

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister's statement on her visit to the Soviet Union
Education Secretary meets National Association of Head Teachers
Scottish CND leaflet campaign begins (to 12 April)

STATISTICS

Bank of England: Capital issues and redemptions (Mar)
HMT: UK Official reserves (Mar)
OPCS: Mortality Statistics 1985; accidents and violence, England and Wales (prov)
OPCS: Period and Cohort Birth Order statistics, England and Wales (prov)

PAY

Electricity Supply, Manuals, 77,658; 1 April

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Home Office; Northern Ireland: Prime Minister
Business: Motions on Supplementary and Social Security Benefit Orders and Regulations
Motion for the Easter and May Adjournments, for three hours.
Adjournment Debate: Opportunities for British investment in Japan (Mr M Marshall)
Select Committee: COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL
Bexley London Borough Council
Lords: Abolition of Domestic Rates etc (Scotland) Bill: Committee (3rd Day)
Broadcasting Bill (HL): Consideration of Commons Amendments
Petroleum Bill: Report

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Today more or less sums up visit - your Russian spring offensive ends in triumph. David Owen says the trip went well.
- Telegraph says there is virtually universal acknowledgement by Russians questioned in street that you overpowered their TV journalists.
- Majority of 112 against reintroduction of death penalty.
- Hopes fade for cuts in interest rates as Chancellor for first time sets out his defence lines for sterling.
- Keith Best admits getting 6 times as many shares allowed in BT flotation - calls for his resignation. Sun says he is a cheat and is a disgrace to the Commons. Mirror says Eric Cockeram used 2 different addresses to get double the permitted amount.
- Times forecasts a potentially devastating package of trade sanctions which could strike at heart of Japanese financial establishment after Cabinet today. Japanese Ambassador summoned by Paul Channon for talks.
- Kenneth Baker offers another £15m for research to block brain drain in announcing plans for higher education. Mail says it was a pity he had to turn a scientific crisis into a political emergency before he persuaded Chancellor to stump up extra cash.
- Judge rejects Islington Council's application for SDP party political broadcast to be banned because John Cleese pokes fun at them for banning Ba Ba Black Sheep; the joke was in fact cut out. Sun says the SDP, in dropping the reference, are the original wobbly men with as much backbone as a grass snake in poor health. Mirror says Owen fumbled a farce out of court victory.
- East German spy exchanged for four gaoled West German agents.
- Hattersley says you are planning to put VAT on food and use EC pressure as an excuse.
- Allegation that an attempt was made to "nobble" a woman member of a jury which cleared a jeweller of receiving in the Brinks Mat bullion case.

MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- Scargill bans Sun from NUM annual conference even though Labour Party and TUC have lifted it. McGahey will say in broadcast tonight Scargill doesn't listen to his members and hasn't learned any lessons.

- IRA set off car bomb an hour before England/Northern Ireland soccer international last night and threatened to rocket the ground afterwards.

- Paul Foot refers to Q1 from George Foulkes today - what did you say to Bill Casey, CIA, about arms for Contras?

- London Daily News says rates reform could double rates in London; in another story it says Japanese banks have provided most of the £2bn in loans which Labour councils have used to bypass spending controls.

YOUR VISIT

- Generally moves inside today, but with a strong element of triumph. Speaking with Gorbachev, the press says, has given you a new incentive to go on as PM. Picture of the kiss that greeted you from young Georgian.
- Star: Maggie's trust in Mikhail - you arrived back elated; leader headed "On the path to peace" says you could never have imagined in your wildest dreams such a successful visit. But the visit cannot be allowed to drift into the category of a 4-day wonder - a long hard round of painstaking negotiations follow. Gossip column - a splendidly impressive performance.
- Sun P2: Mighty Maggie is Russian to polls - summer election bet; leader says the visit was the most hopeful and productive mission ever made to the Communist world by any Western leader.
- Mirror P2: Maggie pays lip service - heading over the kiss picture.
- Today P2: Maggie seals it with a kiss. Final triumph as another Russian front falls.
- Daily News P1: Thatcher returns saying: I like him. Inside - Thatcher is wedding guest as marriage of minds tour ends; leader: it has been like a plot for some diplomatic soap opera. Your image builders have scored an undoubted coup de theatre, and some of the visit - eg meetings with dissidents - timely and brave.
- Times: P1 lead says in interview returning from Russia you aim to fight for a fourth term. You were in an exhilarated mood after the success of your visit. You were given lavish treatment in Pravda and praised by Mr Gorbachev; Gorbachev hails your talks as being of "great significance" Effusive farewell rounds off Moscow visit.
- Times: Moscow Correspondent looks at the VIP treatment you were given.
- Geoffrey Smith, in Times, writes you have achieved all that could reasonably have been expected.
- Times: Robin Oakley looks at how you changed your Gorbachev line. One reason you got on so well with Mr Gorbachev was that you are one of those non-devious politicians who feels comfortable saying the same thing in private as in public. Leader discusses Mr Gorbachev's change towards Jews. Joyous response may be premature. Only real solution is a policy of free emigration for all.
- FT: Visit a personal triumph.
- Express: By Georgia! What a farewell. Crowds give Maggie a red carpet send off. You captured the heart of Georgia. Triumph and tumult all the way; leader on "the real message from Moscow" says it would be too simplistic to judge the visit in terms of agreements. You have succeeded dramatically in impressing on Gorbachev Euro misgivings about Soviet arms dominance and importance we attach to human rights. You have stripped Soviet leader of any remaining illusions about our willingness to protect our collective security with extraordinary self confidence.

