

24 March 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

King of Saudi Arabia arrives; Prime Minister meets him at Victoria Station, later attends State Banquet at Buckingham Palace

Prime Minister meets Dr Yuri Orlov

DES: Launch of video on craft design and technology as a career in teaching

EC: Research Council, Brussels

Westminster City Council announces plan for redeveloping Parliament Square

STATISTICS

OPCS: Population Trends No 47

CBI: Monthly Trends Enquiry (Mar)

PUBLICATIONS

NAO: Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General on Service Hospitals

OFT: Securities Investment Board rules of operation (10.30)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Defence; Employment; Prime Minister

Business: Proceedings on the consolidated fund (No 2) Bill

Adjournment Debate: Grassland farming in Wales (Dr R Thomas)

Select Committees: PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION
Subject: Reports of the Health Service Commissioner for 1984-85; Reports of the Parliamentary Commissioner for 1986
Witnesses: South West Thames Regional Health Authority; Mr Anthony Barrowclough, QC, and Mr Donald Allen, CMG

DEFENCE

Subject: The Implications for the United Kingdom, of Ballistic-Missile Defence

Witnesses: Officials of the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Lords: Petroleum Bill: Committee

Parliamentary and Health Service Commissioners Bill: Second Reading

Industrial Training Levy (Engineering Board) Order 1987: Motion for Approval

UQ to ask HMG what steps they are taking to supply the deficiencies, revealed by the Secretary General of NATO, in merchant shipping available for civil and military use in the event of crisis or war

UQ to ask HMG what progress they are making with the development and introduction of a safer whooping cough vaccine.

MINISTERS - See AnnexPRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Bright economic forecast from CBI - best for 10 years.
- 31 injured in car bomb explosion at British Army Rheindalen last night.
- A prison officer and 2 policemen killed in linked ambushes in IFA outrage in Londonderry.
- Good coverage of your visit to Caen and Bonn - your pre-Moscow stance is firm.
- Guardian says British Army's order for EH101 ends Westland's short-term problem.
- Kinnock sets out what he will tell Reagan on Friday - includes withdrawal from SDI research. Express: Kinnock's defence snub for America.
- Norman Tebbit maintains attack on Alliance at party to celebrate 10th anniversary of Lib-Lab pact. Mail says he claims Steel is out to sign a post election pact with Labour at almost any price. Telegraph criticism of Mr Tebbit's tactic vis a vis the Alliance.
- Brian Sedgemore accuses Sir Jasper Hollom, chairman of Takeover Panel, of seeking to cover up financial crimes.
- Guinness among 35 British and US investors suing Eoesky.
- Express says Britain's courts have become the jail-happy Kings of Europe, according to European prison figures out today.

MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- Life Guards captain, accused of drug running in Sweden, alleged to have said he is "a top British spy". Mirror quotes him as saying he was set up.
- Lords to hear appeal against High Court ruling that 17 year old mentally retarded girl should be sterilised.
- You personally ordered an inquiry into bail procedures after Tottenham murder trial; Sun says Judge Lyberty committed a grievous and fatal error and should resign.
- Man granted bail on murder charge hanged himself yesterday just before he was due to face trial.
- Two Tottenham rioters, one black and one white, jailed for 2½ and 3 years for affray.
- Ex-Falklands sailor shot dead in Sunderland chasing bank robbers.
- Iran claims Terry Waite is being held by fanatical Lebanese group who believe he is a spy for the Americans. Jumblatt says Waite had money to bargain with Iran.
- 60 AEU staff in London go on strike when told they cannot have a rise because union is overspent.
- NUM puts up subs 40% to stave off financial crisis.- Scargill threatened to sack half NUM staff.
- Norman Fowler hopes that pregnant women will volunteer for AIDS tests; conference predicts 4000 Britons face death from AIDS by 1989.
- Ken Livingstone causes a bit of a stir in the low pops by reckoning "everyone is bisexual".
- Telegraph says Haughey intends to maintain direct control over Ulster relations.
- Guardian returns to old story "Top officials helped Lawson with his tax".
- Andrew Peacock, leading Australian Liberal politician, sacked by party leader for abusing him in telephone conversation . . . intercepted by blind "ham".
- Willy Brandt resigns as chairman of SPD, over selection of Greek woman as party spokesman.

