

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prince and Princess of Wales attend premiere of Children of a Lesser God, Empire, Leicester Square, London WC2

Greenwich by-election

Church of England Synod debate ordination of women

BBC meets to select new Director-General

Mr Kinnock addresses TGWU rally, Wembley

Tower Commission reports in "Irangate"

Cabinet and Whips photograph

STATISTICS

OPCS: Mortality Statistics 1985 - area, England and Wales

DEN: Energy Trends (Dec)

DTP: New vehicle registrations (Jan)

PUBLICATIONS

DEM: New Earnings Survey Part E

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Treasury; Home Office; Prime Minister

Business: Consideration of Lords amendments to the Teachers' Pay and Conditions Bill

Adjournment Debate

The grant of a limitation order on Maltby Farm and Low Common (Mr K Barron)

Select Committees: NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK BROADS BILL

Lords: Hampshire (Lyndhurst Bypass) Bill (HL): Second Reading

Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill (HL): Third Reading

Pilotage Bill (HL): Report (2nd Day)

Social Fund (Maternity and Funeral Expenses) Bill: Second Reading

Nightwear (Safety) (Amendment) Regulations 1987: Motion for Approval

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Reagan's Day of Reckoning has arrived. Express says report will show he was repeatedly briefed about arms shipments to Iran in spite of White House denials.
- Guardian claims that Norman Tebbit is alarming senior Tories by claiming a good SDP/Lib performance today should tilt the balance to an early general election.
- SDP tipped to win at Greenwich.

- Claims that number of former Nazis living in Britain could exceed 100; demands for them to be brought to justice.

- Lots of appreciative coverage for breast and cervical cancer screening initiatives, though some want it extended.
- Paul Channon blocks bids for British Sugar.

- Gorbachev tells Soviet TUC conference more democracy is essential if the Soviet Union is to move ahead and not stagnate.

- Soviets end moratorium with new underground nuclear test.

- George Younger's party political broadcast launches campaign against Labour's defence policies.
- Bruce Kent leaves Church ministry to become CND politician; Express is underwhelmed by the news, but says at least Kent is making an honest man of himself.
- Mail says Malaysia is considering plans to plug loopholes in its laws which permit the country to be used as transit point for Tamils.

ECONOMY

report which

- Mailreports an ABCC/reveals "a new industrial dawn" in four Northern regions.
- Mortgage rates forecast to fall 1.5% this summer.
- NESR drastically modifies its doom-laden prospectus, especially on trade gap, apparently because it has got a new editor, according to Andrew Alexander.
- FT: Sterling's strong run in wake of Paris accord on currencies ended yesterday as investors backed off in face of falling oil prices.
- Jitters over OPEC pact pushes oil prices below \$16.
- Government criticism of MSC said to be likely to result in refusal to renew Brian Nicholson's contract - Guardian.
- Independent: Sarah Hogg argues that despite its informality the finance ministers Paris agreement on exchange rate stability should not be underestimated.

FRANCE

- Times: French Government raises inflation estimate for 1987 from 1.7% to 2.4% after price rise figures in January.

BUDGET

- Today leads its front page with a poll saying voters prefer spending on jobs, health and education instead of tax cuts.

INDUSTRY

- Times: Monopolies Commission block rival bids for control of British Sugar.
- Times: Concern growing about standards of workmanship in nuclear installations following former welder's allegations.
- Times: KLM bidding for substantial stake in AIR UK.
- FT: Value of new construction orders in 1986 shows 7% rise on 1985 - highest level since 1973.
- FT: Nationalised industries substantially improved performance says Institute of Fiscal Studies report.
- FT: CBI considering lobbying US over concern about its increasingly protectionist stance.
- FT: Scottish Council to ask Government to introduce legislation whereby proposed mergers would be automatically referred to M & MC if they threatened Scotland's interests.

GREENWICH

- Star says Labour and SDP are neck and neck, but SDP 6-4 on with bookies.
- Sun: SDP set to beat Dreadful Deirdre; leader advises people to vote SDP and says Tories need have no qualms about doing so. Their candidate "is an upper class twit who hasn't a hope of winning".
- Today: SDP odds on at Greenwich; leader says if Greenwich seizes its chance today it will show there really is an alternative.
- Express: Neck and neck; Mail: Poll photo finish.
- Times: Alliance confident of victory which could dramatically upset your general election plans.
- Telegraph: Knife edge.
- Guardian: Tories predict Alliance win in Greenwich.
- Independent: Greenwich vote set for close finish.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Today says Brent can't find anyone to lead their racism surveillance schemes in schools, so they are advertising the post a third time at £20,000.
- Deadlock in London Boroughs Grants Committee on how to share £30m among voluntary groups is bringing chaos to London's welfare services, according to Express.
- Brent to send 15 teenagers on a propaganda trip to Cuba - but only if they are unemployed, low paid or being rehabilitated after committing a crime (Mail).
- Audit Commission says council services should compete on an equal footing with private firms for local authority business.
- FT: Liverpool sets 5% rates increase. Treasurer had recommended 20% to meet budget deficit.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

