

14 April 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Prime Minister will buy a Geranium Day flag (Photocall); meets Mr de Cuellar (Photocall); and attends dinner given by the King of Norway.

Broadcasting and Entertainment Trades Alliance annual conference, Brighton (to 17 April)

Afghan agreement to be signed in Geneva.

BA/B.Cal merger complete.

Mr Ridley addresses Backbenchers on community charge.

STATISTICS

Bank of England: Institutional Investment (3rd qtr)

DTI: Provisional figures of vehicle production (Mar)

PUBLICATIONS

HMT: Finance Bill

HO: House of Commons paper on election expenses

DHSS: Health Service Indicators 1983-86

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Treasury; Home Office; Prime Minister

Business: Health and Medicines Bill: Completion of Remaining Stages

Adjournment Debate: The National Health Service in Bradford (Max Madden)

Select Committees: COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL
South Yorkshire Light Rail Transit

Lords: Starred Questions

Foreign Marriage (Amendment) Bill (HL): Third Reading

Licensing Bill: Third Reading

Public Utilities Transfers and Water Charges Bill: Report

Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range

Missiles (Inspections) (Privileges and Immunities) Order 1988.

Motion for Approval

MINISTERS _ See Annex

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MAIN NEWS

Hopes ebb and flow for release of hostages from hijacked plane now in Algeria. Arab leaders condemn hijack - diverting attention from Palestinian uprising on West Bank and in Gaza Strip.

US criticises Cyprus for allowing jet to leave for Algeria.

Today says experts believe hijackers took part in previous incidents, making same demand for release of prisoners held by Kuwaitis.

Independent says hijackers appear to have been psychologically prepared for mission.

Express says hijackers leader is chief strategist of Shi'ite terrorist organisation.

Labour MPs call for expulsion of Nelling for upstaging Labour's attack on social security reforms by getting himself expelled.

Government has majority of 96, though some 10 Tory MPs rebel by abstaining.

More trouble forecast for Government today over charges for eye and dental tests and next week over community charge.

Mirror (predictably) accused John Moore of "more lies" over case of Mrs Godden, Bristol.

Today says mystery bug threatens John Moore's job - doctors are thought to have not yet isolated virus.

Nicholas Ridley hints at climb down on community charge (Mail) with almost 50 Tory rebels threatening to vote against Government on Monday.

Labour Party decides to back Mates' revolt according to Guardian Marplan Index.

Conservative lead down to 1%, according to Guardian Marplan Index.

Astrid Proll, founder of Baader Meinhof gang, wins appeal to be allowed to live and work as a journalist in Britain. Express asks why British security should be exposed to the risks that she would once more get involved in wrongdoing.

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Today reports pay cuts of up to £1000 a week in City after crash.

Hopes for a settlement of Jaguar dispute rise.

Rowntree threatened with takeover by Suchards.

Air traffic controller prevents disaster at Gatwick when jet with 3 experienced pilots on board tries to land on taxi runway with another jet already on it.

Today says Paul Channon must act immediately to prevent "massacre of holidaymakers" or cut back Gatwick traffic.

Worldwide check on Boeing 747s after fuel leaks into hold.

Gordon Borrie, OFT, warns off package tour firms who make tourists pay unfair fuel surcharges.

CEGB faces multi-million pound bill if it is to keep Berkeley nuclear power station operating.

Labour Party's John Cunningham says realistically Labour cannot expect to improve its position at local elections. Express says you are about to humble Labour at the polls.

Biggest rates rise in Labour-controlled Oxford: 88.2%; biggest in London: Wandsworth: 31.7%. 28 councils cut rates - Tory controlled Spelthorne by 72.9%.

Westminster Council which sold 3 cemeteries for 15p is to buy them back for £6million.

Labour Party hails ballot which is claimed to show that 94% of capital's parents want to retain ILEA: Today says it will be as little missed as GLC is two years after abolition.

Mail: Labour on the run, claim Tories.

New book on 1987 election says you became convinced Mr Tebbit regarded you as finished and was using CCO for his own ends.

Star says Ian Brady has written to it asking to be hypnotised as part of search for further body. It says there is everything to gain and nothing to lose by trying hypnosis and Home Secretary should not be negative.

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All-party group, with support of Mail, seeking to admit video recordings of original allegations of child abuse as evidence.

Council of Europe agrees informal deal to curb obscene or unsuitable material from another country.

