

27 March 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prince of Wales visits Swaziland, Malawi and Kenya (to 2 April)

Princess of Wales attends Dr Barnardo's centenary concert at St David's Hall, Cardiff

STATISTICS

DTI: Finished steel consumption and stock charges (4th qtr - final)

DTI: Engineering indices of production (Jan) and of sales and orders (Dec)

PAY

Further Education Teachers in England and Wales; 80,400; 1 April

PARLIAMENT

Commons AIDS Control Bill: Report and 3rd Reading

Business: AIDS (Control) Bill: Remaining stages (Mr Gavin Strang)

Private Members Bills Register of Sasines (Scotland) Bills: Remaining stages (Mr Michael Martin)
Agricultural Training Board Bill: Remaining Stages (Mr Gerry Neale)

Adjournment Debate: Interoperability in NATO Communications and its effect upon British industry and employment (Mr N Thorne)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Buried away, Guardian reports defence and inflation are working more and more strongly in your favour and could prove decisive. Both Labour and Alliance vulnerable on these issues.
- SDP/Lib Alliance puts Labour into third place in Gallup poll - 37.5/31.5/29.5. More criticism of Mr Tebbit after third poll showing big surge in Alliance support. Today leads with "Knives out for Tebbit".
- Mail says Kinnock's support is at lowest level for 3 years.
- Kinnock at the centre of a new row in New York for attacking you abroad, while President Reagan produces a warm tribute to you in the preface to your book of speeches.
- Plenty more of good coverage of your visit to Moscow - partly linked to your remarks about Benn.
- Surprise trade boost for Tories (Today) - a £376m surplus in last month's trade - Britain sold more abroad last month than ever before: £6993m, up 12%.
- But a lot of bloodcurdling stuff about threats of trade retaliation against Japan.
- Guardian leads with Government likely to include private prison units in manifesto; Home Affairs Select Committee to propose them.
- Hattersley's assault on alleged health gap between rich and poor/ignored. largely
- Ernest Saunders denies he made any gain from Guinness takeover of Distillers.
- Jerry Wiggin MP in trouble after allegedly telling a constituent in Weston Super Mare who got a job in Milton Keynes 130 miles away to take a bus when he sought help with getting a council house. Mirror describes this as a sickening display of arrogance - as well as an alleged remark by Vivian Bendall: a million unemployed don't want to work.
- Roman Catholic Bishop of Londonderry bans masses at funerals of IRA gunmen after masked men fired volley over coffin this week.

MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- TCWU lifts life ban on Militant for unprovoked attack on fellow union official - because attack took place outside office hours.

- US satellite launch rocket blows up after lift off.

- Britain knights (honorary) Rostropovich.

- Elton John says his marriage is over - front page news in pops.
- Mirror raises the question whether Prince Charles is turning into a crank under the influence of Laurens van der Post.

POLITICS

- Jeremy Hanley calls on Mr Tebbit to end personal abuse.
- Sun says Ministers will be delighted the Alliance gain in Gallup is all from Labour; elsewhere it has Tory MPs raging at Mr Tebbit's "sledgehammer tactic".
- Today says Ministers are demanding an election strategy summit to take decisions over Mr Tebbit's head; in a leader it says Kinnock is right to oppose blacks section but he must get rid of every other caucus, too.
- Joe Haines, in Mirror, says when Norman Tebbit abuses the Alliance he does so by careful calculation to persuade doubting Tories.
- Paul Potts, in Express, says the Tories don't have a clear strategy for taking on the Alliance which has cornered the "nice guy market".
- Mail leads with "Labour bottom of poll" - as Alliance bandwagon continues, support is being taken from Labour while Tories keep their backing.
- Mail says Kinnock is fighting a losing battle against Black Sections and Benn has backed them.
- Telegraph, (naturally) leads with its Gallup poll and says Alliance surge makes an October election favourite.
- Ferdie Mount says it now looks like an October election; Telegraph leader sees Labour's position as increasingly desperate and there is little reason to suppose Alliance will slump during the summer.
- Liberal/SDP surge provokes Tory backbench criticism of Tebbit attack. (Independent)
- Times: With Alliance moving into second place there is gloom among Labour and alarm among Tories. Doubts over abrasive attacks by Norman Tebbit "bursts into open" at 1922 Committee.
- Times: Labour claim their multi-billion pound blueprint for encouraging R&D will drive Britain back into technological revolution.
- Times: Leading black activists in Labour Party are to launch black section in Birmingham. Warn Hattersley he would be challenged over opposition to black section.
- Times leader discusses opinion polls voting patterns. Tactical voting in three-way contest a very new phenomenon in Britain. Past offers little guidance on what may happen when election is called.
- David Watt, in Times, analyses the claims being made by David Owen about the improper use of official publication as vehicles for Conservative election propaganda. He describes your reply to Owen as "strangely subdued".
- Continuation of FT "Thatcher years" series looks at "policy errors" that have led to persistent mass unemployment in the UK.

