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PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

TUC: General Council

The Duke of Edinburgh, Princess Anne and the Prime Minister attend the Zeebrugge Ferry memorial service, Canterbury Cathedral

STATISTICS

Bank of England: Institutional Investment (4th Qtr)

CSO: Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (Mar)

DEM: Labour Market Statistics: Unemployment and unfilled vacancies (Mar-prov): average earnings indices (Feb-prov), employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs; industrial disputes

WO: Index of production and construction for Wales (4th qtr)

PUBLICATIONS

CO: Effective Assignment Skills and Strategies

HMT: Economic Progress report

PRESS DIGEST

MAIN NEWS

- Press think it looks like June with PA's Marplan poll of 9000 in 319 constituencies giving you a 10 point lead (40/30/Alliance 27); and Mori putting you 12 points ahead 42/30/Alliance 27. Express says you are miles ahead.
- Express on "Neil's home truths" - it says that even in his Welsh heartland the voters are deserting Labour.
- Gorbachev offers phased withdrawal of SPIF - Express says he wrong foots the West.
- Central banks prop up \$ after USA records third highest monthly trade deficit - £ up to \$1.6305.
- Civil Servants plan to stop Livingston computer centre today.

MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- E/Rail cancels a £13m contract with its own workshops because components are not up to scratch and is planning to give the work to a Swiss company.
- AMMA conference told that teachers are cracking up under the strain of work pressures, unruly pupils and lack of support.
- Another hunt for a killer rapist - of a 16 year old girl in Blackburn.
- IRA "quartermaster" 59, jailed for 16 years for his part in a bomb-a-day plot in British resorts during holiday season.
- Brian Walden cuts short (by 9 minutes) a Channel 4 TV interview with Callaghan for want of frank answers on Labour's defence policy.
- Hattersley claims Government is planning to impose VAT on food, gas, electricity, books, newspapers and children's clothing, under EC plan to end zero rating.
- Mirror claims that an 'all-time record of almost 9m adult workers are now being forced to live on slave wages' - according to Low Pay Unit.
- Today says more and more have fallen below Council of Europe's "decency threshold" under your Government in "Sweat-shops Britain".
- Doctors at Guy's Hospital claim a new type of treatment for breast cancer which avoids major surgery.
- Today continues its series about nurse shortages.
- Much coverage of Dr Pauline Cutting and Nurse Susan Wighton on their release from Palestinian camp in Lebanon - and the conditions in the camps. - Mirror leader salutes "a true heroine" in Dr Cutting. Today calls them brave.

MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- Ron Brown MP joins Gaddafi's "peace conference" to mark the first anniversary of American raids. Telegraph claims that the most significant impact of the American raids has been to persuade radical Arab Governments to drop their overt support for international terrorism.
- Irish call on Scotland Yard to help investigate case of diplomat alleged to have issued Irish passports from London to Middle East nationals.
- Telegraph reports that another group of Tamils - 7 in all - has been refused admission and 4 have already been sent back to Manila.
- Another rooftop protest at a Scottish prison - Perth, this time.
- More trouble for British tourists in Spain because of strikes.
- Telegraph says Paisley has threatened to resign after big DUP row over general election tactics. Paisley decides not to contest seats held by OUP.
- Allegations that Pussians are covering up another nuclear reactor accident - they deny it - after West Germany detects higher radiation emanating from Soviet Union. Bradford School of Peace Studies finds nuclear power stations a significant deterrent to war because Russia would risk irradiating its homeland.
- Jeremy Thorpe elected President of his local party association in N Devon
- Proposed extension to National Gallery wins Prince Charles' approval.
- TUC said to be about to drop Brighton as conference venue because it's too expensive and to concentrate on Blackpool.

LABOUR

- Kinnock accuses you of being "the high priestess of greed".
- Ron Todd (TGWU) one of Labour's election campaign leaders, accuses Labour MPs of "running like rabbits confronted by a weasel"; attacks party officials and accuses Loony Left of panic.
- Sun leader on "Kamikaze Kinnock" says what else but a death wish could explain his behaviour in drafting Ron Todd into the election team and refusing to attend EETPU conference?
- Express says TGWU complains of lack of unity in the Labour movement and the EETPU is to put forward a motion at the London Labour Party conference condemning the promotion of homosexual and black rights.
- Left in CPSA want an end to all controls on immigration - motion to be considered at next month's annual conference.
- SDP accuses 5 top colleagues, including Bryan Gould and Defence spokesman Martin O'Neill, of signing a Tribune document in 1985 pledging that Britain would pull out of NATO.
- Express says a Labour Government would sweep away all laws controlling high spending councils - an admission by John Cunningham.
- Telegraph says Callaghan in a further "heated " interview with Brian Walden, on Channel 4 next week, will re-state, in thinly disguised terms, his fears about Labour's defence policy, but it will be nine minutes shorter than planned because Walden abandoned it for want of frank answers.

SDP/ALLIANCE

- Today says a new rift opened up in the Alliance yesterday - Cartwright virtually contradicts Steel about working with Labour. He says "problems of reaching agreement with Labour on defence cannot be underestimated". Express describes this as giving Labour the coalition brush off.

- Daily News describes Tower Hamlets as "an extreme Alliance Council with a hard face".