- Star says that for all the furore you would think that the Government had the TUC lined up against a bloodstained wall. But all Lord Young has proposed is giving union members a bigger say. The pity is that the old carthorse has not introduced such moderate forms itself.
- Mirror says unions are their own worst enemies but it takes objection to the proposal that a lawful vote on a strike carried by a substantial majority could be defied by a minority. This goes against the whole principle of democracy.

UNIONS

- Norman Willis, TUC, has his offer to freeze his salary because the TUC is going broke, turned down; must take £1,200 rise.
- CPSA votes to set up a political fund.
- Times: T&GWU launches vital drive for new members with rally at Wembley. Membership dropped from 2,228,000 in 1979 to 1,434,000 in 1985.
- FT: TUC rejects attempts by some unions to boycott Government's job training scheme.
- FT: GMBTU may change executive election rules to come into line with Government's employment legislation.
- FT: TUC membership likely to have fallen to almost 9.2m in 1986 - lowest since 1969.

BROADCASTING

- Sun says there is a big challenge ahead for the BBC whose national radio monopoly is to be smashed.
- Mirror: BBC set for war of the airwaves.
- Today; Radio revolution unveiled by Tories.
- Express: Radio rock around the clock.
- Times describes Green Paper as fundamental overhaul of radio broadcasting system.
- Telegraph: 3 major rivals for BBC.
- Guardian: BBC radio network should stay intact.
- Something must be wrong: Guardian welcomes Green Paper saying: A policy that contrives not just to mesh market freedom and public service idealism but also to seem right in every particular is astonishing.
- Independent: BBC may lose monopoly in national radio changes.

MEDIA

- Zircon spy film screened in Commons after Speaker lifts ban.
- FT: Ministers sat in embarrassed silence in Commons as Labour leaders hailed Government's decision not to extend ZIRCON injunction as political climbdown.

HEALTH

- A lot of coverage for more money for cancer screening and AIDS.
- Mail: Cancer: major boost in help to women.
- Star congratulates the Government but says breast cancer screening should start at 40.
- Times: Long waits for hospital treatment still top of complaints about NHS says Consumer Council survey.
- Times: Terence Higgins Trust claims hundreds of doctors refusing to treat carriers of AIDS virus.
- Times: DES bans the giving^{of}/blood or cell samples in schools.
- New Scientist says condoms do not guarantee protection against AIDS.
- Telegraph reports a panic scramble for shares yesterday so long as the companies are connected with AIDS.
- Mirror story about a leukaemia patient who has had his free treatment stopped in Coventry because he is an out-patient - and this is against Government rules.
- Express reports National Consumer Council as saying ambulance services are deteriorating so badly that some patients are having to wait 9 hours to be taken home.

LAW AND ORDER

- Star says you have ordered that there must be no hiding place for ex-Nazis in Britain; you will back moves to strip them of citizenship if evidence is produced.
- Sun says it is bad enough to discover six are living in Britain, but even worse to find they are beyond the law. A way must be found to bring them to justice.
- Times: Tamils refugee camp gives Home Office names of two agents said to be smuggling people into Britain.
- Mail emphasises the importance of British citizens getting British justice, but if the Home Secretary is satisfied any of those alleged to have been Nazis have committed a war crime, British law should not be a barrier between them and their just deserts.
- Times: High Court injunction against Duncan Campbell lifted. New Statesman claims PSIs have approved £200m expenditure on ZIRCON project. MoD admit to only about £70m. Robert Sheldon attacked for making "conflicting and inconsistent statements".
- Greville Janner threatens to name names in Commons if evidence is strong enough .

EDUCATION

- Times: Mr Baker to reject plea from ILEA to spend an extra £125m this year. He is determined that they stay within set limit of £942m.
- Times: Head teachers at Newham near breaking point because of lack of staff, says NAHT.
- Times: Leader says teachers lobby of Parliament against new Bill has awful inevitability about it. Removal of negotiating rights adds to teachers' grievances. Government should decide what country can afford to pay teachers but they should have negotiation rights.
- FT: Leader says whoever leads next Government should make restructuring of education top priority. This will require at least a level of commitment equivalent to the push you have given to trade union reform legislation.

