

18 February 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister makes statement on "The Next Steps" and later records interview for ITN

EC: Informal meeting of Ministers for Development, Bavaria

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STATISTICS

Bank of  
England: Provisional estimates of monetary aggregates (Jan)

CLSB: London and Scottish banks monthly statement (Jan)

DEM: Labour market statistics: unemployment and vacancies  
(Jan-prov); average earnings indices (Dec-prov);  
employment, hours productivity and unit wage costs;  
industrial disputes

DTI: Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (4th qtr - prov)

DTI: Capital expenditure by the manufacturing and service industries  
(4th qtr - prov)

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PUBLICATIONS

DES: Issue of Back to School booklet on teaching as a new career  
(plus campaign)

DTI: Capital Expenditure (4th Qtr) 1987 (Prov)

DTI: Manufacturers and distributors stocks (4th Qtr) 1987 (Prov)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Home Office; Northern Ireland; Prime Minister

Business: Motions relating to Social Fund Regulations. Details will  
be given in the Official Report.

Motion on the Rate Limitation (Prescribed Maximum) (Rates)  
Order.

Adjournment Debate: The closure of the Abernant Colliery and the Wernus  
Washery (Mr D Coleman)

Select Committees: COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL  
British Airways (London) [Lords]

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Lords: Starred Questions  
Local Government Bill: Report (3rd Day)  
Licensing Bill: Second Reading

UQ to ask HMG whether, at the forthcoming NATO Summit meeting, they will propose a new study like that of Mr Harmel in 1967, of the "Future tasks of the Alliance to strengthen it as a factor for durable peace"

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Media criticism, especially in Times, of Government's Northern Ireland policy following Tom King's statement. RUC faces big shake up (Mirror). Express leads with "King admits Stalker got it right"; Stalker feels vindicated.

Times calls on you to take proper charge of Government policy.

Telegraph describes Commons exchanges as non-event.

Shop stewards trying to get a "No" vote in Ford ballot on latest offer; union leaders, however, confident of acceptance.

Land Rover workers walk out over company opinion polls about strike, planned for Sunday.

ITV system said to be under threat because of TV-AM's plan to employ non-union technicians, including some flown in from Australia and America, after sacking 230 members of ACTT who are on strike.

Labour Party calls for £2bn injection in Budget in NHS.

Gallup, in Telegraph, shows that Chancellor would be defying popular sentiment if he reduced top rate taxes in Budget and refused to increase NHS spending. 67% prepared to pay more tax.

Telegraph reports that the gap between North and South is as wide as ever with no sign that regional policies have corrected the imbalances.

Guardian claims Cecil Parkinson last night admitted Opposition claim that North Sea oil had been used to finance high level of unemployment.

Tribune Group of Labour MPs to carry out its own review of Party policy.

Mail says Civil Service unions are predicting an "explosion of anger" when you reveal "The Next Steps" plan today.

Sun says a plan to give council tenants a £10,000 golden handshake to leave council house and put a deposit on a private house.

Tim Renton says Government is determined to find a way to reform Sunday trading laws.



Paul Channon says conditions of local roads is getting worse because local authorities are holding back spending £148m already provided by Government.

Marks and Spencer to go in for mail order catalogue.

British Telecom heading for clash with Government, according to Express, because they do not intend to introduce safeguards over use of Talkabout service for teenagers. BT says service will have to be shut down if restrictions are imposed.

Eight toiletry manufacturers to phase out chemical spray propellants because of fears they are damaging earth's ozone layer.

Government restricts Korean car imports to 10% of total under restraint system.

Motor coaches to be fitted with governors under new regulations to limit speed to 70mph.

Nuns and priests among 57 arrested in Ash Wednesday CND demo outside MoD.

Deputy leader of Brent council charged with corruption in connection with grants paid to Asian Community Association.

Briton convicted of fire bomb attack in Brisbane which killed 15 people in 1973 given parole on condition he goes to Britain - arrived last night. Teddy Taylor MP furious.

Mrs Kinnock in emotional scene at hospital to see victims of West Bank violence. Kinnock accuses Israelis of shooting Palestinians in the back and fuels new crisis (Mail).

Express describes the new anti-AIDS campaign as misleading and alarmist; it should focus on those genuinely at risk.

Pops, apart from Mail, ignore your visit to NATO but Independent, Telegraph, Times, FT and Guardian cover it.

Russia stages SS missile pullout before TV cameras.

Common Market destroys 187lbs of fruit every second every day, according to Labour MEPs.

Austria's Foreign Minister angry at UK Government's further inquiry into Waldheim (Telegraph).



Media claims Prince Charles staged a silent protest after being prevented from attacking a tax loophole which allows rich to make fortunes out of forestry; attends Lords but does not speak as expected.

Gunmen capture American marine colonel, attached to UN, in Lebanon.

#### NORTHERN IRELAND

Sun says there is no braver police band than in Ulster. Now instead of giving thanks for their dedication, Tom King seems determined to hound them.