YOUR VISIT

- Star: Maggie's on course for Cruise ban.
- Today: What Mrs T will tell the Russians - Russian's human rights record must be improved before Britain could back any arms deal, you warned yesterday.
- Mirror: "I'll help Benn go to Russia" - your astonishing offer.
- Express says Reagan's hopes are high for an arms deal - and a breakthrough next month.
- Paul Potts, in Express, devotes 2 pages to "High Wire act for Maggie" - you must tread very carefully if you're not to fall foul of Gorbachev.
- Mail: "I'll find Benn a home in Russia". In Moscow Russians were planning to use Mr Benn's comments if you brought up subject of Soviet human rights. Nonetheless, Moscow is preparing a big welcome.
- Mail news story says the visit is likely to be marked by the signing of an agreement on Embassy sites.
- Telegraph says you will have an audience of at least 120m for your interview on Soviet TV - no visiting head allowed such a chance. Expected you will meet Sakharov and discreetly with Begun.
- Independent: Two diary items on the Moscow trip. First says FCO are miffed that you are not taking their experts with you. The second says that in spite of helpful Russians, Bernard Ingham has refused to take the Mail's diplomatic correspondent to Moscow and to brief him. Is it too much to hope that the spirit of glasnost might infect even Comrade Ingham?
- Independent feature on glasnost points out that the greatest Russian reformers have also been tyrants.
- Independent: Howe plays down hopes of arms accord.
- Times; Moscow reporter says Soviet Foreign Trade Minister discloses that negotiations under way to involve British firms in new cooperative industrial ventures worth over £1bn.
- Times: You underline your intention of raising human rights issues on your trip. Foreign Secretary plays down expectations of a breakthrough in arms negotiations as result of your trip.
- Times: Geneva arms talks adjourn leaving important difficulties unresolved says US delegation leader. Report from Moscow says Soviets accuse US of going back on its former position by trying to make shorter-range weapons part of same agreement.
- In an article in the Times attacking you, Bryan Gould looks at your role in Russia. You do not appear to be interested in mutual disarmament. Your views are at variance with those of US Government, Soviet Government and British people. More concerned with retaining virility symbol of Trident than with encouraging disarmament negotiations. He says you must express strongest possible support for INF; aim for 50% reduction in strategic arms; scrap Trident; propose halt to nuclear tests between Britain and Soviet Union; confirm determination to honour ABM treaty.

YOUR VISIT (Cont'd)

- Guardian says Government is unwilling to finance first ever project by British scientists to monitor Soviet nuclear tests; leader says the Russians have every justification for saying that as disarmament evolves British deterrent missile included when agreement has been reached on SRINF and conventional troop strengths.

- FT leader says you will get 5-star treatment from the Russians while Mr Kinnock merely gets "a perfunctory reception"; Mr Gorbachev will treat you like the leader of a super-power rather than the Prime Minister of a middle-sized Europower. Two main areas of contention are identified in the nuclear debate - the requirement to put Britain and France's nuclear arsenals on the negotiating table and your desire to see discussions about the removal of all Euro-missiles from Europe intertwined with talks about shorter-range weapons. The way Mr Gorbachev handles this issue will be an indication of his political intentions.

