

26 January 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets President Mubarak (photocall)

International Conference on AIDS: AIDS Information and Education Strategies, London (to 28 January), to be opened by the Princess Royal

EC: Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels

The Princess Royal presents Commemorative Pins at Buckingham Palace to all Olympic Medalists from past games

Sentencing of Jeremy Warner, Independent, for refusing to disclose sources

STATISTICS

CBI: Industrial trends survey: (1st Qtr)

DTp: New motor vehicle registrations: (Dec 1988)

OPCS: Deaths by cause: (June Qtr 1987) (prov)

OPCS: Deaths from accidents and violence: (June Qtr 1987) (prov)

PUBLICATIONS

ECGD: Trading results

HO: The Government's response to the 2nd report from the Education Science, and Arts Committee on Prison education 1988/89

NAO: Sale of Government shareholding in Rolls Royce

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Defence; Employment; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Regional Health Authorities (Abolition)
Debate on the Army, on a Motion for the Adjournment
Motion on the Church of England (Legal Aid and Miscellaneous Provisions) Measure

Adjournment Debate: Road schemes in the Stockport area (Mr T Arnold)

Lords: Starred Questions

Local Government Bill: Committee (1st Day)

Code of Local Government Audit Practice for England and Wales: Motion for Approval

Food Protection (Emergency Prohibitions) Order 1988: Motion for Approval

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

NHS faces huge shake-up, with tax reliefs for private health care being considered. Mirror presents it as a threatened break-up.

You take personal command of Government's counter attack.

Campaign to force vote on no-strike rule in RCN; Trevor Clay says ballot seems inevitable.

Nurses walk out in Southampton and Warrington but Guy's nurses vote not to join February 3 strike.

Issue rebounds on Kinnock - Express - when Left demands he should pledge blanket support for any industrial action. Manager of Cheshire mental hospital alleges intimidation of nurses who don't want to strike.

Cost of treating AIDS patients could top £80m - enough to pay for health care for 128,000 people - could cut waiting lists by a fifth (Telegraph).

Independent claims that a shortage of warheads threatens Trident because construction has fallen years behind.

Cecil Parkinson says Government will have to look at way Scargill cocked a snook at new union laws requiring secret ballot which are to come in in the autumn.

Pit deputies to vote this week on strike action over pay.

NCB says another 20 pits could close if NUM continues overtime ban.

UDM says it is receiving hundreds of calls from NUM members following Scargill's re-election.

Shell withdraws Formula petrol for fear that it will damage car engines.

Farm incomes fell 1.2% last year.

Electricity prices to go up 9% in April.

TV-AM gives 229 technicians 7 days to accept offer or be sacked.

Express believes it is only a matter of time before Murdoch gets control of Pearson (FT) group.

Ken Livingstone barred from House after accusing Attorney General of being an accomplice to murder in row over alleged cover up in "Stalker Affair"; fourth Labour MP to be kicked out in 3 months. Faces dressing down from Kinnock for stealing limelight from MacNamara. Claims that decision not to prosecute taken to protect MI5 activists.

Guardian says Labour Listens programme is attracting bores who bore on and on.

Owen criticises SDP/Libs rapid U-turn on policy. Claims 20,000 have pledged support for his SDP party.

Kenneth Baker seriously considering bowing to Tory pressure to scrap ILEA.

Mail attacks sentences of 7 years on two youths, three years for another who admitted wounding and binding over for two others involved in attack on brilliant young student and weightlifter crippled and damaged for life.

Express says Germans and French are orchestrating a showdown at next month's special EuroCouncil to get you to increase Community's finances.

Guardian: Britain stands alone on EC reform.

Independent: West Germany yesterday threatened Britain with a reduction in its EC rebate in an ill-disguised and probably ill-conceived attempt to deflect you from your stand against rising farm spending.

Residents take Kirklees Council to court - and win - to prevent them renaming a road Mandela Way.

Lester Piggott's mystery collapse in cell.

Bishop of Peterborough attacks Church of England hierarchy for failing to give moral leadership and says his colleagues should take your views far more seriously.

Lord Chancellor accepts resignation of judge who was subject of Sun story which published his "gay" correspondence with which he was being blackmailed.

Duchess of York to have baby in August.

Aeroflot, Russian airline, turns to B/Airways for advice on customer service, inflight food and teaching stewardesses how to smile.

NHS/YOUR BROADCAST

Star: Health Service faces huge shake-up.

Mills in Star says the "crisis" is not all that it is being made out to be. It is not about babies waiting for operations or delays for hip operations or underpaid nurses or shortages of doctors, beds or equipment. It is mismanagement, neanderthal trade unions and malevolent politics at its most cynical.

Sun: Super confident Mrs T seized initiative and says all options are open.

Mirror: Thatcher threat to break up NHS in crisis battle.

