.
- Independent: Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee calls on Chancellor for an explanation of the "substantial change" in policy represented by the Autumn Statement.
- FT: Employment Institute working group urges job guarantees for the long term unemployed.

SUNDAY TRADING

- Star's welcome for Mr Kurd's forecast of Sunday racing in next Parliament muted by his intention to do nothing about it himself - or about our licensing laws.

MERCHANT NAVY

- Sun: Sign on for Dad's Armada - a bounty for merchant navy reserve.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Derek Hatton pelted with eggs by Liverpool's black community in council chamber; Tony Byrne in line of fire.
- Mail on angry parents who are gunning for killjoy Left wing councils like Ealing who want to close council-run mini zoos.
- Audit Commission says local authorities could save £2bn through greater efficiency.

HOUSING

- Nationwide, third biggest building society, to merge with Anglia seventh largest, remains No 3.
- 20LAs in England owed £100m in rent, with Brent top of the league - arrear total £210m and Ministers set to act.
- FT leader examines John Patten's private rented sector ideas and concludes his actions suggest a policy a good deal less radical than his words.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Government seen to have backed down on cutting back on mortgage aid to unemployed, but Today's heading is "Benefits blow to jobless homeowners".
- Independent: Consultation document on human embryo research takes Warnock Report debate back to square one.
- Independent: Medical Research Council says millions of pounds will be needed to finance AIDS research over the next few years.
- Independent: Government Whips expect a rebellion of up to 20 mostly "wet" Tories over new supplementary benefit regulations on mortgage interest payments.

LAW AND ORDER

- Allegations that another child minding couple, having committed three murders already, is on the loose.
- Old lag with 26 convictions for burglary works as electrician at Sandringham and claims he was given a guided tour of burglar alarm systems.
- Rector in West Midlands beaten unconscious by two raiders in his vestry.
- Collier, Morgan Grenfell man, faces three insider dealing charges.
- Independent: Police forces are being strongly urged by the Home Office to increase their recruitment from ethnic minorities.
- Treasury has refused funds for a 12-bed AIDS treatment unit at Brixton Prison (Independent).

MI5 CASE

- Express: MI5 kept secrets from Maggie - reference to apparent discrepancy from evidence on when Government first knew about Pincher book.
- You renew pledge on MP telephone tapping.
- Times: Whitehall victory over Australian deal on summary of documents.

EC

- Threat to duty free tobacco by Commission.
- Mirror leads with claim that you are storing thousands of tons of surplus food on doorstep of breadline families and says in leading article that UK Government did nothing about the mountains during our presidency.
- EC cuts Britain's fish quotas next year by up to 30%.
- FT: All night meeting of community research ministers fails to agree EC research budget.
- FT: European Commission drops the threat of legal action against B/Cal part of a campaign to stamp out anti-competitive airline marketing practices.
- Times: Last ditch effort to avert trade war as top level US team moved from London to Brussels with a threat to block £352m worth of EC exports to US. Sir Geoffrey Howe urged Europe not to exacerbate political and economic tensions with Washington.

YOUR WOMAN'S HOUR INTERVIEW - Good coverage.

- Star: Maggie admits "I'm nervous" when you make a major speech or go into Chamber.
- Sun: "Maggie's fear of nerves".
- Today: "Nerves make the Iron Lady rattle".
- Express: "Maggie: I still get the jellies".
- Telegraph: I think - now look love, keep calm, concentrate. Mrs Thatcher confesses to nerves.

MIDDLE EAST

- Times: Iranians engineer halt in Lebanon's "savage war".

IRAN

- Briton, John Cooper, held without charge for a year now charged with spying.
- Mail claims Khomeini is scorched by the US arms deal.
- Nixon says Iran is not another Watergate.

SPORT

- Mirror says police admitted yesterday that they allowed more than 200 Leeds fans who had no tickets into West Brom ground where a shed was later burned down - even though the game was made all ticket because of Leeds' hooligan reputation

IRELAND

- Fitzgerald loses his majority and an early election is predicted.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Times: Pretoria tightens screws on press. Editorial says press freedom not an unalloyed benefit but its absence is an unmitigated evil, not least for governments which decided they can live without it.

FRANCE

- Times: Silence on Paris terrorist proposal after President Mitterrand's astonishing revelation that France had considered deals on hostages.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DES: Mr Baker attends reception for EC Education Committee

MAFF: Mr Jopling attends lunch with the RICS, Great George Street

MOD: Mr Younger speaks at Royal College of Defence Studies

CO: Mr Luce visits Portsmouth Central Library and later speaks at Public Eye Exhibition

DES: Mr Walden visits Glasgow and Strathclyde Universities

DES: Mrs Rumbold attends Royal Society of Chemistry

DHSS: Mr Newton opens Scorton operating theatre, Scorton, Richmond, Yorkshire

DOE: Mr Waldegrave visits Chatham Dockyard (Heritage)

DOE: Mr Tracey visits Durham beaches

DOE: Dr Boyson addresses the small firms liaison group on local government issues, London

DTI: Mr Howard hosts dinner for International Security Regulating Authorities

DTP: Mr Bottomley chairs the South East Regional Consultative Committee, Oxford

HO: Mr Waddington visits Wandsworth

HO: Mr Hogg attends Secretary of State's dinner for HMI's

MAFF: Mr Gummer addresses Seed Crushers and Oil Producers Association lunch, Knightsbrige Hotel

MAFF: Mr Thompson attends lunch with Shell, Shell Centre

MOD: Mr Freeman attends NATO defence college reception and later visits Meteorological Office, Bracknell

MOD: Mr Stanley visits RAF Wyton.

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS) VISITS

DEM: Mr Clarke and Mr Lee in Brussels for Labour and Social Affairs Council

TV AND RADIO

"40 Minutes" Programme; BBC 2. Second of two programmes on the work of the Civil Service Selection Boards

"Advice Shop"; BBC 1 (09.45): Margo MacDonald shows how the Social Security Act will affect help for families on low pay .

"Woman's Hour" BBC Radio 4 (14.00): The Prime Minister talks about what is involved when women enter politics

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

"Open Space"; BBC 2 (19.40): Does Britain need a monarchy?

"Brass Tacks"; BBC 1 (20.20): Looks at the political and economic fall-out after Chernobyl

"This Week"; ITV (21.30)

"Question Time"; BBC 1 (22.00): With Sir Robin Day are Charles Kennedy MP, Ken Livingstone, John Patten MP and Katherine Whitehorn
