

15 February 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Princess of Wales opens the Children's Society's Youth Link Project and the Community Centre for Addiction, Birmingham

EC: Research Council, Brussels

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STATISTICS

CBI/FT: Survey of distributive trades (Jan)

DTI: Retail Sales (Jan:prov)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Energy; Transport; Wales

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS MOTIONS

Self-Employed (Mr Robert Jones)

School Bus Passes (Miss Ann Widdicombe)

London Weighting Allowance in the National Health Service (Sir Hugh Rossi)

Debate on Agriculture on a Motion for the Adjournment. European Community Document No. 4165/88 and the unnumbered explanatory memorandum submitted on 27 January 1988 by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food on Set-aside and Extensification are relevant.

Adjournment Debate: Taxis and taxi drivers' safety (Mr D Amess)

Select Committees: TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE  
Subject: Harmonisation of indirect taxation  
Witness: Lord Cockfield

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Costs and Financial Control of British Forces, Germany

Witness: Sir Clive Whitmore, KCB, CVO, Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Ministry of Defence

Lords: Starred Questions  
Local Government Bill: Report (1st Day)  
Norfolk and Suffolk Broads Bill: Report

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PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Welcome for EC budget settlement from FT and Independent; Times, however, thinks it is a bad deal and Telegraph says it was an orderly retreat. Guardian says deal contains things which should not be disparaged.

New political row over death of Birmingham hole in heart boy, Matthew Collier, even though doctors say delayed operation was not the cause.

Mirror attacks John Moore for, it claims, blaming Chancellor and others for denying him extra money for NHS. Express says his remarks were being played down last night as a misunderstanding.

Mail says unemployment fell 70,000 last month to its lowest level for 6 years but retail spending boom is slowing.

Britain's traffic controllers pass vote of no confidence in Head of National Air Traffic Control Services for refusing to meet them to listen to grievances.

Today claims that Ford is ready to drop its 3-year deal and insistence on major changes in working practices. Telegraph says more Ford plants in Europe face shut-down.

P&O ferry men at Dover vote to stay out but Isle of Man Steam Packet men vote to accept lower redundancies.

TV-AM to tell 240 striking technicians that they will be sacked if they do not return to work.

Blue Circle wins control of Birmid Qualcast.

Reports that Waldheim is set to stand down as Austrian president as Austrian Chancellor threatens to resign saying "It's either him (Waldheim) or me".

George Bush on the slide in presidential primaries race.

Foreign Secretary to sign drug war agreement with Soviet Union today.

Your meeting last November with Archbishop Runcie and Bishops reported.

John Whittingdale and John O'Sullivan went to National Young Conservatives' conference to head off extremist takeover.

David Owen, interviewed by Mail, demands Government should persuade Eli Lilly to set up trust fund for Opren victims, of whom his mother is one.

Government drops idea of suing Stalker for profits of book.

Express, following up weekend reports, claims Jack Diamond, ex-MP, was subject of Security Service surveillance, with picture of him with two Yugoslav girls, to prove it.

Pub landlord accused of murder of 22 year old girl insurance clerk missing from same village in Lancs.

13 arrested in connection with dog fighting near Heathrow.

Scientists said to be "hysterical" about a human face "carved" in rock on Mars.

Sun says USA is expected soon to drop visas for British visitors.

#### EC

Sun: Chirac gets basting for saying .... to Mrs T. French Summit filth. He faces demands for public apology; leader describes outcome as honourable draw.

Mirror: Thatcher caves in as French swear at her. Never been such an angry EC Summit. But feature admits there are good features to settlement.

Today: Pardon Jacque's French - Edwin McMillan-Scott, EuroMP, says Chirac's obscenity was disgraceful. He is writing to him to demand an apology.

Express: Coblers to you, Chirac.

Paul Johnson, in Mail, on why the French are so rude. They ended the Summit with their reputation for rudeness enhanced. The French cannot forgive you for being obstinate. You regard their EC diplomacy as greedy, self centred, obstinate and unreasonable.

Mail report says Market deal faces a rough ride. For the first time you blinked in eyeball to eyeball confrontation.

Telegraph says EC officials and diplomats welcomed "end of Thatcher factor" in EC politics after your concessions; leader describes it as an orderly retreat. Labour opportunism is unconvincing. But your supporters have the right to question your decision to compromise. It represents a British retreat but

it was not an unconditional surrender.

Guardian leader says what you have brought home is rather less than what you sought and you have swallowed figures on farm production and spending earlier dismissed as unthinkable. But it contains gains which should not be disparaged.