Express wants to know why the Government needs a third inquiry into RUC. Surely Stalker/Sampson revealed enough to show whether there are grounds for disciplinary charges. If Ministers are reluctant to proceed with those charges, another inquiry merely keeps the whole wretched business on the boil.

Mail says that whatever allowances may be made for the British Government in this matter, one charge - that of procrastination - will stick. The agony has been prolonged until every sensitive nerve North and South of the border is jumping.

Independent: Tom King endorses Stalker's criticisms of the RUC. He goes much further than had been expected in detailing possible disciplinary action and reorganisation of the force. Haughey attacks British justice and dismisses the announcement, saying that disciplinary action alone would not suffice. He also says no British extradition requests will be processed until Attorney General complies with new Irish procedures, although he indicated that cross-border security cooperation would not be affected by the dispute.

Times leads with King launches new inquiry into RUC. Anglo-Irish Agreement weathers its worst crisis although Irish Government dismiss Mr King's statement as "absolutely unsatisfactory"; leader says that for the first time since Agreement was signed, the British side has appeared reactive, ill-prepared and ill-coordinated in recent weeks. It adds that it is time you took proper charge of Government policy and show that British statesmanship can be organised and presented with the same grasp of essentials which Mr Haughey displayed yesterday.

Times: Haughey may call snap election after his Government unexpectedly lost vote over hospital closure.



Telegraph leads with "Fourth official inquiry into Ulster shootings"; leader on "The Stalker legacy" says Tom King's statement reflected a laudable honesty of purpose, but also a profoundly unsatisfactory situation. Sooner or later it seems inevitable, in view of the pressure, that individual officers will have to be named and accept responsibility. The chief casualty is the frail strand of trust between British and Irish people. It will take a great deal to repair.

FT: British and Irish governments express deep concern at strained relationship. Leader says Tom King's statement was both an admission of how much has gone wrong in the past and a promise to do better in future. What he said amounted to an apology handsome enough for Dublin to accept, but the British should not be so careless again.

#### FORD

Mail leader says Ford managers and union leaders have been ambushed by workers. The real risk is that having won concessions so swiftly they may be tempted to try it again. But let them be warned. They are still some way behind German and Japanese efficiency.

Independent leader says it is still not certain the dispute is over despite general concern that its generous terms could cause a knock-on effect. It criticises Ford management for not anticipating the dispute and for its poor communications with workers.

Telegraph leader says Ford is on the run. Strike ballots are two-edged. They make it more difficult for politically motivated union leaders. But their caution at other times can be set at nought by membership. Climate in which wage negotiations are being conducted are a great deal too relaxed for the Government's comfort.

#### INDUSTRY

Times: Commons Transport Committee to mount top-level inquiry into air safety.

Times: CSO survey shows incomes gap is not just a North-South divide but that there are substantial differences in wealth and prosperity within regions.



Independent: In its investigation of Burton's acquisition of Debenhams, DTI queries payment of £2.5m by Burton to Heron International nine months after the event.

Independent: Chairman of Electricity Council, Sir Philip Jones, calls for private power generators to enter the industry before privatisation. He backs Government proposals to take control of the transmission grid away from the CEBG.

Times: Commons Trade and Industry Committee told US and Japanese manufacturers could monopolise multi-billion pound information technology market after 1992 unless EC governments take coordinated action now.

Times: BA to write off heavy trading loss at B.Cal.

Times: Government firmly rejects demands for a delay in implementing its authorisation timetable for investment firms.

Times: One of Hong Kong's wealthiest families buys Churchill Hotel for £110m.

FT: Job centres and social security benefit offices in London likely to shut today by one-day CPSA strike of staff transfers.

#### ECONOMY

Times: Big cut in unemployment figure of 2.7m expected in coming months as Government increases efforts to get long-term jobless back to work.

FT: EC growth is likely to fall just short of 2% this year, making no measurable dent in the unemployment rate of 11.5%, European Commission predicts. This knocks half a percentage point of last autumn's estimate of 1988 growth.

#### MEDIA

Independent: Douglas Hurd indicates Government has serious reservations about EC and Council of Europe proposals to set new standards for television programmes and advertising.

Times: Home Secretary unhappy with radical European broadcasting plan, saying a number of the proposals could cause difficulty for Britain.



NHS

Star says the NHS is crumbling because of waste, inefficiency and downright incompetence; spokesman for Association of Health Authorities admits they lose large amounts through theft, overheating and catering.

Times: Papworth hearth operation cutback because of staff illness and shortage of trained nurses for intensive care units.

THE NEXT STEPS

Independent: Civil Servants will be told in individual letters today not to panic about the Ibbs' proposals though Robin Butler will not be giving the majority of them guarantees in the longer term. Unions threaten to mount major campaign because they say proposals will lead to the public receiving an inferior service.

EDUCATION

Independent leader welcomes concessions in the Education Reform Bill on university funding. It says intellectual freedom is endangered. It acknowledges that this Government has done something to reverse the trend, albeit clumsily, but calls for more. It advocates further education vouchers for everyone.

Times: London Schools Orchestra may fold after the ILEA is abolished unless Government ensures that London councils are obliged to keep it.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Times: Lewisham Council orders inquiry after ratepayers face £1m bill for renovation work on two houses carried out under scheme to train school leavers.