- Express leader on the "divided Alliance" after the contradictory remarks by Steel and Owen on coalition partners. These reveal "the underlying ideological split within the Alliance" and it means that those thinking of voting Alliance do not know what an Alliance will bring.

- Times: Alliance divisions grow on poll deal. David Steel says attitude to other two parties is one of "scrupulous neutrality". But John Cartwright warns problems of doing deal with Labour should not be underestimated.

CONSERVATIVES

- Richard Evans in Times says Conservative Action for Electoral Reform to ask all MPs and candidates views on proportional representation.
- Independent leads with: "Tories tighten grip on key seats. Voters desert Labour for Alliance, poll shows".

LOCAL ELECTIONS

- Labour predicts "a major victory" (Mirror).
- Independent: Labour forecasts it will win another 10 councils in next month's local elections.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Government approves plan to turn garages on Broadwater Farm Estate into small workshops for residents.
- Manchester City Council accused of adopting KGB-style tactics to spy on pupils and teachers. Express says they have ordered schools to appoint a snooper to report on anything from jokes in bad taste to name-calling.
- Times: John Cunningham denies Left wing councils have built up £5bn debts in hope of being bailed out by future Labour Government.
- FT leader says local finance is in a mess but much hard, detailed work needs to be done before control of local budget is sufficiently rational to produce tolerable results.

INDUSTRY

- FT: Clyde dockland £150m project for international leisure and high-tech industrial complex could create 3,500 jobs.
- FT: RACAL to shed 445 jobs after drop in orders.
- FT: Dole office strikers face pay loss. Staff in Scotland refuse to write out emergency cheques for 30,000 whose payments are blocked by computer workers strike.
- FT: Two key executives - Bruce Urrell and Alastair Morton - to leave Guinness Peat Group.
- FT: Saunders/Guinness case judgement today.
- FT: TSB beats four main rivals to offer first electronic home banking service.
- Times: 2.2% rise in factory output in February after 2.4% fall in January.
- Independent: Chairman of Water Authorities Association, Gordon Jones, says that installation of domestic water meters is at least 5 years away.
- Independent: Job Training Scheme is extended to provide 250,000 places nationally.
- Independent: Norman Willis claims that there are Cabinet plans to privatise the electricity industry. He challenges Peter Walker to confirm or deny that Sellafield would be privatised, along with BNFL.

HEALTH

- Independent: Gap between rich and poor is not growing smaller, according to Health Education Council report "The Health Divide".

MEDIA

- Independent: Court of Appeal extension on Independent journalist's attempt to protect his sources will not be announced until after Easter.
- Times: BBC confidential report says ITV has nearly three times as much bad language and violence as any of the other three channels.
- Times: BBC governors support decision not to produce "The Falklands Play"

DEFENCE

- Times: MPs kept in dark over neutron shells, says Dan Plesch, an independent defence analyst.

RELIGION

- Times leader discusses the relationship between Church and state over appointment of Bishops. Your performance as guardian of the 1976 arrangements has been exemplary and you are entitled to consider your record has earned you the right to use your discretion occasionally.

EC

- FT: Radical three-part scheme will allow member states to top up farmers' income for first time since introduction of CAP.
- FT leader says arguments for rejecting Turkey's EEC membership application not hard to think of, yet it is unthinkable to send them away with a flat no. It recognises that there are formidable problems but concludes that the prize - a stable, prosperous, democratic Turkey firmly anchored in Europe and Atlantic Alliance - is surely well worth the attempt.

LEBANON

- Times: Syrian troops move to Sidon.

POLAND

- Times: Poland accused of dumping on Bangladesh thousands of tons of powdered milk for children contaminated by Chernobyl nuclear disaster.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Clarke lunches with Don Macintyre, Sunday Telegraph, London

DES: Mr Baker visits Science and Engineering Research Council, Abingdon for opening of the new Super Computer and later attends Council meeting

DTI: Mr Channon visits Crawley

HO: Mr Hurd opens Securicor Alarm Centre, Shoreditch

DHSS: Mrs Currie speaks at Caterers College Association Dinner, Warrington, North Cheshire

DTP: Lord Brabazon attends memorial service for the Zeebrugge Disaster victims, Canterbury Cathedral

WO: Mr Roberts visits Jobclubs and Enterprise Allowance Schemes, Cardiff

TV AND RADIO

"Which Way?"; ITV (09.25): second of "Jobwatch" special phone-in's

"Zeebrugge"; BBC 1 (10.45): Live BBC coverage of the Zeebrugge ferry Memorial Service. Also on Radio 4 from 10.55

"Zeebrugge"; ITV (10.50): live ITV coverage of the Zeebrugge ferry Memorial Service

"Victorian Values"; ITV (19.00): Bamber Gascoigne looks at the Victorians and says that although they were great believers in self-help, surprisingly they laid the foundations for the modern Welfare State

"Zeebrugge"; BBC 2 (19.20): BBC 2 coverage of this morning's national act of remembrance at Canterbury Cathedral for those lost on the ferry

"Comment"; Channel 4 (19.50): The weekly alternative to the party political broadcast is this week given over to a Labour politician (name not known at time of diary preparation)

"Diverse Reports"; Channel 4 (20.30): Reporter Dale Oniya argues that race discrimination laws should be extended to force employers to give black and ethnic minorities a fair share of jobs