John Palmer, in Guardian, says that by any standards this does not add up to a sell-out.

Independent: Kinnock accuses you of a climbdown on EC reform but Government is confident of weathering the storm of MPs' protests. Leader hails the settlement as a historic and decisive moment for the EC. It doubts if the budget debate will go away entirely but it marks the point where sterile debate should give way to working towards the important creation of a genuinely common trading market in Western Europe. In commentary, John Lichfield says you brought home a creditable compromise deal (but a difficult one to sell publicly) and also showed a commitment to the opening up of a new European front - the campaign to remove economic barriers within the 12 over the next five years.

Times: Your gamble on EC summit deal averts reform failure but you can expect a rough ride from MPs when you make your Commons statement. Critical leader in Times describes the EC compromise as a bad deal and says it is hard to accept your assertion that it was not a fudge. It adds that probably no other British leader could have done as well but the question is whether you were right to settle when you could have held out until Hanover in June.

FT: You will tell MPs today that summit was highly successful. Leader says summit must have been one of the most difficult of your career. You deserve full credit, not because the deal is in itself a good one, but because you had the political shrewdness to realise it was the best you were going to get; and the statesmanship to understand that more would be lost than gained by prolonging the agony.

Times: Francis Maude to give financial services top priority in quest for single European market.

#### MATTHEW COLLIER

Star says his surgery was delayed three times over four months because of a shortage of nurses. His chances were not improved with that delay. Shortages can no longer be tolerated.

Express attacks the kneejerk reactions of ghoulish Labour opportunists whose allegations are as unfounded as they are unhelpful.

Independent: As Matthew Collier dies, Birmingham Children's Hospital's waiting list for heart operations gets longer. Health Authority negotiates to buy operations and beds at a local private hospital to reduce the queue.

### NHS

Report by Institute of Economic Affairs Health Unit, in Times, criticises your "simplistic" political view for greater competition in NHS, saying an internal market system could jeopardise some sections of the community, such as the elderly, lower-paid and disabled.

Times: Labour seize on John Moore's speech on health policy to argue that the Government is determined to create a two-tier service.

Times: Drug firms face test case over addiction to tranquilisers.

Simon Burns MP, writing in Times, sees lotteries as the answer to the funding crisis in the NHS, saying this Government has a justifiable reputation for being radical and bold. Now is the time to prove it once again.

FT: Cash for experiments in health internal markets between public and private authorities is supported by Institute of Economic Affairs.

### BUDGET

Sun says couples who live in sin on a tax dodge are to be clobbered by the Chancellor.

Today says you and Chancellor are on collision course over future of mortgage tax relief. Leader says fairness calls for more than straight tax cuts - anomalies over mortgage and married women's earnings should be ended and he should raise tobacco and alcohol duties to cover cost of nurses' pay deal.

Telegraph says Budget will attack perks to head off criticism that it is a rich man's Budget.

Times: Chancellor's tax bonanza may be coming to an end, and the Treasury is likely to be cautious when forecasting revenues for next year in the Budget.

INDUSTRY

Independent: More miners to be sent home as NACODS overtime ban bites harder. No sign of movement in Ford's strike.

Times: Lord Young expected to approve Rover Group's corporate plan next month which sets out company's future for next five years.

Times: Industrial disputes have been considerably less damaging to the economy during the 1980s than in the 1970s.

Times: Rover understood to be developing for Home Office a "theft proof" car.

FT: Backlog threatens implementation of self-regulatory organisation regime.

FT: Richard Branson accepts directorship of Intourist.

FT: Labour attacks Treasury tax loophole.

FT: Barclays Bank quarterly review warns of sharp rises in interest rates.

ELECTRICITY

Times leader discusses electricity privatisation, saying Cecil Parkinson's plans have reached the final, most sensitive phase when personalities and political calculation increasingly overlay the practical industrial issues.

Independent: Resistance mounts to electricity price rises - Electricity Consumers Council again questions Government's justification for raising prices. CBI also warns against rises.

CHURCH

Sun leader says there has been only one Archbishop of Canterbury of genuine stature and religious fervour - Temple. The fault lies with the system. But the true spirit of Christianity is more likely to reside in an ordinary vicarage than in Lambeth Palace.

Today says Government is to keep up its pressure on Bishops to take a tougher moral stance.

Mail says you invited the Bishops and then served up some tough talking at a lunchtime lesson.

Telegraph says you reproved Bishops at meeting; you were adamant at lunch Church should give a clear and unambiguous lead.

Times: Frosty relationship between Government and Church of England has thawed after confidential meeting between you and 8 senior Bishops at Chequers when you told them you wanted a new emphasis on personal morality.

