

24 July 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister interviewed live on BBC Television 1pm News

The Queen visits Cheshire and opens the Crewe Railway Heritage Centre

House of Commons summer adjournment (to 21 October)

Report on formal investigation into loss of Herald of Free Enterprise

PUBLICATIONS

DTI: British Shipbuilders Annual Accounts

PAY

National Health Ambulancemen; 18,000

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: Debates on the Motion for the Adjournment

Adjournment Debate: Overcrowding in prisons (Mr G Bermingham)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Most papers report you giving Ministers a warning about spending. Express says your crusade against spending goes on; Star says you are battling to deliver your pledge of big tax cuts in spring; and Today says you slam brakes on after Government's pre-election cash giveaway.

Mixed reaction among papers about Soviet zero-zero proposals. Most see it as a big step forward but Express thinks the Kremlin's price could be too high for NATO.

Shultz says first he knew of arms sales to Iran was when he read about it.

Court of Appeal decision on Peter Wright case expected today.

Verdict likely today in Jeffrey Archer case.

Home Secretary to review new evidence in Guildford and Woolwich pub bombing case.

Coal bosses blast Scargill over misleading strike ballot form.

Zeebrugge report expected to recommend safety crackdown on car ferries.

You tell Commons no money available for space research.

Building Society survey blames poor budgeting as biggest cause of mortgage arrears.

Duke and Duchess of York attacked in Canada by animal campaigners over accepting fur jackets as wedding anniversary presents. Mirror leader criticises Canada's Prime Minister and Sun leader asks where were the Royal Minders?

Your interview with Russell Harty, recorded several months ago, to be shown on BBC 2 on Sunday.

Edwina Currie backs new campaign against those who smoke at work.

SPENDING

You give Ministers cash warning and tell them to bring spending for next year into line with limits set 7 months ago - Mail.

Express: You make clear that your crusade against Government spending goes on in your battle to cut taxes yet again. You warn big-spending Cabinet Ministers there are no blank cheques - and local councils are given "same again" for next 12 months.

Star: You battle against big-spending Cabinet Ministers to make sure you deliver your pledge of big tax cuts in spring. Some Ministers, including Ridley, Baker and Younger, are privately demanding an extra £6bn between them.

Daily News: Two London councils which increased rates by more than 60% brought to heel by Government. Ealing ordered to cut spending by £18m and Waltham Forest by £10m.

Independent: Faced with extra spending demands from nurses, inner cities, housing etc approaching £6bn, the Cabinet steer clear of a specific commitment to hold public expenditure next year at the £154.2bn level.

Independent: Conservatives preparing for battle over rate rises in the shire counties after the announcement of a "tough" local authority rate support grant settlement.

Independent: Government decision to rate cap five new councils, including Liverpool and Manchester, condemned by Labour as making a "total nonsense" of your claim that inner cities would be a priority.

Guardian: Ridley promises rises of about 40% in England next year, but inner city councils in financial difficulty will get no help from Government.

Today: You slam breaks back on public spending after Government's pre-election cash giveaway. Scene now set for a cut-throat Whitehall battle for a bigger share of the spending cake next year.

Today: Ridley unveils rate-capping hit list as he tightens screw on high-spending, Left wing councils.

Telegraph leads with councils to get extra cash to curb rate rises and Ridley "caps" more big-spenders. Cunningham describes settlement as inadequate.

Telegraph: You and Cabinet embark on a "tough and difficult" battle to hold down public spending amid indications that the Treasury may be ready to be more flexible because of better-than-expected economic growth.

Guardian: Major tells Cabinet spending bids must be considerably scaled down, but Government hint at some flexibility in its spending target for next year.

Baker and Ridley line up to fight Treasury.

Times: Cabinet ready for spending battle. But in a significant departure from prior practice, it recognised in advance that it may not be able to hold to the Treasury's target of £154.2bn next year. It agreed instead to try to get as close as possible to that figure rather than stick rigidly to it.

FT: Cabinet introduces more public spending flexibility. Previous July Cabinets have referred to staying "within" existing planning totals rather than, as yesterday, to coming "as close as possible". On the basis of Budget forecasts, economic growth may allow for a leeway of £2bn above the January White Paper total of £154.2bn.

Times: Ridley keeps rates down. RSG settlement paved way for minimal rate increases next year.

FT: Grant settlement will force local authorities to increase rates next year if they want to spend above the Government's estimates of their needs.

DISARMAMENT

Top Russian official claims that there are no strings attached to Mr Gorbachev's new nuclear offer - nor any small print - Mail.

Paul Johnson, in Mail, says it always pays to bargain toughly with the Russians. Give them something for nothing and they simply despise you and ask for more. Demand your pound of flesh and you win their respect. At every stage you have insisted on a hard, practical bargain.

Sun: You give cautious backing to Soviet plan.

Express leader, under heading "Moscow has nought for our comfort" says elation over Gorbachev's deadlock-breaking arms concession has been short-lived. His offer on Wednesday to scrap SS-20s seemed to have opened the way for a double-zero agreement. But his demand that German Pershings also be scrapped closes it again.

