

6 March 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets UN Development Fund for Women representatives
Parliamentary wives for release of Soviet Jewry visit Moscow
Prince and Princess of Wales visit Birmingham

STATISTICS

DOE: Housing starts and completions (Jan)

DOE: House renovations (4th qtr)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: AIDS Q and A booklet for Teachers

MOD: Control and Management of the Development of Major Equipment

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS
Mr Tom Cox: Inner Cities
Mr John Carlisle: Football and the problems of Hooliganism
Mr Derek Spencer: Industrial Productivity in Leicester

Adjournment Debate

United Kingdom policy towards asylum seekers

MINISTERS - See Annex

MAIN NEWS

- President Reagan gets favourable coverage for his speech to the nation about Irangate - Americans rally round him.
- Pictures of you in three pages of the Star.
- Most papers carry Kinnock's leaked letter about dangers of loony Left, gays and lesbians to the Party.
- Millions of pounds of car and plane orders pouring in.
- Little coverage in pops of pensioners' rally.
- Lester Piggot to face new charges of cheating taxman.
- Nicholas Ridley's rates mess attacked.
- Press Council censures newspapers over Ealing vicarage rape case.
- Terry Waite still in Shi'ite hands.
- Calls for Harvey Proctor to resign - he refuses.
- Blackie, the Spanish donkey, features yet again in Sun/Star rivalry over who actually saved him.
- Woman loses court case over equal pay claim.

PRESS DIGESTPOLITICSLabour

- Sun, Mail and Express all lead on the leaked letter from Mr Kinnock's office warning that "loony Labour left" is taking its toll.
- Mail quotes from letter "gays and lesbians issue is costing us dea among pensioners".
- Sun says Mr Kinnock is panicking over Party's image.
- Express says urgent meeting of London MPs, candidates and campaign managers called to try to salvage Party's hopes of winning general election.
- Mirror describes letter as Kinnock tackling loony Left.
- Star: Kinnock takes urgent action to kill off Party's loony Left, gays and lesbians image.
- Mail: Rate rise of nearly 65% in Neil Kinnock's home borough of Ealing despite warning that it could cost up to 3,000 jobs.
- Telegraph: Labour's Parliamentary candidate for Woking forced to quit following call for extra-Parliamentary action to bring down Conservative Government.

- Today: Spike Milligan is to contest your seat at Finchley on behalf of the Green Party.

Alliance

- Guardian: David Owen and David Steel demand for coalition is immediate introduction of legislation for PR in local and European elections and promise of later bill to change Westminster system.

EAST/WEST

- Express: Lord Carrington warns West should not drop guard too quickly in response to Soviet peace offer.
- Telegraph P1 lead says America's arms negotiators in Geneva reassure Western Alliance that they would not strike deal with Soviets over medium-range missiles in Europe without parallel reduction in short-range weapons.

DEFENCE

- Mail: Secret document about test firing faults of Tiger-fish torpedoes found on Isle of Skye rubbish tip.
- The last extract in the Express from Nigel West's book reviews the "strange and shadowy role of molehunter" Peter Wright.
- Times : You defend Army spending record, following Lord Morpeth letter.
- Times: Kremlin reacts optimistically to new American proposals on eliminating medium-range nuclear missiles from Europe.
- Independent: Russians welcome US arms proposals.

LAW AND ORDER

- Government warned that prisons will hold 50,000 inmates next month - an all time high.
- Mirror P1 lead says muggers and burglars are beating law and order on the streets of "Thatcher's Britain". If you want protection don't expect it from police. Message, they say, comes from Home Office crime expert's report in British Journal of Criminology.
- Telegraph: Attack on West Indian club in Derby organised by coach load of white youths travelling with Portsmouth football supporters, say police.
- Times: MPs agree to table new clause in Criminal Justice Bill to bring back capital punishment for certain crimes.
- Times: Oxford Union rejects by 348 to 47 Gerry Adams' claim that IRA violence is justified.
- Times: Crowded jails lack basic standards of human decency, according to NACRO.

BUDGET

- Express: Labour Treasury spokesman accuses Nigel Lawson of keeping interest rates unnecessarily high to allow maximum impact for Budget.
- Express leader calls for cut now as there is no good reason for keeping them high. Forget politics, cut in interest rates too important for that.

ECONOMY

- Express: Britain's balance of payments plunged £1.1bn into red last year.
- Offshore tax havens and use of nominee shareholdings may be targetted as part of sweeping crackdown on City fraud if Labour wins power, says Labour's manifesto for cleaning-up City.
- Times leader says whatever the perils of guilt by association, the Government can generally be proud of the measures it has taken to protect investors and promote clean, competitive markets.