#### POLITICS

Independent: Kinnock preparing for radical shift by Labour hierarchy in favour of a black political organisation affiliated to the party.

Times: Kinnock warns critics inside party they will be permanently sidelined if they persist in questioning his leadership.

#### INNER CITIES

Times: Arts Council to launch wide-ranging initiative to emphasise part that arts can play in inner city regeneration.

#### EDUCATION

Times: Vice Chancellors and college principals may turn themselves into a high-profile trade union-style group after criticism that they have been neither able or willing to act as torch bearer for universities.

#### MEDIA

Times: BBC to increase warnings to TV viewers about programmes containing violent scenes.

#### IRELAND

Express leader says Haughey was always a chancer and his outbursts over Stalker affair are in the finest tradition of his unhappy reputation. Listening to him one has the impression he got all his information from watching the BBC.

Independent: Cool Anglo-Irish relations unlikely to be thawed at bilateral talks tomorrow - though Irish Government insist they will not reduce security cooperation.

Independent leader welcomes the possibility of reform of the Diplock Courts system. Not only could it resolve the impasse in Anglo-Irish relations but, more important, it would be a step towards high and consistent standards of justice throughout the whole of the United Kingdom.

Times: In spite of negative outcome of your meeting with Haughey, you and Tom King are acutely aware of the importance of keeping him as an ally.

#### LAW AND ORDER

Times: Scotland Yard preparing to introduce a points system for assessing crimes so that police concentrate on cases they believe can be solved and more officers are released for street patrol.

Times: Scotland Yard deny they are planning to hive off fraud unit.

#### EAST/WEST

Independent: Soviet press criticises Britain for opposing triple zero and reduction of its own nuclear arsenal as Sir Geoffrey Howe arrives in Moscow for talks.

Times: Russia greets Foreign Secretary with sharp attack on the Thatcher Government's arms control policies; Soviet authorities tell FCO that 13 Russians, including Mrs Rima Sosna, can leave the country.

Times: You are expected to use your first visit as Prime Minister to NATO to emphasise need to keep both nuclear and conventional forces up to date.

FT: Foreign Secretary will tell Soviet leaders that Britain is not prepared to negotiate reductions in its nuclear arms, even if the Soviet Union and United States agree 50% cut in strategic weapons.

#### MIDDLE EAST

FT: Kinnock starts one-week fact-finding tour of Middle East.

BERNARD INGHAM



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MAFF: Mr MacGregor opens ICI's new environmental science laboratories, Bracknell

WO: Mr Walker addresses Cardiff Business Club, Cardiff

DEM: Mr Cope hosts lunch for Moroccan Minister of Employment

DES: Mr Jackson visits Imperial College, London; later addresses the Cambridge Union debate on the independence of Universities

DOE: Mr Waldegrave visits Hartlepool (Housing)

DOE: Mr Trippier visits Inner Area Partnership meeting, Manchester

DOE: Mrs Roe visits Licensed Victuallers National Homes, Denham, Buckinghamshire

MAFF: Mr Gummer addresses Latin American Institute, London

MAFF: Mr Thompson visits London Fox, Commodity Quay, St Katherine Dock, London

SO: Lord James Douglas-Hamilton attends Profit from Prevention conference, Adam Smith Centre, Kirkcaldy

SO: Mr Lang meets CBI (Scotland) Urban Regeneration, Alhambra House, Glasgow

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

HO: Mr Hurd addresses the American Chamber of Commerce

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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DES: Mr Jackson interviewed by James Atlas of the New York Times about Oxford University and the Thatcher Government

MAFF: Mr Thompson interviewed by Channel 4, For What Its Worth

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TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

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

"Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.00)

"Open Exchange": Channel 4 (12.00) discusses open learning in Northern Ireland

"Advice Shop": BBC 2 (16.00) advises retired people on home and pension matters

"Information Technology": Channel 4 (18.00) on interactive videos

"Promises and Piecrust": Channel 4 (18.30) 'The New Order' - first of 7 programmes looks at why primary education is now under attack

"Horizon": BBC 2 (20.10) 'Struggling for Control' examines air traffic control in UK and asks if system is close to breakdown

"Panorama": BBC 1 (21.30) 'Violence on Television' examines the connection between TV violence and increased violence in society

"Split Screen": BBC 2 (22.15) 'Segregated Schools?'; debates the extent to which religion and culture should be allowed to affect educational choice

"The World Tonight": BBC Radio 4 (22.30) followed by "The Financial World Tonight" then "Today in Parliament"

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.45)

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