

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets King Fahd, later is host at a lunch in his honour

Prime Minister receives deeds of Cape Cornwall on behalf of the nation; later hopes to have an audience with the Queen

30th anniversary of the Treaty of Rome

NUM special conference on "financial crisis"

EC: Economic and Social Committee Plenary Session, Brussels (to 26 March)

EC: Conference on Europe, the Cultural Challenge, Florence (to 28 March)

Conference on care of AIDS patients

TUC: General Council

International Women's Day

STATISTICS

DOE: Construction - new orders (Jan)

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Gaming Board Annual Report 1986

BOTB: Annual Report

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Trade and Industry; Environment; Scotland

Business: Motions on the Rate Support Grant (England) 1987-88, The Rate Support Grant Supplementary Report (England) (No 1) 1986-87, The Rate Support Grant Supplementary Report (England) (No 3) 1985-86

Afterwards Motions on the Welsh Rate Support Grant Report 1987-88 and the Welsh Rate Support Grant Supplementary Report 1986-87

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Adjournment Debate: The funding of the Leicester Royal Infirmary (Mr D Spencer)

Select Committees: WELSH AFFAIRS
 Subject: The condition and repair of privately-owned housing
 Witnesses: Cardiff City Council; Colwyn Borough Council

ENERGY

Subject: The Effect of Oil and Gas Prices on Activity in the North Sea
 Witnesses: Association of British Independent Oil Exploration Companies; British Petroleum; Esso UK plc

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Motor Components Industry
 Witnesses: British Steel Corporation (at 10.45 am); United Engineering Steel (at 11.30 am)

DEFENCE

Subject: The Implications for the United Kingdom of Ballistic-Missile Defence
 Witness: British Aerospace plc

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: The Measurement of Farming Incomes; Intervention Stockholding in the UK
 Witnesses: Sir Michael Franklin, KCB, CMG, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Mr G Stapleton, Intervention Board for Agriculture Produce

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Problems associated with AIDS
 Witnesses: Dr Harold Gunson, Director, North West Regional Blood Transfusion Service; Dr Richard Lane, Director Blood Products Laboratory; Professor Ian Kennedy, Professor of Law and Ethics, King's College, London

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Pollution of Rivers and Estuaries
 Witnesses: Friends of the Earth, and Greenpeace

TRANSPORT

Subjects: Decline in the UK-registered Merchant Fleet; Public Expenditure White Paper
 Witnesses: Department of Transport officials

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE

Subject: The 1987 Budget
 Witnesses: H M Treasury officials

Lords: Consolidated Fund Bill: Second Reading and Remaining Stages
 Debate to call attention to the relations of the United Kingdom with the United States and with the USSR.
 Takeovers and Mergers (Employee Protection) Bill (HL) Second Reading

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- 30th anniversary of Treaty of Rome today.
- EC countries can expect an additional 1000 deaths over next 50 years, on top of 30m expected from cancer, because of Chernobyl - NRPB; 40 in UK.
- Pentagon claims Russians are using lasers in Afghanistan to temporarily blind Western jet pilots on patrol; Russians beg to differ.
- Lots of coverage of King Fahd's arrival and visit.
- Kinnock says Cruise will be removed from this country in the lifetime of a Labour Government - seen as yet another shift. Guardian suggests Cruise build up at Molesworth is under way.
- Papers home in today on your concern with human rights when you go to Moscow, arising out of your Commons answer to Stefan Telezki. Guardian says you plan pre-election meeting in Washington with Reagan next month.
- British Aerospace threatening to pull out of latest Airbus project because Government launch aid support is not enough; it wants full £750m it sought.
- Kinnock pledges to control imports to give British jobs a breathing space.
- You tell Saudi TV you are looking to a full third term of office.
- More on N/S - row at the Health Education Council over report which allegedly highlights the widening gap between rich and poor; and Reward Regional Surveys on the cost of houses in SE which deters people moving from the North.
- IRA claim they planted bomb at Rheindalen; Tom King condemns IRA ambushes which kill 3 in ambushes.
- Lifeguards Captain one of 12 arrested in Sweden in action against alleged international drugs ring.
- Lord Chief Justice calls for shorter jail terms for social security swindlers; Mail thinks he is right.
- Paul Foot, on TV tonight, will argue 4 men convicted of killing Carl Bridgewater, newspaper boy, are innocent.
- Police Complaints Authority says some officers used excessive force trying to disperse hippy convoy in 1985.

MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- Express reports pro-hanging lobby in Commons trying to rally support for next week's vote which Home Secretary will oppose.

- Punching and kicking by commuters trying to keep others off crowded rush hour train in SE London caused by rail strike.

- Breakthrough in vaccine for whooping cough claimed.
- Guardian claims pro-Scargillite, Sammy Thompson, has won NUM vice presidency.
- New production record in Britain's coal mines.
- Prospect of much lower air fares in Europe next year - cut by at least half after end of price fixing agreement is accepted.

