

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen opens renovated headquarters of the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting, 23 Portland Place; and later attends, with the Duke of Edinburgh, a luncheon given by the Regional Lieutenant Colonels, Household Division, at the officers' mess, Wellington Barracks

?Airborne Early Warning statement

?Announcement on handling of Chernobyl

?AIDS announcement

STATISTICS

Labour market statistics: unemployment and unfilled vacancies (Nov-prov); average earnings indices (Oct-final); employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs; industrial disputes

London and Scottish banks monthly statement (Nov)

CBI/FT survey of distributive trades (end-Nov)

Provisional estimates of monetary aggregate (Nov)

PUBLICATIONS

OAL: Exports of works of art 1985-86

SG: Annual Report of Department of Agriculture and Fisheries (11.30)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Home Office; Northern Ireland; Prime Minister

Business: Motions on Supplementary and Social Security Benefit Orders and Regulations

Lords: Supplementary Benefit (Housing Requirements and Resources) Amendment Regulations 1986. Motion for Approval
Debate on the EC report on disposing waste at sea
Local Government Act 1986 (Amendment) Bill
Private Peers Bill to restrain local authorities from promoting homosexuality
ROYAL ASSENT

PRESS DIGESTNIMROD/AWACS

- Press unanimous that its AWACS at expense of NIMPOD - (as plane is forced to make an emergency landing when equipment overheated).
- Sun: Nimrod gets the final KO.
- Today says buying British when the national interest is at stake is not an easy line to draw but British industry is capable of producing goods of comparable price and quality when it makes the effort. But it needs a too-often-lacking vote of confidence by British buyers.
- Express says Lockheed says GEC can expect to earn £4bn if you plump for NIMROD.
- Frank Chapple, in Mail, says Government should choose NIMROD.
- Telegraph: NIMROD axe is poised; French continue to evaluate system.
- Times: Ministers hope to enter the Christmas recess with the controversy largely buried. A debate tonight on the issue will not be unwelcome by the Government since it will take the sting out of the issue.
- FT: The MoD, which could lose £30m as a result of its move to open to competition a frigate computer contract, is also embroiled in a financial argument over missile contract delays between BAe and Royal Ordnance.
- Guardian says a last minute GEC push is unlikely to save NIMPOD.
- Independent: Cabinet will go for AWACS today.
- Anthony Bevins, in Independent, sees the £1bn lost on NIMPOD the price paid for years of secrecy and blunder.

POLITICS

- Sun P2: "Kinnock backs fight to free Wapping thug" - ie picket line leader who was jailed for a year (8 months suspended) for hitting a policeman. Eldon Griffiths and Jonathan Aitken protest; leader says the man rammed a loud hailer in a police inspector's face yet now the Labour Party NEC, including Kinnock, cast him as a martyr. There could not be a clearer message for the British people: vote Labour for mob rule.
- Bernie Grant criticises Kinnock for not defending Left wing councils from Tory attacks.
- Times: Neil Kinnock's battle with the militant left flared up again yesterday when he launched moves to discipline the new leader of Liverpool City Council.
- MSC advertisements have been reported to the Advertising Standards Authority by Charter for Jobs, which claims they are poorly disguised political propaganda.
- John Pilger resigns as editor-in-chief of proposed new Left wing Sunday because of disagreement over design and content.

AIDS

- Further package of measures expected today.
- Star says you agreed yesterday to take the gloves off in the attack on AIDS by making free needles available to drug addicts in 12 cities.
- Sun says Newham Council allowed an AIDS victim to work as a swimming pool attendant with bleeding sores without telling anyone.
- Mirror attacks a group of influential advertisers for kicking up a fuss about forthcoming TV adverts on AIDS because it fears the sex base of their ads will turn people off the products they are promoting.
- Tory leader of Staffs district council calls for 90% of homosexuals to be put in gas chamber after watching a Government AIDS video which, he says, did not emphasise link between queers and disease.
- Sun also prints readers' praises for Chief Constable Anderton.
- Mail says it is regrettably clear that crackpot councillors are not only to be found on Labour benches. The Black Death prompted heresy hunts all over Europe. Anderton's moral crusade has a vital role to play in combatting AIDS; but it should not be confused with or degenerate into a lynching party.
- Times: The DHSS is considering funding a proposal by researchers to study the sexual behaviour of 1,000 young women.
- Children are to be taught in the classroom about the risk of AIDS in a project launched yesterday by the NW Thames Regional Health Authority.
- Guardian says Anderton is facing disciplinary action over his remarks.