SDI TALKS/EAST WEST

- Little coverage for visit of Nitze and Perle.
- Sun: Britain will give only limited support to American programme.
- Mail front page has you holding aces over Star Wars; it says your hand in talks with Gorbachev was greatly strengthened by two US assurances - no early SDI deployment; and no extension of testing without consultation.
- Times: Your visit to Moscow could coincide with critical stage in debate within Atlantic Alliance over future of Star Wars programme; SDI deployment possible by 1993.
- Telegraph leader on your visit to Moscow says it is a more than usually important exercise in personal diplomacy. It suggests you should make it a test of Soviet glasnost (openness) that Moscow should now admit the extent of its conventional superiority and discuss with frankness the impediment that disparity presents to the cause of peacemaking.
- Guardian: Thatcher gets US reassurance on Star Wars but Weinburger seems to destroy the value of the talks by boasting Reagan wants to deploy.
- Independent: You are given reassurances on the ABM by Nitze and Perle.
- Independent: Long article based on conversations with 20 recently retired officers says Tory promises on defence cannot be kept.

PEOPLE

- Elton John to sue Sun for allegations about his sex life - will be claiming "enormous" damages; but Sun continues with its allegations including drug taking with "rent boys". Mirror says John will sue for £5m.
- Jan Leeming in trouble with BBC bosses for thanking on TV viewers for caring genuinely about the attack on her.
- Terry Waite reported to have been moved by Shi'ite captors into Iranian Embassy in Beirut. Archbishop of Canterbury says it is unfounded.
- Bruce Kent is retiring from RC Church to concentrate on CND and politics.
- Sun says Royal family object to a play portraying one of them as stricken with AIDS which is to be performed at Bolton at Easter.
- Yehudi Menuhin gets Order of Merit.

BEIRUT

- Times: 7,000 Shia Muslims demonstrate against Syrian army in West Beirut.

MIDDLE EAST

- Independent: Peres to see Mubarak in peace bid.
- Independent: Editorial calls for recognition of Syrian approaches to the UK. Direct channels of communication can only further Western interests and objectives.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Clarke speaks at Coalfield Communities Campaign, Swansea

DEN: Mr Walker attends NEDO Energy Efficiency Event, Millbank Tower and in the evening attends Association of Institution of Electrical Engineers dinner, Grosvenor House, London

MOD: Mr Younger visits Lossiemouth

WO: Mr Edwards, Mr Roberts, Mr Robinson attend House of Lords St David's Day lunch

DEM: Mr Lee visits Liverpool

DEM: Mr Trippier opens new branch of Sock Shop, Oxford Street, London

DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses the Association of Colleges of Further and Higher Education, London

DES: Mr Dunn visits Chelsea School of Chiropody, London

DHSS: Mr Major visits Disabled Living Foundation, Harrow Road, London

DOE: Mr Tracey addresses South West Regional Council for Sport and Recreation, Exeter

DTI: Mr Howard attends council meeting of Welsh Consumer Council and later visits Companies Registration Office, Cardiff

DTI: Mr Clark addresses Francophone Africa Conference, London

DTP: Mr Mitchell visits Oxford

FCO: Lady Young addresses American University London Semester Programme

HO: Earl of Caithness attends prison dogs passing out parade, Preston

MAFF: Mr Gummer attends first meeting of Salmon Advisory Committee, London

MAFF: Mr Thompson addresses Kent Farmers Breakfast Club, Ye Maids Restaurant, Biddenden, Kent

MOD: Mr Freeman visits Colchester

OAL: Mr Luce visits Sheffield (to 27 February)

SO: Mr Ancram attends Urban Aid Conference, Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations, City Chambers, Glasgow

SO: Mr MacKay attends meeting of Salmon Advisors Committee, MAFF, London

WO: Mr Roberts meets Salmon Advisory Committee, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

MOD: Lord Trefgarne attends NATO meeting in Brussels

TV AND RADIO

Home Office Minister Mr Mellor takes part in LBC radio phone-in discussion on Broadcasting Green Paper.

"Their Lordships' House"; Channel 4 (13.45): Repeat of last night's programme

"Question Time"; BBC 1 (22.10): With Sir Robin Day. Guests include Alistair Graham; Bernie Grant; Angela Rumbold MP and Ann Sofer

"By-Election Special"; BBC 1 (23.50): Decision at Greenwich

"The Greenwich By-Election"; ITV (12.10)

"Their Lordships' House"; Channel 4 (12.20)

"News - Greenwich By-Election Special"; BBC Radio 4 (12.00)