Daily News: Russians predict double zero deal in two months.

Peter Frank, a Soviet Politics lecturer at Essex University, writing in Daily News, says this is a decisive moment in arms control. US and Soviet leaders need an agreement and they need it now. The nearly obsolete Pershing 1A missiles should not stand in the way.

Independent: Soviets formally present proposals at special session of Geneva arms talks. West German Pershings still main obstacle to agreement; leader says that it is politically and strategically important both for Europe and for the future of European relations with the US that negotiators do not attempt to "reciprocate" at the expense of Bonn. The zero option is inherently flawed because it involves the complete elimination of a single category of weapon. But it is the only deal on the table so Europe must insist that its interests are not ignored.

Guardian: Growing row between the US and the Soviet Union over future of West Germany Pershing missiles threatens to block quick progress towards agreement; leader says this is real progress "if the double zero" deal comes off, and for the second time in a few months it all depends on Bonn, who must once again choose between a German sacrifice and the world's first nuclear arms reduction treaty since the invention of the bomb. This is unfair, but there is only one statesmanlike course.

Chris Buckland, in Today, says time is running out for Gorbachev. His race for an arms agreement has to be run on a high wire with powerful enemies waiting for him to fall; leader says you must help to smooth out the differences between the Russians and Americans so that an agreement is reached by the end of the year. As the West's elder statesman you have the clout to do it.

Telegraph: Arms hope hits hidden snag - West Germany's ageing Pershing 1A missiles; leader says zero-zero treaty would allow President Reagan to retire wrapped in the mantle of peacemaker. It goes on to question whether Gorbachev's change of heart is good news for America's allies.

Times: Missile treaty hopes falter as Moscow demands that Germany's 72 Pershing 1As should be eliminated.

POLITICS

Sun leader condemns AEU's rebuke of Gavin Laird for dining with you instead of meeting Kinnock. You are in charge and have the power to make all the decisions which virtually affect the interests of union members. Laird is joining the winners and if other union leaders have any sense, they will do the same.

Guardian: Union chief tells Labour to aim for the affluent.

INNER CITIES

Times: Government considers setting up second generation of UDCs in areas where local government is run by Labour moderates. North East and Midlands most likely candidates.

ZEEBRUGGE

Mail: Safety crackdown on car ferries expected when blame for the Zeebrugge disaster is announced today.

Mirror: Union bosses fear three seamen will be made official scapegoats and are worried that Townsend Thorensen will be let off the hook.

Sun: Paul Channon to order safety crackdown on Channel ferries.

Express: Report expected to be scathing of behaviour of crew and some panic-stricken passengers and will attack company for blatantly flouting safety regulations.

Daily News: Townsend Thorensen expected to be strongly criticised by Mr Justice Sheen. Government has ruled out criminal prosecutions.

Times: Mr Justice Sheen report expected to encourage research into ways of reducing danger. Water-tight bulkheads and improved drainage on car decks are likely recommendations.

LAW AND ORDER

Telegraph: Law Society backs Government's plans to amalgamate the High Court and county courts into single court for civil cases.

Times: Gerald Bermingham will press in today's Adjournment Debate for a Royal Commission to investigate sentencing policy. He claims a growing number of police officers are being used as stop-gap jailers.

ECONOMY

FT: Relatively optimistic outlook for British economy could be threatened by fast-expanding domestic demand, warns Oxford Economic Forecasting.

INDUSTRY

Sun: Coal bosses blast Scargill for "misleading" pitmen over ballot on industrial action.

Star leader says all the indications from the coalfields - from both union and management - is that few, if any, lessons have been learned from the last bitter, destructive and futile miners' strike. While Scargill is on holiday in Cuba it calls on British Coal to talk to the rest of the NUM leadership - the men not bogged down in the Scargill mire of clapped out Marxist prejudice.

Mail: Public Accounts Committee calls for major reorganisation of export promotion services of the FCO and DTI.

Telegraph: EEC to investigate merger plans of BA/B.Cal.

FT: Vosper Thornycroft awarded a £120m contract to build four minehunters for the Royal Navy.

FT: Commons PAC calls on FCO and DTI to reappraise services they offer exporters to make sure they meet the needs of business.

FT: NatWest Bank increases its London allowances by up to 158%.

SPACE RESEARCH

Independent: You firmly rule out an increase in Britain's cash contribution to ESA and urge an increase in private sector support in the area.

Times: You reject plan to treble spending on space ventures and again delay backing Britain's first national space plan.

FT: No extra cash for space agency, you tell the House.

Telegraph: Space research suffers setback when you say Government is unable to find any more money.

Guardian: You say that one casualty of the Government's continued

tight rein on spending is extra funds from Britain for ESA:

ENVIRONMENT

Times: TUC calls for more rigorous international control over nuclear installations.

EMPLOYMENT

Independent: Government proposals for radical changes to its £3.5bn programme of special employment and training measures met with stinging criticism from the MSC.

WELFARE

Mail leader, discussing the Nye Bevan Lodge case, praises Edwina Currie for pointing out that it is on individuals, not institutions, that responsibility must fall.