ITV leaders to press Home Secretary to name a price for franchises rather than put them up for auction.

George Younger says MOD is "deeply unhappy" about BBC play "Tumbledown" to be screened in May.

Commons backs Clare Short 163-48 in her bid to ban Page 3 girls from newspapers.

"Border Fox" - Dessie O'Hare - gets 40 years for kidnap and other offences in Irish Republic.

Two British tourists jailed in Greece for spying - photographing military planes, man says he is a military plane spotter.

British diplomat, accredited to Bahamas, cleared of playing any part in wife's death (Mail).

Paul Foot in Mirror shows you photographed with Party agent at Thurrock who is said to have favoured "getting rid of wogs, Jews and Irish" and is now expelling members from club who complained.

Dukakis says he would advocate a nuclear strike force against Russia if it invaded Western Europe.

Allegations that Israel is using poison gases to quell Palestinians riots.

Sharpeville six likely to win fresh reprieve (Independent).

SOCIAL SECURITY

Mirror - Tory cuts savaged in Commons fury, outraged MPs of all parties roast Government.

Today says hard Left sabotaged Kinnock in debate.

Edward Pearce, in Express, explains how idiots conspired to rescue John Moore. Hard Left hooligans manage to do you a favour. Leader on "Neil's benefit match flops" says that for Labour to claim that changes known about for 2 years were the proper subject for an emergency debate was nonsense. So is the basis of Labour's

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opposition to new rules.

Mail Yobbo Left's demo ruins Labour attack over benefits. John Moore decided in low key approach knowing it might provoke Labour MPs to play it rough.

Telegraph Moore fails to convince doubters. Many Tory MPs still have serious reservations about way reforms are being implemented. Increasing pressure to raise capital cut off of £10,000. Leader says Speaker was right to grant the debate. But the logic of Cook's speech was that there can be no changes which leave anyone worse off. Government has an excellent case but a clear and persuasive exposition of the philosophy behind it is missing.

Guardian heads with Moore fails to counter benefit fears, leaves Backbenchers depressed; leader says the best testimony on the devastating effects of the changes was the silence of the Tory Backbenchers as John Moore struggled to defend the new system.

Times says rowdy scenes engineered by Labour MPs dominated emergency debate. Report adds that Mr Moore failed to quell anxieties of many Conservatives and MPs feel he failed to rise to the occasion.

HIJACK

Andrew McEwen in Times suggests Britain should take the lead to make hijacking harder.

MOTHER TERESA

Star - Mother T meets Mrs T. Pleads with you to provide hostels for London's dossers, describes her talks with you as wonderful and says you are very concerned.

Mirror - Mother Teresa pleads with you to help Britain's homeless. You offer only sympathy.

Today - with picture Mrs T meets Mother T who "puts her faith in you".

Express with picture - Teresa in abortion appeal to Maggie. Urges you to back Alton's Bill.

Times picture and story "Mother Teresa's appeal".

Telegraph Page 1 half a column. - Mother Teresa praises Thatcher.

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Guardian with picture - Mother Theresa appeals to Thatcher on abortion.

Independent - A frail, 73 year old, but utterly indomitable woman yesterday walked to Downing Street to appeal to an equally indomitable, but attentive 63 year old woman - Margaret Thatcher of No 10.

IMF

Times says the IMF and World Bank are expected to produce a new initiative for the Third World.

COMMUNITY CHARGE

Times says Tory MP revolt growing to community charge plans and is now 46. Nicholas Ridley to address Conservative Environment Committee tonight in attempt to head off revolt.

Geoffrey Smith in Times says he would vote for Michael Mates' amendment because, despite its failings, it would take sting out of the widespread feeling of unfairness. In the long term he believes it would also be to the Government's advantage as well as being socially desirable.

FT Nicholas Ridley says he will consider, and try to meet, the worries of Conservative Backbenchers about the impact of the community charge on the less well-off. This could involve some concession about the way the sliding scale or taper might work for those receiving rebates.

Independent The government will tonight seek to damp down the threat of a backbench Tory rebellion against the poll tax by arguing that rebate for the poor will be much more generous than expected.

ECONOMY

FT G7 nations reports their commitment to close economic policy co-ordination and a stable dollar.

INDUSTRY

Times Computer built at Imperial College as a crude simulation of the human mind has startled its creators by going on strike and refusing to co-operate with their work.

Times says privatisation will take blame for higher water bills

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but reason will be demands for purer drinking water and introduction of metering.