Today: Maggie hints at private health perks; leader says pay review body should study nurses' claim for 20% and reject it because across the board rises will not do the trick. It must come up with payments for skill, service, experience and shortage. Ideally every nurse should earn their own individual pay rate.

Express: The passion and the pride that drive me on, by Maggie. You spell out philosophy in a remarkably frank interview - this aspect gets pride of place in treatment over another story "Premier to act over NHS row"

Times: You confirm that you are deeply involved in speedy and thorough review of NHS but rule out a Royal Commission.

Mail astonishingly ignores the interview. Telegraph P1 - Thatcher orders review of NHS. A significant about turn.

Independent: Government aims to implement radical health service reforms before the next general election, following a top to bottom internal policy review, you announced last night. But you gave no encouragement to nurses who are pressing for you to meet in full the review pay body recommendations.

Independent: You are to meet John Moore this week to urge the adoption of a radical version of the "internal market" in the NHS where money to pay for treatment would stand with the patient. Critics say that while the NHS can cost treatments to do package deals between authorities, it lacks information to cost individual treatments.

Independent: COHSE said if you see the unions and say that the review award will be fully funded, a lot of heat will be taken out of the situation.

Independent: Peter Jenkins says if the Government can produce a policy which offers more - not less - health care, Labour will be left impaled upon a policy of fruitless state funding. Meanwhile, if NUPE and COHSE warm to their task (and the Royal College carries on nursing), Labour could quickly be driven from the high ground it has occupied hitherto.

FT P1 lead: Thatcher puts NHS charges top of her political programme. The Cabinet is now considering the health service in a thorough way just as it had education, the community charge and housing. Proposals will be brought forward for consultation and, if they are acceptable, they will be translated into legislation. During the 40-minute interview you were at your most commanding and self-confident.

FT: RCN is poised to ballot its 265,000 members on a move to abandon its no-strike policy. It would need a two-thirds majority to overturn it.

Guardian P1: Thatcher set for radical reform of NHS. Fundamental reconstruction in hope of bringing about a major shift to private provision. You display enormous confidence about power of Government to deliver ever lower taxes and economic prosperity.

SCARGILL

Sun leader headed "Toothless Tiger" says it looks as if we are stuck with Scargill for 10 years but his narrow victory is just what Britain needed. He is now shown to be a spent force. B/Coal can at last get tough. It should privatise half a dozen pits and give miners a chance to buy them, impose 6-day working and sack flying pickets on the spot.

Mirror says that if Scargill believes his re-election is a stunning victory he will believe anything. And the miners who voted for him know the only way to save pits, jobs, industry and union is by negotiation. The NUM should find the guts to stand up to Scargill.

Express leader headed "Scargill, the ghost scared by a vote" says the maths of his victory deserve closer scrutiny. He was elected by about on in three of miners and had his fanaticism not succeeded in splitting NUM he would have been out on his ear. But he won't change, not even with Gorbachev trying to bury his sort of naive dogma. His next trick, after destroying the NUM, could destroy the industry.

In Express news feature, Cecil Parkinson hopes Scargill will realise 46% of his membership feel it is time for a new approach.

Mail leader "When loyalty's suicidal" says Arthur, "King of the Kamikazes" has clung to his tarnished crown. But his power is waning. Most miners reject his leadership. In the coalfields there is no room both for rising prosperity and a rampant Scargill. The longer the miners refuse to face the truth the more it will hurt them.

Mail news story reports Cecil Parkinson as saying Scargill's class war will destroy the pits.

Times leader says Scargill's return is bad news for coal, adding that British Coal has now to deal with an adversary who was never a very rational industrial thinker and who now appears wounded and well-nigh delirious.

Telegraph: British Coal calls for end to overtime ban.

Independent: Scargill will have to stand for re-election in five years according to Whitehall sources. As the NUM leader came under a barrage of criticism from British Coal and Ministers, it became clear that the Government's reading of employment legislation due to be enacted in the summer is different from that of Scargill.

FT: British Coal may scrap its plan to develop a £90m drift mine at Margam because of fall in world coal prices and continuing NUM resistance.

Guardian leader says Scargill's own action will help to make his doomsday prophecies self fulfilling; it is all very good for the Arthur industry but no substitute for a look at emerging policy.

INDUSTRY

Times: Lords Select Committee says Government should boost space programme by £88m.

Times: British breakthrough in laser beam computers.

Times: Four engineering apprentices could save Jaguar £1m a year with their design for a rear lamp.

Times: Executive shake-up at Morgan Grenfell group.

Times: New code will allow solicitors to battle for their business and enable them to compete with estate agents and building societies by offering home buyers a "one-stop" package of services.

FT: CAA says BA-B.Cal merger, and other developments, had given rise to need for fundamental review of its licensing policies. Under new proposals it would now give preference to small airlines.

