

26 March 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets French Economic Minister; later attends State Banquet given by King of Saudi Arabia

EC: Decision due on UK's ERDF regional development programme

Lord Hailsham gives press conference on Legal Aid White Paper at 4pm

Mr Kinnock goes to the USA

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STATISTICS

CSO: Personal income expenditure and saving (4th qtr)

CSO: Industrial and commercial companies (4th qtr)

DEN: Energy Trends (Jan)

DTP: New vehicle registrations (Feb)

DTI/CSO: Balance of Payments current account and overseas trade figures (Feb)

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PUBLICATIONS

Workplace Industrial Relations and Technical Change, by W W Daniels, sponsored by DE, ACAS, ESRC, PSI

HO: Government responses to the third report from the Social Service Committee Services 1985/86 on the Prison Medical Service

Publication of Lloyd Report on telephone interception

LCD: Legal Aid in England and Wales - A New Framework (4pm)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Treasury; Home Office; Prime Minister

Business: Until about seven o' clock remaining stages of the Immigration (carriers' liability) Bill followed by remaining stages of the Broadcasting Bill (Lords)

Adjournment debate: Nurses pay and conditions (Mr W Hamilton)

Select Committees: TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE  
Subject: The 1987 Budget  
Witness: Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England



PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Lords: Housing (Scotland) Bill (Consolidation): Second Reading  
 Animals (Scotland) Bill: Consideration of Commons Amendments  
 International Headquarters and Defence Organisations  
 (Designation and Privileges) (Amendment) Order 1987  
 Visiting Forces and International Headquarters (Application  
 of Law) (Amendment) Order 1987  
 Plugs and Sockets etc (Safety) Regulations 1987: Motion for  
 Approval.  
 Statistics of Trade Act 1947 (Amendment of Schedule) Order  
 1987: Motion for Approval  
 Supplementary Benefit (Resources) Amendment Regulations 1987  
 Motion for Approval  
 Supplementary Benefit (Requirements and Resources) Amendment  
 and Uprating Regulations 1987: Motion for Approval  
 Broadcasting (Extension of Duration of IBA's Function) Order  
 1987: Motion for Approval  
 Codes of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock:  
 Revised Code No 3 - Domestic Fowls: Motion for Approval  
 Codes of Recommendations for the Welfare of Livestock:  
 Revised Code No 4 - Turkeys: Motion for Approval  
 Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Ducks: Motion for  
 Approval  
 Code of Recommendations for the Welfare of Rabbits: Motion  
 for Approval  
 Carriage of Passengers and their Luggage by Sea (Domestic  
 Carriage) Order 1987: Motion for Approval  
 Merchant Shipping Act 1979 (Commencement No 11) Order 1987:  
 Motion for Approval  
 Patents (Amendment) Bill (HL): Report.  
 UQ on the privatisation of the Plant Breeding Institute and  
 the National Seed Development Organisation.

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Marplan poll in Today - 36/31/31 thought to have set back prospects of June election; Today claims this shows SDP/Libs can win.
- You are to get red carpet treatment in Moscow; Kinnock will get 20 minutes to put the unilateralist case in Washington, according to Sun.
- On eve of trip it is disclosed that Kinnock and his wife have signed a petition against US brutal terrorism in Nicaragua.
- John Fleming, wanted for questioning about Brinks Mat bullion robbery, loses fight to avoid being sent back to Britain - due back in Heathrow this morning.



MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- Plenty of pictorial coverage of King Fahd's visit.
- Man accused of murdering 7 year old girl bailed on Tuesday in private hearing at Nottingham after 2 months in jail.
- High Court told Ernest Saunders paid more than £3m into his bank account last year.
- A lot of disquiet in Commons over Japanese protectionism - Richard Hickmet suggests we should kick out a Japanese bank. Telegraph lead says you could soon bow to pressure for action.
- New Labour split opens: NEC condemns Black Section conference and warns "rebels" they could be expelled; but blacks respond defiantly.
- Botha attacks you for agreeing to talks with ANC when you promised him you wouldn't.
- Foreign Office dismisses as "fantasy" claims that you have approved sale of Blowpipe to Nicaragua. Times records your denial you have ever met North. Telegraph says Government is under increasing pressure for a full inquiry into allegations.
- OUP and DUP come to blows in public about protest against public order legislation.
- Guardian claims Hartlepool ACR suffered the most serious accident last week for that type of reactor which was shut down immediately CEBG says there was no risk to public.
- Mail says hunt for IRA in Europe yesterday switched to Holland.
- Exports, excluding oil, earned record £64.5bn last year - up 4%.
- Telegraph says Royal Opera House has failed to get sufficient funds to meet its mounting debts.
- Centre for Policy Studies claims cost of electricity could be cut 20% if industry was privatised.
- Claims that a woman warehouse worker has made an equal pay breakthrough in Appeal Court.
- Andreotti gives up attempt to form coalition.
- Star says police believe they will soon find two more victims of Brady/Hindley murders on moors.
- Mirror claims that gangs of hoaxers are trying to cash in on Zeebrugge disaster by making false claims for compensation.
- Express says hundreds of civilians and guerrillas have been killed in Soviet air attacks and commando raids on N. Pakistan.
- Caddafi suffers major blow in war in Chad and is hit by heavy losses.



POLITICS

- Sun blockbuster of a leader headed "Twisted, evil, treacherous - the only words that fit Wedgewood Benn" says that on the eve of your mission to Moscow he has defamed his own country by telling people in a Russian magazine interview Britain's human rights record is nothing to be proud of. People are jailed for political reasons. Sun says he is an abomination and tells him to take the first plane to Russia. Express leader: Nasty Mr Benn. Something offensive about spreading lies abroad about your country.
  - Today leads with its poll which it says deals double blow for tired out Tories and lagging Labour. Surge in Alliance support of 10%.
  - Express says Lord Young has been drafted into your election team for TV purposes.
  - Express presents Marplan poll as a shock for Labour but says Alliance is putting squeeze on both Labour and Conservative.
  - Times P1 says prospects of June election recede as Alliance surge forward - now level with Labour in Marplan poll. Gilts fall over fears of hung Parliament.
  - Liberals unsure against second election; SDP thinking about it.
  - Mail: Alliance boost as poll gives Tories a jolt; Frank Chapple, in Mail, joins in criticism of Norman Tebbit for attacking the Alliance and says he wouldn't be keen on an early election if he were you.
  - Telegraph says Conservative party has amassed 12,500 potential new General Election campaigners through a direct mail operation which raised £650,000.
  - Independent: SDP author of new biography of Bevan angers Labour for his criticism of Kinnock.
  - Independent with analysis of possible election dates comes down on side of 25 June.
  - Guardian says those advising you to go for October after Budget letdown, got powerful ammunition in Marplan poll.
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- 2-page Express family interview with Chief Whip. New family picture of the Kinnocks.



YOUR VISIT

- Soviet General says France and UK will "have to surrender to the general process of embracing all of Europe for peace and security"- ie get rid of independent deterrents, though no time scale indicated.
- Star leads with your willingness to "do an historic deal to get rid of Cruise" under a step by step arrangement; inside Star says "Maggie will get red carpet - and be first Western leader to go walkabout. The biggest political extravaganza ever laid on for a VIP.
- Sun; US banking on Maggie - Reagan says hopes of millions are riding on your shoulders.
- Today leads with Soviet General's remarks in covering your programme.
- Express leads with "spectacular welcome for the Iron Lady". Russia rolls out red carpet". A breathtaking reversal of once bitter relations.
- Times gives details of your visit and says Mr Gorbachev is giving you a chance to turn visit into a TV spectacular; Moscow correspondent says Soviets producing softer image of "Iron Lady"; B. Ingham will be briefing press in "Fairy Tale Room" of Moscow's Intourist Hotel.
- Times leader discusses your visit saying even if it is unsuccessful it is hard to see it working to your political detriment. In the unlikely event of overt disagreement you can return with your reputation for toughness intact.
- Mail's main visit story is "Maggie warned on missile pact" - with a Panel on the arrangements headed "Star billing as Kremlin rolls out red carpet"
- Telegraph P1: Thatcher plans walkabout on Moscow visit. Our clear impression is that Kremlin is sparing no effort to make you welcome and provide a full and varied tour.
- Times report from Washington says US described as a huge step backwards Soviet statements that Moscow was ready to open talks on shorter-range missiles after agreement on INF has been achieved. Reykjavik agreement required constraints on shorter-range missiles must be "an integral part of initial INF agreement".
- Another Telegraph story from Moscow says the omens are good for your visit - you are regarded with intense curiosity and obvious respect; they seem convinced you will win the next election.
- Independent: Russia confident of doing business with you. Peter Jenkins says that you have real business to do with Mr Gorbachev on arms control.
- Guardian leads with a story that Moscow will strongly resist any attempt by you to insist on further cuts in SR missiles as part of negotiations to remove INF; another story on programme says it is geared to TV.
- Hugo Young says you have few delusions of grandeur and in this respect the right leader in the right place at the right time. As a pre-election ploy, the Moscow visit can hardly fail to be successful. He thinks you are the first leader in many of our lifetimes who sees Britain's own important role as looking after its own business.