KINNOCK'S VISIT

- Criticises you in private New York session for accepting inferior role for Britain; for being Reagan's poodle; being led by the nose by him and accepting Governorship of the 51st State.
- Star: Kinnock boob on US trip - broke every rule for British politicians; an amazing, naive gaffe.
- Today: Kinnock slams Thatcher as Reagan stooge.
- Mirror actually claims an exclusive for "Kinnock savages 'poodle' Maggie in barnstorming speech".
- Express leads with Kinnock's poodle blunder - a major political gaffe flagrantly breaching convention. Meanwhile, Labour 'plunges' in the polls to "rock bottom".
- Mail: Mrs Thatcher is Reagan's poodle, says Kinnock. John Edwards' feature on Kinnock's "long days journey into mud".
- Telegraph plays down his attack on you and has Kinnock "pouring scorn" on idea he will have a rough ride with Reagan.
- Independent: Kinnock looks forward to "gentlemanly" talks; leader says if Mr Kinnock returns from US politely snubbed he will not have enhanced his position.
- Times: Kinnock's onslaught on you went against convention of senior politicians attacking opponents while abroad. Frequent references to "being led by nose" and talk of "poodles".
- Guardian plays down Kinnock's attack on you and concentrates on Kinnock calling on USA to rebuild world economy.
- FT: Kinnock launches outspoken attack on your "special relationship" with President Reagan. Promises to confront US fears that his party's policies could lead to a break-up of NATO.

JAPAN

- Star: Maggie's poised to zap Japs on trade. Cabinet not bluffing.
- Sun: Slap those Japs over trade, say angry MPs. Snubbed Mrs T plots war; leader says the Japanese idea of trade is that they take and everyone else gives. Either they play fair or they should be given the honourable heave-ho.
- Today: Japan warned - We'll hit back on trade; feature says Western patience is wearing thin and even Japan admits something must be done, but what? Flinging them out of the City is not the answer. They would simply go to Zurich.
- Mirror: Bloody trade war threatens.
- Express: Banzai Thatcher - trade war with Japan is looming; leader on "Why we must get tough with greedy Japan" says the Government has threatened action before; this time it must be different.
- Mail on "repaying Japan's dirty tricks" says the Japanese are exasperating. But this is not time to kick out their banks. There is only one really effective way to bring them into line: EC and USA to combine to put the squeeze on Japanese exports.
- News report headed "Now open up, Maggie warns Japanese. You give them a month to open their market.
- Independent editorial counsels caution in retaliation against Japan - when it comes to free trade everyone's house contains glass; it is quite wrong that latent anti-Japanese sentiment should be fostered by talk of unspecified retaliation. You were urged last night to block Japanese purchases of BP shares.
- Times: You bluntly warn Japan that it would face retaliation unless it opens its markets to foreign competition.
- Telegraph says action against Japanese financial institutions is inappropriate. Meanwhile Japanese are right to urge foreign companies to make greater efforts to sell in their own markets.
- Guardian: Thatcher hints at City curbs on Japanese.
- FT: You warn Japan of possible retaliations if Japan do not open up their markets.

ECONOMY

- Trade surplus a surprise £376m last month.
- Times: Biggest increase in real incomes since you came to power. Exports reach record and balance of payments in the black.

INDUSTRY

- Mail says West Germany is ready to step in to make wings for Airbus if Government and B/Aerospace pull out; leader says the Government is not currently strapped for cash and should do all it can to see that Airbus gets the chance to prove it is a winner.
- GEC to set up £10m research laboratory in Cambridge.
- Times: European Governments agree to set up tribunal to settle air fares dispute.
- Times; 28 local authorities say any attempt to add fifth terminal at Heathrow or second runway at Gatwick will meet bitter local opposition.
- Times: BP stage biggest UK takeover - £4.6bn bid for Standard Oil.
- Times: 10 European and US companies will take stakes in Japanese consortium bidding against a group including Cable and Wireless for telephone contract in Japan.
- DTI says second civil servant may have fed information to Stock Exchange dealers (FT).

RESEARCH

- Times: Britain accused of "vetoing future of rest of EEC" by opposing proposed research spending - by French Euro-MP. Germany may well join EEC majority.
- Times leader looks at speech by warden of Keble College, Oxford that over half of universities should not carry out research. Time they earned entitlement to research funding. Must stop insisting on mystical connection between research and teaching and claiming that without automatic funding bright ideas will not get off floor.
- FT leader criticises the way funds for R&D are distributed and says Britain spends appreciably less than other countries.