MI5

- Star leader says Mr Justice Powell has enjoyed every pommy bashing moment of this seemingly never ending case.
- Today notes that Kinnock was furious with Tony Marlow last night for attacking his role with Turnbull.
- Mail interviews Wright's sister who says he is a vindictive mischief maker prepared to betray secrets for money; she will never speak to him again.
- Times: The Government is expected to demand the right of reply in the court case after accusations by defence counsel against Sir Robert Armstrong and the Attorney General; judgement in the case concerning the Joan Miller book, "One Girl's War" will be given today.
- FT: "UK Attorney-General accused of dishonesty and contempt in MI5 case".
- Dr Christopher Andrews, in Telegraph, advances idea of Parliamentary Intelligence Committee.
- Hugo Young, in Guardian, gives an account of a conversation with an unnamed wet ex-Minister about the "Muscovites" in Harold Wilson's Government - evidence he says of paranoia.

USA

- Reagan to have prostate operation next month.
- Claims that Col North ordered the kidnapping of relatives of prominent Iranians to swap them for US hostages.
- Express queries whether Reagan can last his full 8 years, but some suggest this latest health scare could win public sympathy.
- Telegraph highlights Nicaragua's freeing of American gun runner, Hasenfus, who will be able to testify before committees investigating the Iran-Contras affair; his evidence could be devastating.
- Guardian says there was a concentrated drive afoot last night to pin the blame for the Iran/Contras exercises on Col North.

INDUSTRY

- FT: Delays in payment collection by exporters are costing UK industry £100m a year, says Barclays Bank.
- A Labour Government would be catastrophic for the electronics industry, says a report by County Securities, the stockbroking arm of Natwest (FT).

ECONOMY

- Sun heralds a further fall in unemployment, to be announced today, for fourth month running.
- Telegraph says Post Office expects to create 28,000 jobs over next five years - 20,000 as a result of growth of junk mail.
- FT: leaders of industry and the unions responded with surprise yesterday to a statement by Lord Young that Government exhortations for lower pay increases are ineffective.
- Times: Teenagers have become the day labourers and casual workers of the 1980s says Youthaid.
- Times: OPEC talks remain deadlocked. Brent slips to 15.90 dollars a barrel.
- Independent says Guinness family were negotiating to place substantial funds in a limited partnership managed by Boesky at time of takeover battle for Distillers.

TAXES

- Chancellor damps down expectations of tax cuts in Budget.
- Star says they are "remote"; Sun: Hopes of tax cut bonanza dashed.
- Express leader says that in spite of his attempts to lower expectations last night it seems certain Chancellor will be able to go so far towards his ambition of 25p in £ tax rate. And if he gets the opportunity he should seize it.

UNIONS

- Leaders of hospital ancillary workers launch pay claim for up to 62% rises.
- BBC refuses to allow controversial pop group in its Top of the Pops programme because they don't belong to a union - will appear in a video instead.
- FT: Local authorities are considering moving 1m manual workers to an annualised system, ending the conventional working week. The unions are expected to demand a high price for the changes, but benefits to management could be considerable.

HOUSING

- Nicholas Ridley orders inquiry into how a former GLC property director is set to make £0.5m profit by buying his luxury council house. Sun leader does not envy man's good fortune or question legality of deal but says getting rich at public expense leaves a nasty taste.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Triple transplant at Papworth Hospital - heart, lungs and liver.
- Another meningitis death in Stroud area.
- Edwina Currie warns against teenage drinking.
- Child Poverty Action Group says more than 2m children are facing Christmas on the breadline.
- Times: Most trained nurses would be unable to give basic first aid to a heart attack victim in the first vital few minutes, say researchers.

EDUCATION

- Telegraph says university dons are likely to vote to strike over pay today.
- Times: The Government will be urged tomorrow by the Historical Association to guarantee the compulsory study of British social history by secondary schoolchildren.
- You have rebuffed TUC/LEA approaches for a meeting to protest about Teachers' Pay Bill.