KINNOCK'S VISIT

- Star - Kinnock takes a nuclear gamble - the most important of his political life. Odds on President will tell him "We could not live with your defence policy".
- Sun: Reagan gives Kinnock a 20 minute brush off - short meeting snub; meeting would not have taken place at all but for tradition that President sees Opposition leader.
- Mail also says Reagan is giving Kinnock just 20 minutes - his race against the clock.
- Express: "Just 20 minutes to convince the US President - that's all the time Reagan can spare for Kinnock talks".
- Times: Neil Kinnock to see President Reagan for 15-20 minutes - hard to see it as anything but snub for Labour.
- Times: He sours visit by putting name to statement "abhorring Reagan's support for Contras. Reagan ready to turn down Kinnock's defence policy.
- Mail leads with "disaster threatening Neil Kinnock's election image-building visit to White House" because with astonishingly bad timing he has joined the Hard Left in attacking Reagan for supporting brutal terrorist war in Nicaragua". A diplomatic blunder; leader asks what is Reagan expected to make of Kinnock after this and his defence policies? The more desperate Kinnock strives to play the PM in waiting, the more he looks like an overgrown student demonstrator.
- Telegraph P1: Kinnock snubs Reagan on eve of visit.
- FT: Kinnock to face largely critical reception on arrival in US.
- Independent: Kinnock's US trip fraught with political dangers.
- Guardian writer says President Reagan will have to concentrate very hard when he is briefed by Kinnock because Kinnock's efforts to sweeten his non-nuclear defence policy in recent months without abandoning it, have been as complicated as they have been relentless.



KING FAHD'S VISIT

- Star: Picture of you greeting King at door - "Sheik on it, Maggie".
- Sun picture of Fahd looking tired - "A Fahd day's night".
- Today: Thatcher greets the desert King - and a page full of pictures.
- Mirror: More pictures with caption "Maggie's on her knees" - a reference to a curtsy.
- Times: You held hour-long talks with the King on broad range of topics.
- FT leader says the King is carrying important political message for you - the intractable conflict in the Middle East between Israel and Arab world



HEALTH EDUCATION COUNCIL

- Row continues over suppression of report claiming health gap between rich and poor is widening. Tony Newton finds the affair "pretty extraordinary".
- Star describes attempt to cover up report hamfisted.
- Mirror (of course) claims that the Government tried to keep the report quiet. Leader says it gives a picture of "your life (or death) in Mrs Thatcher's Britain today" and is sickening.
- Mail leader says that Sir Brian Bailey, by blocking the report, has done one inadvertent public service - ensured it will receive maximum publicity.
- Independent: Sir Brian Bailey, Chairman of Health Education Council, admitted he cancelled a press conference because "it was a sensitive business in an election year". Editorial says political considerations have no place in matters of health.
- Guardian is shocked by apparent attempt to suppress the report.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Government starts crackdown on civil service drug abuse - Times.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Haringey ban Mars from sponsoring children's sporting activities because it is "junk food".
- Times: Audit Commission says local authorities wasting £200m a year because of poor management.