- Times: Pound rose sharply yesterday, to \$1.57, as optimism grew about a Budget mis of interest rate cuts and tax handouts.
- Guardian: Labour accuse Government of "massaging statistics" after CSO disclose balance of payments almost three times higher than announced a week ago.
- Guardian: Roy Hattersley squashes hopes of Labour centre Left by refusing to increase Party's £3bn job creation programme.
- FT: UK current account deficit worsens.
- FT: Bank of England moves against mounting pressure in UK financial markets for a cut in base lending rates.

TAX

- Telegraph: Car makers tell company car drivers to check 1987-88 tax codes as some tax offices trying to "overcharge" for private use of cars

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Mirror: Hundreds of women having to wait nine months to see if they have cancer and a further six months for treatment. More than 700 waiting for checks at Britain's biggest cervical cancer clinic.
- Telegraph: Government won and lost in Court of Appeal over board and lodgings regulations. It won challenge to validity of regulations between November 1985 and July 1986. But lost over payments between December 1984 and April 1985. Claims for backdated benefit could cost over £1m.
- Independent: Two more detailed studies of childhood leukaemia around Dounreay heighten likelihood of link with nuclear reprocessing.
- Times: Government faces £5m pay-out to unemployed after losing court case.
- Times: You reject call for substantial increases in basic pension after meeting delegation.
- Mail says you are to remain firm on pensions.

AIDS

- Only a cave-dwelling recluse could now be unaware of AIDS danger says Mail leader. To that extent Government campaign has succeeded. But there is growing unease about both its targetting and tone.
- Secret refuges to be set up for AIDS victims to spend short periods to give people who care for them a break.
- Express: Doctor tells AIDS victim to go away and cut her wrists.
- Mirror: New drug for AIDS victims could cost health service £1m a year.
- Telegraph: Gallup Poll says 9 out of 10 wants Government to set up AIDS screening tests.
- Telegraph: New drug has severe side effects.
- Times: Government's message is not explicit enough but it has succeeded in reaching almost the entire population, according to Gallup opinion poll.

AIDS (Cont'd)

- Independent: Terence Higgins Trust is considering reporting to the General Medical Council doctors who refuse to help AIDS patients.
- Independent: Specialists concluded the Retrovir anti-AIDS drug could cost NHS £3m a year.

MEDIA

- Press Council blames five national newspapers - Sun, News of the World, Times, Sunday Today and Guardian - for giving clues to the identity of Ealing vicarage rape victim. Mirror leader says this should never happen again. If the law has to be changed they will support it.
- Star: Whole of front page devoted to picture of you having tea with Russian fireman. You also feature in pictures on pages 2 and 3 with other Star Gold Award recipients. Leader devoted to presentation and mentions you hosting a special reception here.
- Times: Tougher law to protect rape victims, says Press Council following vicarage rape case.
- Independent diary says Sunday Sport has been granted admission to the Lobby.

INDUSTRY

- Times: BAe wins £170m orders for 19 aeroplanes.
- Today: Sir John Egan rewards shop floor "super workers" with a £5m shares handout.
- FT: Five regional development bodies win 26% extra cash.
- Guardian: John Smith describes funding as "pathetic response".
- FT: UK space projects ready for blast-off if Mr Pattie can win support from his Ministerial colleagues.

- Britain is roaring back among world beaters as orders worth millions of pounds pour in for cars and planes. Jaguar look for 700 extra men; Lotus 1,000; and plane-makers 250.

UNIONS

- Mail: Wandsworth NALGO workers voted to give £200 to ANC to buy arms. Only 95 of 2,4000 strong branch at meeting.

EDUCATION

- New wave of strikes by teachers threatened. Result of ballot known today.
- Telegraph: Single parents to seek aid from charities for public school fees.
- FT: Some teachers voice doubts on strike.

ENVIRONMENT

- Mail: Extraordinary blunder means Government will hand £10m to six London councils - most accused of wasting cash on loony Left projects. John Cunningham accuses Nicholas Ridley of "continuing incompetence".
- Guardian: AMA say new grant arrangements riddled with arithmetical flaws which could cause financial chaos.
- Times: Huge grants error made by faceless mandarin at DoE.

HOUSING

- Times: Government publishes Bill to give new rights to private flat tenants.
- FT: Findings of the Nugee committee to be implemented to give rights to tenants of privately-owned flats.

TRANSPORT

- Government looking at idea of privatising driving tests. Labour says its "grossly irresponsible" and would reverse privatisation.
- Today: BA is taking best care of its passengers in Which? survey.