- P&O, Zeebrugge ferry firm, made £174m record pre-tax profit last year.

- Company directors have doubled their pay since 1980, according to survey.

- Ex-Chancellor Kreisky claims he can prove Nazi hunter Weisenthal collaborated with Nazis during war.

- Mail says Government is on the point of reaching a Civil Service deal rewarding high performers with merit money.

- Telegraph says Haughey has dropped his plan to renegotiate Anglo-Irish Agreement.

- Al Haig throws his hat into the presidential ring.

YOUR VISIT TO MOSCOW

- Pravda causes little stir with its claim that your "negotiation through strength" approach is "outdated".
- Sun: Maggie to battle for rebels. You are determined to get a better deal for dissidents and Jews.
- George Gale, in Mirror, says you are the second most powerful leader in the West and your opponents fervently wish this were not so. You are more honoured abroad than at home where the British people remain remarkably churlish towards their international asset.
- Express: Maggie: I will back rebels. You are determined to make human rights a key issue.
- Mail: "Maggie's human rights bid" - you will make future of dissidents a bench mark.
- Telegraph leads with "Thatcher sets freedom test for Kremlin"; leader says you go as spokeswoman for a concerted Europolicy and as representative of the whole Western Alliance in the preliminaries to a superpower summit. Gorbachev's recognition of Europe's legitimate fears about Soviet military power is a necessary preliminary to a new arms control agreement.
- Seven dissident Soviet emigrés write in Telegraph on glasnost.
- Times: Christopher Walker from Moscow says assisted by Tony Benn, the official Soviet media and Foreign Ministry have launched series of bitter attacks on Britain's defence and human rights policies in run-up to your visit.
- Independent: Kremlin piqued by your "hostile" speech in Torquay.
- Times: You are to make human rights issues major focus of your trip to Moscow.

KINNOCK'S VISIT TO REAGAN (DUBBED MISSION IMPOSSIBLE)

- Sun asks if his journey is really necessary given the mess he is in over Cruise and his decision to scrap SDI participation. We feel sorry for Reagan, says Sun; but at least he will be able to show Kinnock the door quickly - the voters will have to wait until June 11.
- George Gale, in Mirror, says Kinnock will be treated politely but without the admiring respect you will get in Russia.
- Express leader says Kinnock will arrive in Washington in time to study Pentagon's report confirming massive Soviet arms build up over past 10 years.
- Mail says Kinnock will get a reluctant US welcome - Reagan feels he has no choice but to see him.
- Guardian leader asks why on earth does Kinnock want to go to Washington. The probabilities for no gain whatsoever are pretty mountainous. Reagan is never going to buy Labour's non-nuclear package. The old maxim surely applies: if you are selling, find someone who wants to buy. It looks a bit dotty to seek Reagan's seal of approval.
- Feature articles in Times look at Mr Kinnock's visit to US. Say Americans fear Labour Government because they know it would mean end of NATO and the special relationship between US and Britain. It is explained why Britain needs SDI deal; in another article, Alan Ryan, Fellow of New College, Oxford, analyses Labour's attempt to update its philosophy.
- Times leader looks at Neil Kinnock's visit to US and his defence policy described as Labour's most fatal flaw. Policy will be probed and probed by Americans. It cannot stand up to scrutiny. It can only be tested to destruction.

POLITICS

- Sun says the Government is split over the timing and tactics of the General Election - apparently based on Lord Whitelaw's view that there is not full Cabinet support for June on basis of present polls.
- Sun says Messrs Walker, Channon, Biffen and Jopling will leave the Government along with Lord Whitelaw and Nicholas Edwards (who are retiring) after General Election.
- Today claims you have been forced to call in Michael Heseltine to help fight off Alliance threat - he will be given barnstorming role but will be dumped after the election.
- Independent: Peter Jenkins argues that it would take a genius to lose the election and the Tories have found one in Mr Tebbit. He says that the Whips Office are at the forefront of passing this opinion on to you but your position is unclear.
- Times: Considerable dissension among Ministers about most suitable date for you to call election.
- Times: Labour publishes policy document on industry.
- FT: Special feature on how "the Thatcher years" have bought about a privatisation revolution.
- Delegation from Liverpool met Mr Ridley on cash crisis. Ministers know if they offer to bail out Liverpool they will be flooded with demands from other councils. (FT).
- FT: Labour puts £1bn a year price on industry package. Mr Kinnock sought to play down expectations about how quickly industrial generation might be achieved.

RESEARCH

- Telegraph says Kenneth Baker is to try to win extra cash for R&D out of Treasury to prevent decline in university research.
- Guardian says UK was in a minority of one over EC research funds.
- Times: American universities offer salaries between two to four times higher than those in Britain.
- Cambridge scientists put Britain ahead of rest of Europe in new "superconductor" technology.

EMPLOYMENT/ECONOMY

- Today leader says there is some crude truth in the CBI's upbeat forecast but it is a distorted image and based on selective figures.
- Times: Dollar falls to 40-year low against the yen.