YOUR VISIT (Cont'd)

- Mail P1: Maggie: my new friend Mikhail. Your verdict on Gorbachev after your electrifying 5-day tour. Gordon Greig feature beside picture of the kiss - an account of "The chemistry that forged a new future". The visit has helped Gorbachev too, even though you turned it on like an old time Hollywood star. What Kinnock can say after this may not be worth printin.
- FT leader says the main point of the exceptionally busy nine hours of talks was an intensification of their understanding of each other's points of view.
- Frank Chapple, in Mail: Nobody wants nuclear weapons. But unless we all want to become soldiers and spend enormous sums on conventional weapons nuclear defence is the best we've got.
- Telegraph P1: Gorbachev hails success of Thatcher visit. You have clearly established an excellent personal relationship with Russian leader.
- Independent P1: Picture of your greeting at Tbilisi. Gorbachev may return Thatcher visit after poll. Inside: I trust Gorbachev, says Prime Minister. Rupert Cornwall assesses that Anglo-Soviet relations, which had been warming anyway, have acquired an entirely new lustre from your visit. Leader says you conducted your business in Moscow with determination and directness which have become your stock in trade. In addition you demonstrated a dignity and delicacy of touch which you sometimes find more difficult to achieve. There was inevitably an element of electioneering but it was limited to the opening and closing stages of the tour.
- Inside Telegraph George Jones from Tbilisi says "Iron Lady melted Russian hearts". Russians have treated you like a Queen. You must be the best known PM since Churchill; Josef Begun says he is grateful for your support.
- Telegraph leader on "Mrs Thatcher's tour de force" says Gorbachev has done as much as could be expected of him to help you win the election. You have used the opportunity to the full. Your performance in Moscow must command admiration. There is cause to believe that there can be a fractious fear in the world following Mrs Thatcher's trip to Moscow, thanks not to changed policies but to improved understanding.
- Guardian: Poll hope for PM after Soviet triumph. Martin Walker quotes a Moscow pensioner after your TV broadcast: "I think for the first time I understand why the West is worried about us - not that the West is right". Leader on trip is confined to the cultural agreement and a criticism of the Government attitude to cultural visits abroad - it behaves as if it were that of a third world country to cultural tours abroad.
- Hugo Young in Guardian, thinks it a pity the Thatcher/Gorbachev clash of ideology was not staged on world TV. He attacks the Labour Left who equate such things as GCHQ, coal strike, Belgrano etc with Soviet repression.
- NB: Arbatov quoted as saying that there could be a nuclear holocaust if Russian and American thinking on nuclear weapons was the same as yours.

INDUSTRY

- Star calls on Peter Walker to act quickly to recruit more nuclear inspectors after Select Committee report says Government is employing too few.
- Times: Quality standard at Austin Rover criticised by Honda - costing them thousands of pounds weekly on checking and repairing Japanese models built here.
- Times: Geological fault found at CEGB Dungeness nuclear power station.
- Times: BAe set to buy Royal Ordnance. Announcement this afternoon or early next week.
- Times: Malaysia in £62m project with Cable and Wireless.
- Times: Toshiba launches invasion of British Telecom market. Aims to capture at least 7% of British market for each product by 1990.
- FT: B/Rail make final pay offer of 4.5%.
- FT: Lewis's stores cut working week to 35hours.
- Samuel Brittan in the FT looks at the trend in trade volume between Japan and number of countries and says don't declare war on Japan.
- FT: NEDC launches innovation task force to help firms develop ideas.
- FT: Perkins wins first AWACS offset deal. Initially worth \$300,000 could eventually be worth \$40m to company.
- FT: Construction industry output expected to rise by 4% this year.

ECONOMY

- FT: Institute of Fiscal Studies says Budget estimates of tax receipts over next few years may prove to be too low.

ECONOMY (Cont'd)

- Independent: In a move which astonished the City, Mr Lawson told NEDC that he wanted the pound to stay at about DM2.90 and \$1.60.
- Independent: Article by Leon Brittan argues that, although Britain has every right to complain about Japanese policies, we would be the losers in a trade war.
- Independent: Cabinet is expected to hold back from any immediate threat of trade sanctions.