PEOPLE

- Harvey Proctor says he won't quit over "malicious" allegations. Leading Tories believe he should not stand at next General Election.
- Express leader says his embarrassing private life will not help Tory cause in Billericay.
- Telegraph: Viscount Morpeth wants to become Liberal MP.
- Today: Dorothy Squires banned from taking further high court action when judge discovers she has issued 20 writs in five years.
- Today: Feature on Glynis Kinnock's "public passions".
- Times: Backers of Mr Heath for the post of Chancellor of Oxford University believe they have won your tacit support.
- Telegraph: John Browne issues High Court writ against Guardian.

BEIRUT

- Express: Intelligence sources believe some hostages may be freed soon in Syrian deal. Terry Waite unlikely to be among first as he is "too vulnerable".
- Telegraph: Militia says Terry Waite still in Shi'ite hands.

AMERICA

- Mail leader on President Reagan's statement says it was not his greatest performance, but his most contrite.
- Telegraph: President Reagan probably succeeded in jump-starting his stalled presidency but was warned there should be no falling asleep at wheel.
- Today: Reagan's lame apologies won't stop the questions. Leader says his days as an authoritative leader are finished.
- Guardian leader says Mr Reagan delivered a well-crafted little TV homily with aplomb.
- Times: Reagan widely praised for taking blame. Leader says he did what he does best: speaking to his fellow Americans from a prepared script. But there was no doubting that he was still vulnerable.
- Independent: Reagan looks ahead after Iran admission. Leader says contrite Reagan goes on probation.
- Telegraph leader says Mr Reagan made a display of remorse not seen in one holding his office since Bay of Pigs, yet that must not blind his people to what was left unsaid.
- Guardian P1 lead says buoyant Reagan scents a victory. Puts Irangate behind him and goes for Russian deal.

RUSSIA

- Today: Row with Russia as Tories barred from visit to "refuseniks".

TERRY PERKS

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Clarke visits North West
- DES: Mr Baker addresses AGM of Governing Bodies Association, London
- HO: Mr Hurd attends meeting of the United Nations Association to lead discussion on international co-operation to combat terrorism, Oxfordshire
- MOD: Mr Younger speaks at Christchurch, Hampshire
- SO: Mr Rifkind delivers opening address followed by Q and A session, Institute of Housing, Coylumbridge Hotel, Aviemore
- WO: Mr Edwards makes Keynote address to Welsh Enterprise Conference, Cwmbran
- DES: Mr Walden addresses Eastbourne Business and Professional Club
- DHSS: Baroness Trumpington visits Pelsall Ambulance Training Centre, Birmingham; later meets staff involved in the Stafford District General Hospital Legionnaires Disease outbreak
- DHSS: Mr Newton addresses Royal College of Nursing conference, London; later opens Institute of Health Service Managers Northern Conference, Windermere Conference Centre, Lake District
- DTI: Mr Shaw meets Japanese journalists on inward investment, London
- DTp: Mr Spicer visits Staverton Airport, Gloucestershire
- DTp: Mr Bottomley attends British Cycle Industry Centenary Club, annual dinner, Solihull
- HO: Lord Caithness visits Pucklechurch Remand Centre and Eastwood Park Detention Centre
- MAFF: Lord Belstead attends lunch in honour of the Rt Hon James Bolger MP, New Zealand Leader of the opposition, New Zealand High Commission, London
- MOD: Lord Trefgarne attends AEW Defender rollout at Pilatus Britton, Norman (location to be confirmed)
- MOD: Mr Freeman visits Air Squadron, University of Wales, Cardiff
- SO: Mr Ancram attends meeting of Institute of Housing; later meets Highland Regional Council to discuss Dornock Bridge, Edinburgh
- WO: Mr Roberts meets Council for National Parks, Cardiff; later attends exhibition by Euro Tunnel Group, Cardiff
- WO: Mr Robinson makes opening address to Heartbeat Wales conference on national no smoking campaign, Cwmbran

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DEM: Lord Young visits USA (to 11 March)
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TV AND RADIO

Scottish Office Minister, Lord Glenarthur appears on Grampian TV phone-in on AIDS, (18.00)

"Thier Lordship's House"; Channel 4 (14.15): Repeat of last night's programme

"What the Papers Say"; Channel 4 (20.00): With Lesly Garner of Daily Telegraph

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

"Newsround Extra"; BBC 1 (16.55): Roger Finn reports on latest decisions on Sizewell

"Newsnight"; BBC 2 (22.30): With Donald MacCormick

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.20): Rt Hon Tony Benn MP; Alan Beith MP; Nicholas Winterton MP and Denise Robertson
