

21 March 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh attend the Royal Film Performance of "Empire of the Sun", London

EC: Energy Council, Brussels

EC: Environment Council, Brussels

EC: Visit by House of Commons Select Committee on EC Legislation to Copenhagen (to 25 March)

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STATISTICS

DTI: Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (4th qtr 1987 rev)

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PUBLICATIONS

DES: HMI report on curriculum matters 10: Careers Education and Guidance from 5-16

NIO: House of Commons paper on Equal Opportunities Commission annual report

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Wales; Energy; Transport

Business: Conclusion of the Budget Debate  
Education Reform Bill: Money Resolution

Adjournment Debate: Acute beds in Fife (Mr D Douglas)

Select Committees: HOME AFFAIRS  
Subject: Radio Broadcasting  
Witness: Mr Tim Renton MP, Minister of State, Home Office

Lords: Starred Questions  
Betting, Gaming and Lotteries (Amendment) Bill (HL) Third Reading  
Immigration Bill (1st Day)  
British Rail (Penalty Fares) Bill (HL) Second Reading

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PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

Tom King to give statement today on murder by IRA of 2 soldiers trapped at funeral on Saturday - an incident which dominates the news pages with photographs and revolts the leader writers.

Army points out courage and restraint of soldiers in not using their guns on the crowd. MoD dismisses as "absolute rubbish" IRA claims that two corporals were on surveillance mission.

Today claims IRA woke up the two tortured and unconscious soldiers to tell them they were going to be shot.

Girl who was to have married one of the two says she saw mob attacking them, without realising who was involved.

Catholic churchmen condemn savage killers: "our parish is seen as dripping in the blood of the murdered" - priest; Loyalists furious over light policing of funerals and no go areas. Mail says Tom King plans to end softly-softly policy.

Some calls for Tom King and Sir John Hermon to resign. Telegraph says angry Tory MPs blame Tom King for soldiers' deaths. Pressure from Republic and SDLP for a summit between you and Haughey under Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Haughey says latest outburst of violence stems from Government's handling of Stalker affair.

Ivor Stanbrook MP wants to see television coverage of terrorism curbed.

Lord Fitt, writing in Express, says he worries greatly for Northern Ireland and wept at the scenes on TV.

Mail says three minutes of film destroyed totally the lies the IRA have tried to spread for 20 years, especially to Irish communities in the USA.

Telegraph expects swoops on IRA in hunt for killers; Guardian says Tom King is likely to announce changes in security policy today.

AEU appeals to TUC not to suspend ETU this week in growing row over single union deals; it says unions' standing with public is at zero after fiasco over Ford, Dundee. Guardian finds Ron Todd, TGWU backing off from confrontation over Dundee, but others see no compromise coming. Today says ETU should lose no sleep over being suspended from TUC - instead they should walk out and with AEU



start up a rival TUC.

P&O offers new talks in seven week ferry dispute at Dover;  
Independent says NU Seamen likely to vote today for national strike.

Lord Young seeking EC clearance this week for B/Aerospace takeover of Rover.

Guardian says LWT has agreed a strike breaking deal to make and broadcast a programme from Holland.

Sunday Times Mori poll shows 60% favoured base rate cut and 51% agree with new basic rate goal of 20p. But top rate cuts unpopular.

Mail says Labour's attempt to start a moral revolt against the Budget has fallen flat.

Telegraph says Labour is to switch its fire from Government's record on NHS to rich/poor divide.

You attack do-gooders for creating "a fog of excuses" for muggers and burglars.

Police waging a new war against Underground muggings.

Mirror survey claims thefts from stores in Britain - "a nation of crooks" - are costing £1.3bn a year.

Women's Journal survey shows nearly two-thirds of women in favour of capital punishment.

Local authorities £51bn in debt - equivalent to £910 per person; interest payments cost £80 per head per year.

Case of jobless Asian with 2 wives and 11 children who is having a £40,000 extension built to his St Alban's council house by ratepayers.