INDUSTRY

- Times: BA plans to buy £1bn worth/bigger jets to meet demand and replace Tristars.
of
- Times: William Holdings makes £542m bid for Morcross in what would be bitter takeover battle.
- Times: CBI's new DG, John Banham, launches 5-year strategy to tackle some of the "serious continuing national competitive handicaps that seriously impair Britain's economic performance".
- FT: Director of Fair Trading challenges SIB proposed rules on sale of life assurance and unit trusts.
- FT: Austin Rover seeks to restore image by entering the UK leasing and rental market.

EDUCATION

- Two largest teaching unions staging strikes say there is no point in meeting Mr Baker because of his attitude towards them.
- Mr Baker wants everyone to encourage children to do more homework after schools Inspectors criticise its handling in many schools.
- John Banham, CBI, complains that 1 in 2 children leave school without qualifications.
- Times: Flying squad of headteachers to go into schools with management or academic difficulties planned for third Conservative term of office.

HEALTH

- Auditor General suggests army hospitals should be used to cut NHS waiting lists; 18,000 more could be treated.
- Mirror says you snubbed the dying yesterday for turning down a plea for free prescriptions for cancer patients.
- Israeli doctor claims breakthrough in AIDS treatment with drug based on egg yolk.
- Times: Government health advisers to investigate whether voluntary AIDS tests for expectant mothers will help check spread of disease.

LAW AND ORDER

- Mirror claims a boy soldier, 17, is under arrest for telling Mirror how he was bullied by NCOs; Mirror leader says bullying is a dreadful indictment of the ruinous way the Army is run.

DEFENCE

- Ex-Royal Armoured Corps captain, writing in Mail, says unending series of minor but debilitating cuts, "salami slicing" is making life difficult in the Armed Forces.
- Independent: Weapons cover-up denied by you and Mr Stanley. Montebello agrees in principal to update weapons but no decisions taken.

PEOPLE

- Star continues its investigation into the Edwina Currie lifestyle and finds she is no killjoy.
- Jean Rook, in Express, says if Edwina Currie didn't exist she would invent her to say precisely what she (Rook) feels about Glenys Kinnock.
- Independent: Editorial on Chancellor's tax affairs awards black marks to Mr Lawson but more to Sir Robert. Mr Lawson's behaviour over stamp duty was ill-considered, Sir Robert's obnoxious and quite unconscionable.

ROYALS

- Star leader on Princess Diana going foxhunting - "just for once she has got it totally wrong".

HOSTAGES

- Independent: Tehran 'ready for a deal' with West on Beirut hostages.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Lord Young makes presentation to Guardian Young Businessman of the Year, Mansion House, London
- DES: Mr Baker visits schools in Teeside and Durham
- DHSS: Mr Fowler, Mr Newton and Baroness Trumpington attend all day Community Care AIDS conference, London University Institute of Education
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses reception for the 30th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome, London
- MAFF: Mr Jopling attends Lord Mayor's Banquet for King Fhad of Saudi Arabia, Guildhall, London
- MOD: Mr Younger speaks at the Carlton Club, London
- DEM: Mr Lee records video for Jobshare Scheme; later visits Remploy, Cricklewood
- DEN: Mr Hurst visits the Mecca Conference on energy efficiency, Leeds
- DEN: Mr Goodlad attends presentation of Electricity Civic Shield award to the City of Westminster
- DES: Mr Walden attends launch of Craft Pension and Technology pamphlet, by the Secondary Schools Council
- DTI: Mr Pattie opens 'User Com 87' Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London.
- DTP: Lord Brabazon visits the Institute of Freight Forwarders, Colnbrook, Slough
- HO: Mr Hogg visits Leicester Prison
- HO: Mr Mellor addresses CBI Conference on drugs
- MAFF: Mr Gummer addresses NFU/BMMA seminar on pig industry, London
- MOD: Mr Hamilton meets representatives of CND and Greenpeace, London
- OAL: Mr Luce speaks at opening of West Norfolk Guild of Professional Craftsmen exhibition; later speaks at Norfolk Arts Forum and Greek Icons and Frescoes exhibition
- WO: Mr Roberts launches Enterprise in YTS scheme, Cardiff

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTP: Mr Mitchell visits Hungary on a trade mission (to 29 March)
-

TV AND RADIO

"Diverse Reports;" Channel 4; (20.30); Presents the first programme made by Soviet Television after a request from this country. When the Prime Minister arrives in Moscow, what sort of society is she stepping into? Vladimir Posner of Godtelradio, Moscow, has been out and about assessing the impact of Gorbachev's new policy of "openness."

"Their Lordship's House;" Channel 4; (12.00 am).

"The Thatcher Effect;" BBC R 4 (20.15). Is the Government responsible, directly or indirectly, for the growing wealth gap? Mary Goldring takes evidence from different families.