EDUCATION

- ILEA head praises pupils for going on strike "responsibly and with moderation" in support of teachers' objections to redeployment.
- All children up to 16 should learn languages says HMI - Times.
- ILEA orders inquiry into claim that 800 children have been served meals in Bermondsey heavily contaminated with asbestos dust.
- Daily News says the Labour Party last night attacked a Left wing group that has been helping pupils organise classroom disruption - ie the School Students Union.
- Independent: Baker may force parents to pay for school extras.

AIDS

- Expert in medical law suggests that doctors could be sued if they don't warn partners of AIDS carriers.



EMPLOYMENT

- Ron Todd, TGWU, threatens to pull youngsters out of JTS unless they get paid more than their basic dole money.
- FT: Over-50s and the Right to Work Action Group call on Government to change social security payment rules so that unemployed over-50s can take part-time jobs.
- FT: Countryside Commission job creation plan would create 150,000 jobs at cost of £320m a year by end of century.

INDUSTRY

- Express, on BAe's claim for more money for Airbus, says Government's offer of £400m is already generous. If the aircraft is likely to be the success the company says it is, why is there not more private backing for it?
- Times: 70 MPs of all parties sign motion calling for action against Japan if they do not allow Cable and Wireless to operate; Japanese Minister restates determination to exclude Cable and Wireless.
- FT: Airbus dismisses McDonnell call for cooperation.
- Times: Lorries blamed for £830m bridge bill.
- Express welcomes apparent breakthrough on Euro air fares.
- FT: Government to back SIB plan for rules on life policy sales. Paul Channon to lay Order of Transfer on 10 April.
- FT; Judge tells workers to end sit-in at Caterpillar's Uddingston works.
- FT looks at new technology saying it affects one third of workforce; employees support changes; the effect on job losses is overstated; it gives greater flexibility; and more office staff likely to be affected.
- Independent: Firms guarantee jobs for higher school standards.



RESEARCH

- Government looks set to give entire £15m to research councils - Times. Another story about US offer to British scientists.
- Times: Call to end research in all but between 12 and 20 universities because economy cannot afford it.
- GEC plans £10m research laboratory in Cambridge - FT.
- FT: Britain and West Germany given till end of next week to decide if they can back the £4.58bn joint research programme agreed by other 10 EC countries.
- Professor Norman Stone, in Telegraph, on the brainless talk about the brain drain and says pumping in funds indiscriminately is not the answer.
- Independent: Cash crisis may drive leading scientists to US. Feature article on why funding for research and development is essential.

HOSTAGES -

- Independent: Iranian politician hints at hostage exchange as Lambeth Palace maintains a vigil for Terry Waite.

BERNARD INGHAM



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DTp: Mr Moore receives courtesy call from Israeli Minister of Economy and Planning, Mr Yaacobi, London
- MAFF: Mr Jopling lunches with Dalgetty's, London
- DEM: Mr Lee attends AIDS conference, Institute of Civil Engineers, London
- DEM: Mr Trippier speaks at CBI lunch, Brixton; later speaks at Department of Employment Management Development Programme, Manchester
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits schools in Oxford
- DHSS: Baroness Trumpington attends Medical Commission on Accident Prevention Colloquium on Strategies for Accident Prevention, Royal College of Surgeons, London
- DOE: Mr Tracey addresses Sports Councils Recreation Managers Conference, Harrogate
- DQE: Lord Skelmersdale opens London Waste Regulatory Authority Conference, Royal Society of Arts
- DTI: Mr Butcher visits Kendall and University of Nottingham
- DTI: Mr Shaw visits Coventry and Kenilworth
- DTp: Mr Spicer speaks at Longman Seminars' one day conference on EEC deregulation in the airline industry, Intercontinental Hotel, London
- MAFF: Mr Gummer lunches with Wildlife Link, London Ecology Centre, London
- MAFF: Mr Thompson visits Swifts, Petersfield, Hants
- MAFF: Lord Belstead visits Lancashire Hill Farms (to 27 March)
- WO: Mr Robinson visits Wales Councils for Voluntary Action and Disabled, Caerphilly

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TV AND RADIO

Scottish Secretary Mr Rifkind appears on BBC TV Question Time (22.40 to 23.40)

"Question Time;" BBC 1; (22.40); with Denzil Davies, Malcolm Rifkind and Chris Willmore

"Their Lordship's House;" Channel 4; (12.30 am)

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