MEDIA

- Times: Journalists on the Daily Telegraph last night unanimously rejected the company's terms for moving from Fleet Street to the Isle of Dogs.
- FT: Rupert Murdoch is bidding for Hong Kong's South China Morning Post.

LAW AND ORDER

- Reports that police may ask to be allowed to take Myra Hindley back to Moors.
- De Lorean cleared of embezzling £6m from investors in his failed company.
- Liberal councillor who fired starting pistol in council chamber fracas in Hackney gets 3 months for disorderly conduct.
- Paul Foot takes up case of Birmingham and Guildford bombing prisoners - 13 "innocents" he says.
- Home Secretary backs down in row over withdrawal of compensation rate for police injured on duty.
- Times: Prostitutes are being allowed to write off hundreds of pounds in fines merely by sitting at the back of a courtroom, because of difficulties in dealing with defaulters and persistent defenders.

DEFENCE

- Steel and Owen announce a new policy agreement - retains nuclear deterrent but scraps Trident and doesn't say what will replace it.
- Times: The MoD is to appeal to the House of Lords against a High Court ruling announced yesterday that could give hundreds of former soldiers the right to sue the Government.
- Young soldier shoots corporal dead in row and then kills himself.

EC

- Tony Banks MP says pensioners should be given a Christmas hamper from food mountain.
- Commission proposes harmonised speed limits, raising our limit to 75mph.
- FT: The cash crisis of the EEC is far worse than appears in official budget figures. The gap between income and expenditure is £14.6bn, according to the European Court of Auditors.
- Telegraph leader says the momentum of this week has to be kept up in reform of CAP.
- Guardian says DTI Civil Servants have been circumventing Rome Treaty since 1978 without Ministers' knowledge, justifying their actions in national interest - by giving British industry access to subsidised loans.
- In a rare burst of generosity the Guardian awards Michael Jopling "unqualified praise" for his achievement in Brussels.
- Times leader says for the British Government the agreement reached by farm ministers is a political coup. But will the statesmen of Brussels be able to stand the heat of the hustings back home?

PEOPLE

- Pops have fun at expense of Post Office who send back to a schoolgirl Christmas card intended for you and addressed "Prime Minister, 10 Downing Street" marked Not Known.
 - Star: links it in the coverage of road safety event - with pictures in most qualities.
 - Times: Your picture on the front page with children taking part in the road safety promotion.
 - Colette Bowe, Director of Information at the DTI, is to be the new Controller of Information Services at the IBA.
 - David Hobson to chair Cambrian and General in succession to Boesky.
 - Times diary says John Biffen told the Select Committee on Procedure that there was little point in MPs considering radical alterations "in the last few months of this Parliament".
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- In the context of NIMROD, Star says you've brought your oven for Dulwich from Germany.

RUSSIA

- Express, reporting from Kiev, says British doctors and scientists will be able to go to Chernobyl to learn from disaster under agreement reached by Peter Walker.

FALKLANDS

- Times: Poland has broken ranks with other Eastern bloc countries by applying for licences to fish off the Falkland Islands..

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DES: Mr Baker and Mr Walden meet the Vice Chairman of Chinese State Education

DOE: Mr Ridley speaks at Placemakers luncheon, Park Lane

DHSS: Mr Lyell attends Anglia TV Christmas Reception, Bedfordshire news centre, Luton

DOE: Dr Boyson speaks at Association of District Councils seminar, London Press Centre

DOE: Mr Tracey attends Football Trust luncheon, Savoy Hotel

FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses London Chamber of Commerce (Tropical Africa Section)

MOD: Mr Freeman attends Air Force Board dinner at RAF Bentley Priory

OAL: Mr Luce speaks at launch of British Museum/Esso promotional video

SO: Mr Lang attends Skol Scottish Sports Awards Dinner, Albany Hotel, Glasgow

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Mr Eggar departs for CSCE conference, Vienna (to 19 December)

TV AND RADIO

"Brass Tacks"; BBC 1 (202.20): The effect of public opinion on the British nuclear industry

"This Week"; ITV (21.30)