NE Thames Health Authority has made £1m selling services overseas and is urging others to do same (Mail).

Graham Turner, in Mail, begins a series on health services abroad in West Germany - they can't go on financing rising costs.

Centre for Policy Studies claims that trendy experts are sabotaging Thatcher reforms in schools. Mail says that the CPS is putting pressure on Kenneth Baker to introduce more rigorous teaching.



Israeli soldier shot dead on West Bank - first use of firearms by Arabs.

Mail says Gorbachev has marked May 27 for Reagan Summit.

Hawke considering policy changes after Labour's shattering defeat in New South Wales power base.

Honduran jets bomb Sandanista border positions.

Alan Fisher, ex-leader, NUPE, dies of leukaemia, 65.

"Yes Prime Minister" among BAFTA awards.

New book on Duke of Windsor claims he had an illegitimate son - old Etonian Tim Seeley, former actor.

#### ULSTER COMMENT

Star: If we needed proof that withdrawing police and Army protection is sheer folly, it came with last Wednesday's IRA funeral shooting. But even that lesson was not learned. On Saturday the modern equivalent of a lynch mob was allowed to butcher 2 young men and there was no one there to prevent it. The crazy policy of allowing West Belfast to be a no-go area must end now.

Sun leader headed "Scum of the Earth" says hatred and savagery are not limited in the Province to a few hundred fanatical IRA members. The mob were not there simply to mourn. We did not hear a word of protest or a single hand raised to help soldiers. The lesson is that concession and conciliation in Ulster are doomed to failure. A calamitous mistake to allow series of IRA funerals to go ahead without a strong security presence. Government must now turn from a policy of opportunism and weakness to realism and strength. No more IRA style funerals; proscribe Sinn Fein; incorporate Ulster fully into Britain.

Mirror devotes its centre pages to pictures and comment; the savagery of Saturday's murders would shame the beasts of the jungle. But words have no meaning any more as atrocity succeeds atrocity. It is time you faced reality. The only policy that might work - withdrawal - no one has had the nerve to try.

Today says it publishes revolting colour pictures of the killings without apology to show to what depths Ulster has sunk. It is tempting to pull out the troops but it would be worse to leave the people of Ulster to the ferocious anarchy of the armed gangs of nationalists and loyalists. There must be no more deals



between police and terrorists and the killers, who must be easily identified, must be hunted down. And there must be a crackdown on black cabs which are simply tools of IRA terror.

Express says no sooner do we suppose that we have reached the final depths of depravity in Ulster than the province surpasses itself again in gruesome horror. You will have no option but to end the disastrous gamble of the RUC standing aside from policing funerals. Those identified on film should be summarily detained. But withdrawal from Ulster should not be contemplated.

Mail in a full page leader under heading "Never again surrender on security" says this tribal atrocity was in our own country. The two communities, after 20 years of terror, are still as far apart as ever. The stinking mess seems beyond rational solution. But the Government must stop bending over backwards to woo Catholic hierarchy and appease Catholic politicians and keeping a low profile. Your Government must come out of its corner fighting. Softness has been tried and we are counting the corpses. The border may have to be redrawn giving more territory to the Republic and the stiff necked Protestants retaining their supremacy over nobody very much but themselves.

Max Hastings, in Telegraph, says Government must repeat that for all the misery inflicted by the IRA the British will and ability to maintain Northern Ireland as a part of the UK is not in doubt. Thereafter the most unwelcome message from Westminster to the British people is that there is no military or political panacea which will solve problem of Northern Ireland.

Guardian leader says a new appalling ingredient has been added to the horror and degradation - the exercise of lynch law on the streets of the UK. The RUC's policy of keeping its distance during IRA funerals has to be reassessed. It is no cause for blame that Tom King and Sir John Hermon sanctioned the policy. But Saturday's scenes must not be repeated and without a security presence they might be.