Independent: Union wants Nye Bevan evidence published.

HEALTH

Daily News: Edwina Currie declares herself a personal smoke-free zone and calls for full details of possible laws which would make smoking at work a criminal offence.

Independent: Shortage of junior hospital doctors in some areas is approaching crisis level, according to health authority managers.

Independent: Edwina Currie taking legal advice on whether employers may be committing a criminal offence of allowing smoking at work.

DRUGS

Express leads with warning to British holidaymakers, particularly the young and those short of money, to keep clear of Spain's unscrupulous drug pedlars.

EDUCATION

Telegraph: University dons to lose guarantee of a job-for-life in new Education Bill.

Guardian: Leader says that the General Election may have set a firm political context for the next phase of the education debate, but it has not yet been seen to have answered any of the big questions about standards, control and working conditions.

MPs' PAY

Joe Haines, in Mirror. believes MPs are still underpaid even after this latest huge rise.

AIDS

Mail: Agriculture Select Committee deeply split after chairman, Sir Richard Body, calls for ban on American pesticide which has been claimed to produce AIDS-like symptoms.

PETER WRIGHT

Mail: Attorney General goes to Appeal Court over Peter Wright book.

Independent: Government efforts to ban 'Spycatcher' in Britain means that enemies could comb book for information while Britains could not.

Guardian: New gagging methods could be found if The Guardian is released from an injunction which prevents it from publishing extracts.

Times: Attorney General may take fresh proceedings to stop Sunday Times publishing extracts from 'Spycatcher'.

Guardian: Former Secret Service Officer, Anthony Cavendish, writes a feature exposing some shocking detail in Peter Wright's book. He says that he is not surprised at the row. The book describes matters which have always been the most sensitive areas of intelligence. He says that the Government case should have been

to attack the revelation of confidential information and not to attack the conventional obligation of confidentiality.

MEDIA

Mail: BBC at centre of apartheid row with journalists over sale of current affairs programmes to South Africa.

Today: ITV ordered to brighten up programmes to attract young viewers after advertisers, who spend £1,200m a year, say most are over 40.

LORD TREND

Guardian carries an obituary saying he was a shrewd and scrupulous civil servant who provided a guiding but not a constricting hand to four very different Prime Ministers.

Independent carries an obituary saying he was one of two outstanding civil servants of his generation.

IRANGATE

Mail: Shultz tells Irangate hearing first he knew of the US selling weapons to Iran was when he read about it in the newspapers.

Express: Shultz says he wants to quit and only loyalty to the President has stopped him from resigning on several previous occasions.

Guardian: Shultz delivered a devastating critique of the Reagan Administration's persistent factional wars over foreign policy which culminated in the Irangate affair. He revealed that he offered to resign three times after being kept in the dark.

EC

Guardian: Pressure continues to mount within EC for an expanded budget. Finance Ministers yesterday failed to agree a budget of £30bn.

Independent: Britain boycotts all further discussion on Community budget proposals because they assume agreement between member states on an increase in December.

MIDDLE EAST

Independent: Iranians say that they will not attack shipping in the Gulf unless Iraq do so.

Times: In a letter to UN General Secretary, Iranian Foreign Minister hints at accepting UN mediation. You reject call for multinational naval force to police the Gulf.

SRI LANKA

FT: Rajiv Gandhi expected in Sri Lanka next week to seal peace agreement with President Jayawardene, giving semi-autonomous homeland to Tamils.

CHINA

Telegraph: Reformers are now back on top in Peking.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Fowler visits Sheffield

DTI: Lord Young visits Newcastle

HO: Mr Hurd attends the Magistrate Association's national summer training conference, Lancaster University; later visits Lancaster Prison

MAFF: Mr MacGregor launches Dornier Aircraft followed by press conference, Bournemouth

SO: Mr Rifkind performs inauguration of the Fulmar Gas Project at St Fergus, Near Aberdeen

DEN: Mr Morrison tours Docklands by helicopter, London

DHSS: Mr Newton attends Royal Health Authority review, Manchester; later opens ward at Penrith Hospital

DEN: Mr Spicer visits the Southern Area Electricity Board central room, Maidenhead; later visits Didcot Power Station

DHSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits Super Security Health Centre, Peckham

DHSS: Mrs Currie attends Royal Opening of Marylebone Health Centre, The Crypt, London

DTI: Mr Atkins attends Preston civic reception for task force

HO: Earl of Caithness visits Devon Fire Brigade

SO: Lord Sanderson meets local fishermen at the Fishing Museum, Anstruther, Fife

WO: Mr Grist presents Wintech prize awards, Cardiff

MINISTERS (MEDIA INTERVIEWS)

DOE: Mr Moynihan appears on Jimmy Young TV programme, ITV

TV AND RADIO

"The Brian Hayes Programme", LBC (1100). Rabbi Julia Neuberger and Lady Olga Maitland review the week's news.

"What the Papers Say", Channel 4 (2000) with Richard Ingrams, former Editor of Private Eye.

"Today in Parliament", BBC Radio 4 (2300)
