

PRESS DIGEST

6/4/88

22 Britons on board hijacked Kuwaiti jet in Iran. 24 women freed - 12 hour deadline set for demands. Gunmen believed to be Shia fanatics.

Express and Today say you will begin masterminding release of hostages in flight to Turkey.

French hope hijacking does not get in the way of their efforts to secure release of three hostages in Lebanon.

Arson feared as Blackpool hotel, used to house homeless families, in which 5 die; 3 killed in Birmingham house fire.

School party from Maidenhead on way home after death of four boys aged 14 and 15, in snow tragedy in Austria.

Mirror says teachers could face criminal charges for leaving boys unsupervised.

Teachers in cafe when accident occurred, according to Telegraph. Climbing expert says school trip seemed ill-equipped (Guardian)

Left blocks appointment of Douglas McAvoy as new General Secretary of NUT; wants open competition.

NUT backs idea of merger with NAS/UWT; and wants 40% pay rise next year, but renounces industrial action.

Leader of AMMA says parents should lose child benefit if their children play truant or refuse to do school work - why should parents be subsidised for neglecting their responsibilities?

NUT delegates want to cut meetings with parents to six a year and limit pastoral work.

Telegraph praises new realism and moderation in NUT.

Boom rolls on - more credit (£3.3bn) extended in February, up on January.

Hopes of a cut in interest rates as pound rises to DM3.1379 (\$1.8785).

Alan Walters writes in FT that Britain does best outside EMS.

Guardian says if you have won debate with Chancellor we can expect lower inflation but slower growth and more unemployment.

Mail says South Africa intends to buy into our electrical industry when it is privatised.

Plans by BNFL and UK AEA workers to join energy and transport workers in campaign to block privatisation of electricity.

GEC and Plessey abandon joint semi-conductor research project.

Soldier on duty in Belfast tells Congressman Joe Kennedy to go back to his own country.

Serious Fraud Office starts business today.

Guardian features intelligence services and their organisation; modern technology makes it more important they are open to scrutiny, it says.

Art dealer accused of spying for Czechoslovakia remanded in custody.

Second group of Tory MPs tables amendment providing for capital punishment.

Tube driver stops train just outside station to allow police to arrest 30 strong gang of "steamers".

Firebomb found hidden in Debenham's store, Oxford Street, just after it closed last night.

Case of former member of bank robbery gang who was appointed a social worker in Kent to steer young offenders away from crime.

Labour Party's leadership battle likely to cost it £0.5million it can ill afford - overdraft of £2million.

John Smith says community charge will be the undoing of the Government.

Nicholas Ridley to meet Conservative MPs next week to try to head off community charge revolt.

USA and Soviet Union appear close to compromise on Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan

At least 2 Arab guerrillas killed by Israeli troops as they prepared to launch a cross-border raid from Lebanon.

Iraq kills 21 with 5 missiles on Iranian cities.

Times supports Government; understanding with Dali Lama that he would not make political statements on UK "collapsed" when he made critical statements about Chinese rule in Tibet. Leader says visit highlights FCO's "ignoble" approach to issue of Tibet.

The Telegraph interview with Lord Whitelaw.

Lydia Dunn marries Hong Kong's outgoing Attorney General.

SCHOOL TRAGEDY

Sun leader asks if it was wise to allow the youngsters to come down off the mountain without supervision.

Today says sadly boys will be boys. Only one thing was not controlled - the exhuberance of youth.

Mirror says there are disturbing questions to answer: were boys thoroughly warned; was local police chief correct in saying party should not have been on mountain at all; and were teachers fully aware of hazards?

Express says an inquiry is vital so that the lessons can be learned even though an element of risk will always remain.

HIJACK

Star leader says the hijackers are followers of Khomeini - it is a sick farce Khomeini's puppets on the ground appealing to his puppets in the airliner to release the hostages.

TURKEY VISIT

Sun - Maggie in Turkish delight - broadly sympathetic to Turkey's application to join EC.

Telegraph says your visit is likely to help win £100million third Bosphorus bridge order.

Independent says your visit raises Ozal's EC hopes; leader says Turkey's existing association with the EC can be made to work better and there are ways of cementing Turkey's role in NATO. It is desirable that Ozal's policies should succeed but Turkey's relationship with Western Europe can't be built on a false premise.

FT takes over a column to preview visit. You will not commit yourself to firm timetable for Turkey's application for full membership of EC.

COURT TV

Sun is absolutely against it, asking what about secrets, blackmail, rape and child abuse cases and where juries have been intimidated.

Express says, as with Parliament, it does not make sense to restrict public scrutiny to newspapers and few members of the public. The case for televised justice seems open and shut.

Lord Hailsham, quoted by Guardian as saying trials on TV would alter what happens in court, could affect administration of justice and would increase risk of jury nobbling.

Times leader says justice must come before openness and it is the task of the Bar Committee to judge the risks. But that judgement must not be based on disapproval of TV and fear of the new.