Times says police have list of at least a dozen suspects but are taking no immediate action for fear of riots in Republican areas. Your deep-rooted loathing of terrorism will lead you to demand a tough response, but you will listen closely to advice from Tom King and security services.

Independent leader says if there is any comfort to be drawn from the recent atrocities, it is that the nature of the IRA has been publicly demonstrated. It wishes to be regarded as a disciplined force which carries out operations of surgical precision in pursuit of high ideals. Instead it has been seen encouraging all that is most bestial in human nature, and has brought shame to



Ireland. It can never be allowed to win.

FT: King awaits report on Ulster murders. In the short term attention now focuses on three issues:

- What were the corporals doing in West Belfast?
- How will the authorities deal with those associated with Saturday's gruesome events?
- How will the authorities deal with future funerals?

FT Diary profiles Tom King's role and concludes that British policy towards Ireland can only be effective if the full authority of the British Government is seen to be behind it. You have plainly taken your eye off the ball.

#### YOUR CONFERENCE SPEECH

Today covers your attack on do-gooders for creating "fog of excuses" for muggers and burglars.

Telegraph says you declared war on violent crime; Nicholas Ridley, through community charge, hopes to create a taxpayers' revolt against high spending councils.

Guardian says you sharpened your cutting edge. Ian Aitken says you were in rattling good form at Buxton. Even after the Budget senior members of the Shadow Cabinet are wringing their hands saying they can see no way to defeat the Tories.

Independent: You led ministers in a triumphal assertion of Tory dominance at the weekend proclaiming Budget tax cuts as the "epitaph for socialism".

Times covers your Saturday speech concentrating on the crusade against sociological alibis for criminals.

#### POLITICS

Telegraph says Tony Byrne, architect of Liverpool Council's budget strategy, has escaped expulsion; this is first real setback for Kinnock's campaign to undermine Militant influence.

Independent: Anthony Bevins thinks the Chancellor will soon move out or up. If you went this year there is no doubt that you could pass the baton to Mr Lawson. But last week's Budget was regarded as a brilliant coup. Mr Lawson's moment has come. Only you have the power to make him stay.



Times: David Owen's SDP level pegging with its bigger merged rival for middle ground votes, according to MORI.

Times: Labour to enter next General Election committed for first time to a national minimum wage - might be set at £100.

### BUDGET

Tim Congdon in the Times looks at the significance of a balanced budget pledge saying reaction to last week's announcement has been met with almost complete indifference.

Times: City economists say Chancellor's target of a 20% basic rate of income tax can be achieved in two years.

Economic View by Rodney Lord in Times says Chancellor can be fairly pleased with the reception his Budget proposals have had so far.

Times leader under heading "Unfinished Business" looks at the possible departure of the Chancellor and compares the UK's economy with that of the US saying President Reagan's successor will have to grapple with the contradictions of Reaganomics. Mr Lawson's successor could be confident in economic management but would need to be wary of the social implications.

Times: MORI survey shows that you are enjoying record levels of approval among the voters on the economic front while the Chancellor's ratings are left in the doldrums.

FT: Ministers believe tax reforms will continue, despite the Chancellor's doubts.

### INDUSTRY

Independent: British Rail is planning a radical overhaul of its pay bargaining system to move towards local pay awards.

Independent: The TGWU is set effectively to reject last minute pleas from leaders of the Scottish Labour movement to save £40m investment by Ford in Dundee.

Times: Wolfson Foundation giving £10m towards established basic research in Britain.

Times. Institute of Economic Affairs says Government should restrict trade union power still further by abolishing unions' immunities and encouraging employers to offer workers individual



contracts.

Times: B/Telecom considering paying compensation to large business customers for service failures or for delays in installing new lines or equipment.

Times: Ford expects that worldwide vehicle production could outstrip demand by as much as 20% - 9 million vehicles - within two years.

FT: ESA director says Britain has last chance to join Columbus project. He believes Kenneth Clarke has not finally decided on the issue.

FT: Deregulation of buses led to relatively few complaints from the public, according to annual report of traffic commissioners.