POLITICS

- Independent: In an interview, Dr David Owen sets out Alliance policy for a hung Parliament: the use of referendums to govern Britain without an overall majority.
- Independent: Deep-seated Labour unease over Neil Kinnock's leadership is beginning to surface at Westminster in the face of the Alliance advance in the polls. Denis Skinner made a direct attack on his trip to Washington.

RESEARCH

- Times: Kenneth Baker announces £15m extra for research councils - leader says its too little, too late.

LAW AND ORDER

- Times: Home Secretary to be asked about claims that Special Branch tried to see defence scientist days before his death.
- Times: Police to start tape-recording interrogations after successful field trials.
- Telegraph says anti-immigration abuse legislation has hit a snag over its application to Cross Channel ferries; French police say any attempt to process travellers before embarkation would violate French law.

MEDIA

- BBC 1 film tomorrow will allege that there was substantial evidence Caddafi was not responsible for terrorism which led to US raids.
- Mail urges MPs to vote for Obscenity Bill tomorrow and says sex with everything seems to be the degrading diet which viewers are promised after midnight on Channel 4.

- You are to have a black woman press officer (Telegraph).

HIGHER EDUCATION

- White Paper published.
- Star: Tories planning more brains for Britain.
- Times: Polys welcome White Paper but condemned by councils - leader says Government is beginning to grasp some of the nettles of Higher Education.
- FT leader says not before time the Thatcher Government has grasped the initiative in Higher Education. It is also an election manifesto. Principal fly in ointment is that talks of targets and performance, and efficiency, a touch overdone.
- Mail: College shake up for 50,000 students.
- Telegraph: Independent polys will have closer ties with industry.
- Guardian: Councils to lose control of polys.
- Independent: 50,000 more at colleges by 1990, outlined in White Paper on higher education.

PEOPLE

- Star says Chancellor's children have been banned from playing on the Downing Street garden lawn because they make too much noise for you.

HOUSING

- Gazumping is said to be back and Today calls for Government to give statutory force to a voluntary scheme of deposits to stop it.
- Times: "Which?" says gazumping still rife in spite of recent measures to combat problem.

FALKLANDS

- Today says it is time for negotiations but it is up to Argentine to make the first move.

DEFENCE

- Times: GEC told to sort out Tornado radar problems by end of year.
- Independent: Mr Younger is today expected to announce the sale of Royal Ordnance to British Aerospace for £185m.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Times: Nurse recruitment crisis in London - 25% shortfall in qualified staff.

SOCIAL SERVICES

- Independent: New Social Fund risks being overwhelmed as soon as it starts, according to Social Security Advisory Committee.

EC

- Irish Republic reported to Euro Commission for imposing restrictions on its citizens going to Ulster for shopping sprees.

ITALY

- Independent: Bettino Craxi gains a new lease of life as Prime Minister as President Cossiga rejects his resignation and sends him to face a vote of confidence in Parliament.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DOE: Mr Ridley chairs Consultative Council on Local Government Finance, House of Commons

CO: Mr Luce visits West Yorkshire (to 3 April) and speaks at Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme reception, Yorkshire Bank

DEM: Mr Trippier visits South-East

DEM: Mr Lee visits Liverpool and attends Enterprise in YTS Conference, Preston

DHSS: Mr Newton speaks at inaugural meeting of Independent Hospitals Association, Royal Society of Medicine, London

DHSS: Mrs Currie opens upgraded Maternity Unit, Royal West Sussex Hospital, Chichester

DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses the Institute of Housing Conference, Cafe Royal, London

DOE: Mr Tracey opens new sheltered Housing Unit, Gillingham; later opens Sports Complex, multi-purpose area, Richard Yeoman's Centre, Hawley, Sussex

DTI: Mr Pattie delivers Keynote Speech, Coopers and Lybrand, London

DTI: Mr Butcher visits Design Seminar, Coventry Chamber of Commerce; later visits W&T Avery Ltd, Smethwick

DTp: Mr Spicer addresses the International Chambers of Commerce, Symposium, Heathrow

DTp: Mr Bottomley attends Drink/Drive Seminar, Bedfordshire Police HQ, Kempston, later attends Consultative Council on Local Government Finance

WO: Mr Roberts visits Job Clubs and Enterprise Action Schemes, Cardiff; later presents Computer awards at University of Wales Institute of Science and Technology, Cardiff

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DOE: Mr Patten visits Barcelona to attend symposium on housing policy (to 3 April)

DTI: -Mr Clark visits Romania (to 5 April)

FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for Bonn, Konigswinter Conference (to 4 April)

TV AND RADIO

"Their Lordships House;" Channel 4; 23.50

"Question Time;" BBC 1; 21.55; With Alan Beith, Rt Hon Tony Benn, Professor Christina Lyon and George Walden MP