POLITICS

- Express says it is not easy to understand what Conservatives think they gain by suddenly promoting the Alliance as a main political threat. Guardian says there is concern amongst Mr Tebbit's Ministerial colleagues that his tactics could work against the Government.
- Independent: Mr Tebbit's party for the Lib-Lab pact is hailed by the Alliance as confirmation that they had overtaken Labour as the main Opposition.
- Edwina Currie gives Glenys another mauling, according to Star, saying politics in the bedroom is a very dangerous thing and revealing that many Labour MPs privately supported her efforts to put Mrs Kinnock in her place.
- Today praises idea of getting rid of 1974 Rent Act - arguably the biggest single avoidable cause of homelessness.
- Times: Alliance predicts big May local election victory.
- FT: TUC and Labour agree joint economic strategy.
- Times: Many inner city councils will be stripped of key powers under package you are considering as centrepiece for manifesto.
- Mirror says thousands of its readers are frightened for the future of their children in our "slum schools".
- Guardian leader says the factor of humanity lurks behind the public opinion polls.
- Guardian feature says that even in his home Welsh ground Kinnock has doubters to contend with.

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT

- John Prescott describes the idea of stopping unemployment benefit from schoolleavers who refuse training as "forced conscription". Bickerstaffe: It's humiliating.
- Star says it is mindless political pap to condemn the plans. How much better to take part in training or in community schemes than hanging around bored. But these schemes won't replace proper jobs.
- Sun sees nothing controversial or surprising in the idea. It is simple justice. Why should taxpayers be made to help people who refuse to help themselves?
- Times: 20,000 school leavers who refuse jobs or training could lose benefits under manifesto.

- John Hamilton, ex-Liverpool Council leader, signs on dole.
- Sun features the Patels who have made it from nothing in Britain.

KINNOCK - his stance in USA briefly covered by other "pops".

- Express says Kinnock delivered 2 major snubs to Americans before going there: party document calls on NATO countries in Europe to seek separate arms deals with Warsaw Pact; and his decision to pull out of SDI research (though only new ones, it seems); leader says Labour's cut and run plan suits Moscow - a reference to the plan to cut conventional forces through bilateral agreements with Warsaw Pact. It wonders who we are to believe about Labour's policy. It is a disastrous shambles.
- Lord Chalfont, in Express, says Kinnock is expected to tell "underwhelmed Reagan Administration "As long as you wanted to station Cruise in Britain I was determined to remove them. Now you are discussing the possibility of removing them, I am happy they should stay. But if you fail to come to an agreement and decide they should stay, then of course they will have to go."
- Mail: Kinnock's snub to Star Wars. Leader headed "Kinnock's toy statesman kit" says young Neil's breathless quest for world recognition is almost touching and describes Kinnock/Healey duo for American trip as Labour's Little and Large. Nothing can now camouflage the broad streak of neutralism which passes for the backbone of the present Labour Party.
- Telegraph: Kinnock rebuff on Star Wars.
- Telegraph feature headed "Mr Kinnock gives America the GI blues" reports the risk of hardening America's isolationist tendencies.
- Guardian: Kinnock contracts out of Star Wars.
- Independent: Kinnock firm on nuclear policies. He will tear up the Anglo/US MOU on Star Wars research.
- Peter Jenkins, under the headline "Kinnock's debilitating nuclear logic" says that for Kinnock to go to the States just as you visit the Kremlin is positively to invite unfavourable comparison. You are photographed with President Mitterrand and quoted in both Paris and Bonn.
- Times F1 lead says Neil Kinnock makes plain Labour Government would end agreement with US on Star Wars project. US and European politicians against it. Clear he has no intention of being on defensive when he meets President Reagan.

INDUSTRY

- FT: Plan to put hundreds of London buses on streets of China on verge of collapse because of shortage of finance and spares.
- FT: West Germans back British coal plant.
- FT: BP considering £10m investment programme to improve services in Royal Docks area.
- FT: BAe asks Government to act on satellite contract.
- FT leader says Japanese wrong to reduce to point of near absurdity Cable and Wireless attempt to help provide second international telephone service.
- Times: Caterpillar go to court to end Scottish workers' sit-in.
- Times : Work starts on Sizewell.
- Guardian says Trawsfynydd power station faces closure because of fault in main dam.

NHS

- Star, referring to hospital treatment for Victor Louis, alleged KGB colonel, and Colombian drugs dealer, says the simple fail-safe way of jumping a hospital waiting list is to become either a Communist or a crook.
- Times: £75m saved on NHS drugs bill.

EDUCATION

- Express says angry parents are to confront striking teachers in London today.