Ft: British Coal and SSEB are expected to agree three-month truce today.

#### NHS

Independent: St Thomas's teaching hospital in London is set to close almost 200 beds in the coming financial year, shedding more than 300 staff.

Independent: The Government is almost certain to reduce the social imbalance in the Budget by announcing next month that it will fully fund pay rises for nurses which are due to be recommended by the Review Body. Anything less would provoke a major Tory revolt.

#### EDUCATION

Times: Michael Alison and Lady Cox to urge you to press Kenneth Baker to insist that school children should receive not just religious education but "Christian" education.

Times: Head teachers' leader says heads will be forced by Government's education reform to become marketing executives in a scramble for pupils.

Times: Kenneth Baker to call on Lord Chancellor and a group of former ministers to fend off any serious damage to Education Reform Bill in the Lords.

Independent: Roman Catholic bishops are to launch a campaign today to protect Catholic schools from losing their religious character under the Education Bill.



DEFENCE

Independent: The four-nation European fighter aircraft is to go ahead after West German objections to the project have been overcome. British orders worth more than £6bn are to be awarded next month.

EAST/WEST

Times: Shevardnadze arrives in Washington for three days of talks that will centre on Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

EC

FT: EC study call to strengthen GATT and give it IMF or World Bank status.

BERNARD INGHAM



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DES: Mr Baker receives courtesy call from the Italian Ambassador Boris Biancheri

DOE: Mr Ridley meets Town and Country Planning Association

DTI: Lord Young addresses Government Industry in the North West conference, Manchester

DEM: Mr Lee addresses Government Industry in the North West conference, Manchester

DES: Lady Hooper visits Hillcroft Residential College, Surbiton, Surrey

DES: Mr Jackson attends Ritchie Calder memorial lecture on science teaching in the open university, Royal Institution of Great Britain (prov); later attends dinner with Tony Thawers, London School of Economics

DHSS: Mrs Currie addresses Bow Group, London

DHSS: Mr Portillo gives major speech on social security reforms

DOE: Mr Trippier visits Derby (inner cities)

DOE: Mrs Roe attends launch of Concierge Report in Dudley

DOE: Mr Moynihan meets Inner City Review Group and attends following press conference, London

DTp: Mr Mitchell gives opening address at Transport in Europe conference, London School of Economics

HO: Mr Hogg visits Brixton Prison

MAFF: Mr Thompson visits the Thoroughbred Breeders' Association, Newmarket

OAL: Mr Luce addresses opening of exhibition by Mansfield and District Society of Artists, House of Commons

SO: Lord Sanderson meets full Highland Regional Council, Inverness

SO: Mr Lang opens new plant for Castle Maclellan Foods, Riverside, Dee Walk, Kirkcudbright

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DOE: Lord Caithness attends Environment Council, Brussel

FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for FAC, Brussels (to 22 March)

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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DES: Mr Baker interviewed by BBC Radio 4 Analysis Programme

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TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Money Box": BBC Radio 4 (10.00) analyses the Budget

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

"Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.00)

"Daytime on Two": BBC 2 (12.08) 'History file' - Brenda Dean looks at trade union affairs since the war

"The World at One": BBC Radio 4 (13.00)

"Advance Shop": BBC 2 (16.00): studies changes in the benefits system

"PM": BBC Radio 4 (17.00)

"Promises and Piecrust": Channel 4 (18.30): 'Into the future' asks how the information technology revolution is affecting education. With Kenneth Baker

"Open Space": BBC 2 (19.35). The fight to stop the closure of cottage hospitals in Shropshire

"World in Action": ITV (20.30). 'Kurt Waldheim, the man who lived a lie' (part one)

"Panorama": BBC 1 (21.30) 'Electricity - a shock in store' examines reports from the US of a link between electricity and cancer

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

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.50)

"Business Matters": BBC 1 (23.00). 'Banking on New Business' looks at the problems businessmen have in getting projects financed

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