UNIONS

- Independent: NUM shifts to the right in vote for executive.

MEDIA

- United Newspapers (Express) profits up from £34.9m to £56.6m.
- BBC to be prosecuted over death of amateur stuntman by HSE.
- BBC film, next week, on American raid on Libya claims US did not have the justification it claimed for the attack.
- Charles Moore, in Express, says Brian Redhead appears to him to be extremely hostile to the Government. Are his views so valuable that the BBC should allow them to alienate a whole Administration?

EDUCATION

- Sun finds the attitude of the ILEA head who is pleased his 1000 pupils went on strike not really surprising, given the behaviour of most modern teachers.
- Today praise for link up between 50 companies and 4 ILEA schools in East London guaranteeing 300 jobs a year in return for strict academic regime.
- Independent: Baker plans more talks on research funds crisis.
- Independent: University College of Swansea puts research pressure on academics.

LAW AND ORDER

- Sun criticises Mr Justice Turner who has released on bail an 18 year old Nottingham youth on a charge of murdering a little girl. Judges should be compelled never to give bail in murder cases.
- Mail pursuing its law and order campaign prints the faces of 50 elderly people who are the victims of assault or crime.
- Independent: Law Society will lose control of legal aid powers.
- Independent: Lawyer shortfall could cost State up to £12m in fees.
- Independent: Tory backbenchers call for a softer line on asylum seekers.
- Legal aid changes attacked by solicitors - Times. Leader asks why so potentially radical a change in the administration of the legal system should yield so much a return.
- Times: Select Committee calls for privately-run prisons. All Labour members against.
- FT; Legal aid changes will save £10m.

HEALTH

- You deny cover-up over health report.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Lord Young opens Trust House Forte Hotel, Milton Keynes
- DES: Mr Baker visits BP research centre, Sunbury
- DHSS: Mr Fowler opens emergency ward at Grantham Hospital
- DTP: Mr Moore visits Sussex Police Headquarters, Lewes
- MAFF: Mr Jopling opens Middlesborough Mushroom New Production Complex, Selby
- SO: Mr Rifkind opens VISA Centre, Pitrearie Business Park, Dunfermline
- WO: Mr Edwards performs Turf Cutting Ceremony, National Garden Festival site, Ebbw Vale; later opens Touche Ross headquarters, Cardiff
- DES: Mr Walden visits a school in East Claydon
- DHSS: Baroness Trumpington opens Mental Illness Unit, Bolton General Hospital
- DOE: Lord Skelmersdale visits Clariflow Sewerage Works, Osbourne House and the Mary Rose, Isle of Wight
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave meets the press to announce Bristol Inner Area Programme; also visits a City Farm, Bristol
- DTI: Mr Butcher addresses National Amateur Radio Conference, NEC, Birmingham
- DTI: Mr Shaw opens Greenside Factory, Illingworth Morris Plc, Greenside
- DTP: Mr Spicer visits Bristol Airport
- DTP: Mr Bottomley attends the Prince Michael Awards for Road Safety press conference (to be confirmed)
- HMT: Mr Brooke visits customs offices in Northampton
- HMT: Mr Lamont addresses the CBI conference on pay and performance strategies for change
- HO: Lord Caithness visits Rochester YCC
- MOD: Mr Hamilton visits Rolls Royce, Bristol
- SO: Lord Glenarthur visits Kincardine and Deeside Tourist Association, Stonehaven, Mr Buchanan-Smith also attends
- SO: Mr Lang visits Cumbernauld New Town, Cumbernauld; later addresses University of Glasgow Management Conference, Dunblane Hydro, Dunblane
- SO: Mr Ancram addresses Confederation of Scottish Local Authorities, Conference, Dunblane
- WO: Mr Roberts opens Velmore Fashions factory, Wrexham
- WO: Mr Robinson opens CT Scanner Unit, Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe visits Switzerland

TV AND RADIO

"Beyond the Great Divide;" BBC 2; (20.00); (Part 1); David Lomax looks at the growing economic gulf between north and south.

"Any Questions;" BBC R4; (20.20); With David Blunkett, David Alton MP, Elizabeth Peacock MP and Roland Long - industrialist member of the CBI Council.

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