POLITICS

T E Utley discusses the Liberals/SDP merger in Times saying that the prospect of a third, centrist party strong enough to mount an effective challenge to the Tories and Labour is for the moment as dead as a door nail. He adds that there is very little which the SDP and Liberals can now do to equip themselves with a single compelling issue which would dwarf their differences.

Independent: Leader says the Labour Party has a chance to seize the initiative. Its rivals for the anti-Tory vote have fallen into disarray. The Government has embarked on an ambitious programme of reforms, not all of which will prove either practicable or popular. But if the present Government destroyed itself tomorrow, there is little sign that Labour would know what it wanted to do with the power which had fallen into its lap.

COMMUNITY CHARGE

FT: Detailed study by Manchester University shows that hardest hit would be poorest people in inner cities.

EDUCATION

Independent: Kenneth Baker was barracked by about 100 parents and teachers protesting about Government plans to allow London boroughs to opt out of ILEA.

LAW AND ORDER

Independent leader commenting on his accepting resignation of scandal judge, says Lord Chancellor should take this opportunity to clarify the attitude of his office to the appointment and retention of homosexual judges. The business of blackmailers should not be made easy.

Independent: Actors and show business personalities turned out in force yesterday to protest against Clause 28 of the Local Government Bill which will prevent councils from promoting homosexuality.

FT P6: Blanket ban sought on MI5 reporting.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Times leads on shoot-to-kill RUC not to face charges but officers expected to face disciplinary action for perverting or attempting to pervert the course of justice; the Irish Government expresses dismay saying it is deeply concerned at the implications. Attorney General's statement renewed speculation behind dismissal of John Stalker; leader says too many unanswered questions remain after statement, concluding that it is difficult to see how announcement can be presented as likely to raise confidence in the policing of Ulster. Wants a further inquiry.

DEFENCE

Times: Four year study shows that there is no evidence that servicemen in Australia in 1950s for atomic bomb tests have suffered a higher incidence of cancer.

MIDDLE EAST

Times: David Mellor describes President Mubrak's Middle East peace plan as positive and constructive; leader discusses how President Mubarak's prestige has grown since 1981, adding that you will find that he is pro-Western, sensible and moderate, excellent qualities in a Middle East leader. But he still only plays a supportive role in Middle East politics.

UNITED STATES

FT: In his last State of the Union address, President Reagan urged Congress to help on the budget and vowed that he would not sign an omnibus budget resolution again this year.

AUSTRALIA

Times: Prince of Wales adds his support to Aborigines campaigning for land rights.

SOUTH AFRICA

Independent: The prospect of a top level conference on Southern Africa was given a boost in Cape Town yesterday after a meeting between Botha and Strauss, the right wing German. Botha says "Every visit of a reasonable leader from the West to Southern Africa could contribute to the idea that a conference should take place at high level."

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Fowler attends World Summit for AIDS opening ceremony and evening reception, London

DOE: Mr Ridley attends Brightside launch at Shellmex House, London

MAFF: Mr Macgregor opens British Growers Look Ahead exhibition and conference, Birmingham

DEM: Mr Lee attends Tourism Conference, Devon

DEN: Mr Spicer dines with the Association of Manufacturers of Domestic Electricity Appliances, Gloucester Hotel

DES: Mr Jackson meets George Bradly Junior, US Department of Energy; later receives delegation from British Medical Association

DES: Lady Hooper attends Ministerial group on Inner Cities; later attends reception at Australian High Commission

DOE: Mrs Roe addresses British Holiday and Home Parks exhibition, Harrogate; later opens Regency Court, Bradford

DTI: Mr Maude receives courtesy call from Korean Ambassador, Mr Oh Yay Hee

HMT: Mr Brooke launches the Coin Collector Challenge 1988, by the Royal Mint, House of Commons

HMT: Mr Lamont presents the Sunday Telegraph awards for the Unit Trust inventor of the year

MAFF: Baroness Trumpington addresses Food and Drink Federation lunch, Institute of Civil Engineering, London

OAL: Mr Luce holds Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme reception

WO: Mr Grist attends World Health Organisation Conference on AIDS, London

TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Kilroy": BBC 1 (9.20)

"Daytime on Two": BBC 2 (9.20) 'Inset Science' - series discusses demands of secondary science curriculum, including GCSE

"Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.00)

"You and Yours": BBC Radio 4 (12.00)

"I Could Do That": Channel 4 (13.00) - third of five programmes about business opportunities for young people

"The Parliament Programme": Channel 4 (14.00) daily programme covering both Houses of Parliament

"Woman's Hour": BBC Radio 4 (14.00) New women MPs on art of being successful backbencher

"The Local Network": BBC Radio 4 (16.05) - BBC local radio link up looks at discontented aristocrats claiming poverty