LAW AND ORDER

- Star says Home Office and DES are consulting on compulsory lessons in good citizenship.
- Lord Denning condemns a BBC plan for a documentary on Stephen Ward, of Profumo scandal - for "dredging up cases and showing them as miscarriages of justice". Denning led inquiry into the affair.

MEDIA

- ITV lost 14% of TV audience in February but still had biggest share at 52.4; switch to BBC sharpest in South.
- Express leader says if John Birt can bring journalism where you cannot tell the opinion of the journalist to the BBC he will have achieved a great deal.

RESEARCH

- Times: David Sainsbury article looks at funding of R&D; leader says there is not yet the sign that Government is facing up to Britain's future as an advanced technological nation with anything like the verve with which it has attacked the problems of its past.
- Times: SERC provide £200,000 for research into ceramic superconductors.
- Mail leader says that whatever criticism of industry, universities and institutes, the Government of the day must bear the heaviest responsibility for failing to do more to coordinate research and promote the pioneering spirit. Never let it be said your administration was too stingy to pay the price of the tickets to tomorrow's world.
- Mail news story says 5 years work at Imperial College is imperilled because of shortage of cash to pursue route to cheap electricity.
- Telegraph reports that Prof Colin Blakemore, Oxford's youngest ever professor of psychology, is considering taking his research team to the USA because of lack of money.

DEFENCE

- John Stanley orders military chiefs to put an end to bullying of young soldiers - Times.
- Times: Plans to merge three military schools of music abandoned.

EC

- Times leader looks at 30th anniversary of Treaty of Rome. EEC should put finance, agriculture, technology and trade on firmer footing. Only then can the 12 consider broadening their competence into areas like defence.
- FT: EC's efforts to work towards open internal market by 1992 worries EFTA about being left out in the cold.

NIGERIA

- FT: Nigerian officials start talks with ECGD over debt terms.

ITALY

- FT: Androtti's bid to form coalition Government set to fail.
- Ex-President Pertini collapses at State funeral for general shot by terrorists.

FRANCE

- FT: Sluggish growth forecast for French economy next year. Number of jobs will increase but unemployment will continue to rise because of demographic trends.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Lord Young presents awards at British Academy of Gastronomes lunch, London
- MAFF: Mr Jopling lunches with East German Ambassador, Belgrave Square, London
- DEM: Mr Lee visits Community Service Volunteers, London
- DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith addresses conference on royal offshore research and development, Lancaster House, London
- DEN: Mr Hunt visits Leicester, later visits Yorkshire Electricity Board, Leeds
- DHSS: Mrs Currie speaks at Food and Drink Federation, London; later attends opening of the Joint British Advisory Committee on Children's Nursing conference, London
- DOE: Mr Patten visits Rushcliffe and Nottingham
- DOE: Mr Tracey speaks to the pupils of St Paul School, Barnes
- DOE: Lord Skelmersdale visits Bromley Council to look at environmental projects as part of the Clean and Green Campaign
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave visits exhibition on vehicle emissions at the House of Commons
- DTI: Mr Butcher visits Nottingham
- DTP: Mr Bottomley opens the Heighington Lane Improvement on A 167 Trunk Road, Durham
- FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses All Party Parliamentary Human Rights Group, London
- HMT: Mr Brooke addresses The British Property Federation, Leeds Castle
- MAFF: Mr Gummer attends launch of Thames Salmon Trust, Fishmongers Hall, London
- MAFF: Mr Thompson lunches with Convent Garden Market Authority, London
- MOD: Lord Trefgarne visits the Technitron Exhibition at Church Crookham
- WO: Mr Robinson meets Wales Office of Association of District Councils, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Mr Pattie attends EC Research Council, Brussels
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TV AND RADIO

DHSS Minister Mrs Currie on Radio Derby Phone In, Daily Mail Ideal Homes Exhibition, 10.30 am

"The Local Network;" BBC R4; (16.04); Chernobyl - a year later. Has it concentrated the mind on the nuclear age?

"The Lebanese Labyrinth;" BBC R4; (19.20); David Sells guides you through the labyrinth that is Lebanon today.

"The Tuesday Feature;" "Tomorrow in Parliament"; BBC R4 (20.50); Who are the new women coming on to the political scene in 1987? Sonia Beesley reports on the women who will be speaking out tomorrow in Parliament.

"Their Lordship's House;" Channel 4; (12.10 am)