FT: District authorities, in a letter to be made public tomorrow, will warn Liverpool city council that it must set a proper budget to solve impending deficit of £51m for 1987-88.

COMMUNITY CHARGE

Times: Christopher Chope confirms that community charge will cost twice as much to collect as domestic rates.



LAW AND ORDER

Independent: Labour MPs on the Home Affairs Select Committee call for parliamentary inquiry into the activities of Freemasons in the Metropolitan Police.

Independent: Metropolitan Police upsets gay lobby group by asking potential recruits if they have been tested for AIDS.

Times: Number of juvenile offenders has fallen by 23.2% in 10 years.

Guardian says a number of solicitors firms in London are being investigated by police and legal aid authorities for suspected fraud over claims.

YOUR VISIT TO NATO

Mail: Maggie - NATO must up-date.

Independent: Thatcher dashes German hopes. Putting down a marker for the NATO summit, you underline your commitment to weapons modernisation though you express confidence that a clash between Bonn and other NATO partners can be avoided.

Telegraph: Soviet policies still pose threat, says Thatcher.

Guardian: Thatcher scorns Bonn's nuclear stance and publicly attacks West German reluctance to approve NATO's modernisation plans.

Times: You give clearest signals to rest of NATO that there must be no back-tracking over decision taken five years ago to modernise all nuclear weapons deployed in Europe; Kohl flies to Washington to prepare to take tough line on new East-West disarmament moves.

FT: "Thatcher sees no hurry for Nuclear arms talks" giving priority to conventional forces balance and chemical weapons ban.

DEFENCE

Independent: Commons Defence Committee will investigate concern over progress on Trident and will visit Aldermaston for first time in eight years.

Times: Commons Defence Committee send more than 50 questions to MoD to establish truth of a number of alarming reports on Trident and other nuclear programmes.



EC

EC may write off £1bn debts owed by Third World countries.

WALDHEIM

Sun says every day Waldheim remains Austrian President he brings shame on his country. Going voluntarily might be the one decent action in his life.

Independent: Heath and Lord Home both deny they had been told about British war records which may have named Waldheim when they were in office.

Independent names Foreign Office file number, which was shredded in 1978, which it says may have contained evidence of a cover-up of Waldheim's past.

Times: Government under increasing pressure to give full explanation over destruction of Waldheim files. You are to be asked to try to get duplicates from the US; leader welcomes your decision to reopen file on the six British Commandoes.

FALKLANDS

Independent: Senior US State Department official meets Alfonsin to try and defuse row over British reinforcement exercise in the Falklands. The exercise has caused irritation in the State Department where officials make no secret of their annoyance with what they see as your intransigence over the Falklands.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DTI: Mr Clarke addresses Industrial Society on inner cities

HO: Mr Hurd speaks at St Martins In The Fields, London

DEM: Mr Lee visits the Lawn Tennis Museum, Wimbledon and meets the management committee

DES: Mr Jackson receives deputation from Birkbeck College, House of Commons; later has lunch with Dr Michael Clark MP and officers at the Royal Society of Chemistry

DOE: Mr Trippier addresses National Forum on Quality Assurance and Construction, London

DTI: Mr Maude hosts and addresses International Securities Regulators dinner, Herstmonceux Castle

DTI: Mr Clark attends UK/Algerian Joint Commission signing ceremony

DTI: Mr Butcher addresses Pan-European Digital Cellindar Radio launch

HO: Lord Ferrers visits Brixton Police Station

MAFF: Mr Gummer closes CLA Alternative Enterprise Conference, York

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Mr Eggar departs for Geneva and addresses UN Human Rights Commission

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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DOE: Mr Howard takes part in BBC TV's Question Time

Dtp: Mr Mitchell interviewed by BBC TV on bus deregulation in Tyne and Wear

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TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Who Owns Britain": BBC Radio 4 (9.30) Series, examining who owns what, look at property portfolios of commercial entrepreneurs

"Carvel in Conversation": BBC Radio 4 (11.25) Interview with Lord Carrington

"Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.00)

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

"The Parliament Programme": Channel 4 (14.00)

"Women: The Way Ahead": Channel 4 (13.00) first of 5 programmes looking at women returning to work after having families

"The Sharp End": Channel 4 (18.30) series about work

"The Education Programme": BBC 2 (19.30) looks at effect of proposed national curriculum on future arts education

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TV AND RADIO (Cont'd)

"Out of Court": BBC 2 (20.00) examines impact of hostels for ex-offenders on their local neighbourhoods

"Analysis": BBC Radio 4 (20.15) 'The Islam Factor' examines the effect of militant fundamentalism on Nigerian economic development

"Nature": BBC 2 (20.30) new series on environment

"This Week": ITV (20.30)

"40 Minutes": BBC 2 (21.30) runs extracts from video diary of an AIDS sufferer

"Question Time": BBC 1 (22.00) with Howard Davies, Margaret Hodge, Michael Howard QC MP and Peter Riddell

"The City Programme": ITV (22.35)

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.45)

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

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