FT 12 area electricity boards announce they have appointed N M Rothschild and Price Waterhouse as financial advisers for privatisation.

Independent The Government has placed the order for a £60million computer system controlling Britain's import and export trade out to contract even though it would have been cheaper for it to be developed and run by Customs & Excise.

POLITICS

Times leader discussed the future of the SLDP with David Steel under the heading "The Popinjoy Principle" concluding that in centuries past the popinjoy on a coat of arms commemorated administrative or commercial success in tropical countries. Mr Steel would serve his party and principles best by taking a job with, say, the UN.

Independent Peter Jenkins reviews the Nuffield study of the 1987 General Election and concludes that the Government's recovery in the space of 12 months from the depths of the Westland affair was remarkable. By and large it vindicated Tebbit's constantly sniped-at approach. But, more importantly he suspects, it was a measure of the watershed which had occurred over the period of a decade.

SOCIAL SECURITY

FT Government wins benefits debate, as Nicholas Scott gives undertaking that Government will closely monitor the impact of the changes.

Independent The Government last night fended off Conservative backbench concern over the social security changes by pledging that their impact would be monitored with care and sympathy,

Leader on child benefit says the Conservative Party's election manifesto contained a pledge that child benefit would continue. Within months that pledge, as it would have been understood by most electors, had been dishonoured.

DEFENCE

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FT Britain faces a £6-7billion bill for share of developing European Fighter Aircraft, MOD tells Commons Defence Committee.

Independent The first of Britain's eight new Type 23 frigates, estimated to cost £140million each, will be unable to meet a sophisticated enemy threat after the failure of a computer weapons command project.

LAW & ORDER

Times Senior Ministers believe Alton's Abortion Bill is doomed if he does not agree to 24 week legal limit.

Times Solicitors Complaints Bureau taking up to year to investigate complaints by public alleging shoddy work by solicitors.

Times Conference told police chiefs would use plastic bullets in a riot, irrespective of the views of their police authorities.

Independent A Government scheme to pay for DNA blood-testing of immigrants has won support from key ministers. The Home Office now accepts that the tests provide indisputable proof of family relationships.

EC

Times EC officials and Japan's Transport Minister agree to set up panel to monitor ship prices as a first step towards ending the depression facing the world's shipyards.

FT European Commission intends to take Japan to GATT over its car tax system which discriminates against European imports.

FIJI

Sun leader says instead of showing them understanding FCO gave Fijians the "frozen mitt". As a result French, Japanese, South Koreans are offering help; Malaysia and Indonesia seek more trade; and Australia flies in Qantas.

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SOVIET UNION

Times says KGB chief accuses Western secret services of having played a part in unrest in Armenia and Azerbaijan.

Times Today's Geneva signing on Afghanistan will give Gorbachev much needed boost to his domestic popularity at a time when his reforms are under siege from powerful opponents.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DES: Mr Baker addresses the Association of British Insurers launch of Startlife, London

DHSS: Mr Moore addresses Association of British Pharmaceutical Industries dinner

DTp: Mr Channon addresses the International Mass Transit Association dinner, Intercontinental Hotel, London

WO: Mr Walker attends National Eisteddford evening reception, House of Commons

DEM: Mr Nicholls visits RJJ training board and training centre, Wembley

DEN: Mr Morrison visits Wimpey Engineering Company, Lowestoft

DES: Mr Dunn meets Derbyshire LEA about Litten and Cressbrook Schools closure; later receives deputation about ILEA special boarding schools

DES: Lady Hooper receives courtesy call from two West German MPs; later attends dinner in honour of Icelandic Minister of Education and Culture

DHSS: Mrs Currie addresses Social Affairs Forum on drug abuse

DOE: Mr Waldegrave visits Gateshead

DOE: Mr Trippier visits Preston

HO: Mr Hogg addresses Social Affairs Forum in London on drugs; later addresses Prison Service Farm Managers dinner, Chelmsford

MAFF: Mr Gummer attends Country Landowners Association Alternative Enterprise conference, Newbury Racecourse

OAL: Mr Luce visits various arts institutions in the West Midlands and an experimental combined Job Centre and Unemployment Benefit Office, Birmingham

ODA: Mr Patten visits the Institute of Development Studies, Sussex University

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

ODA: Mr Patten appears on TV AM to talk about Ethiopia

TV AND RADIO

- "Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)
- "You and Yours": BBC Radio 4 (12.00)
- "Business Daily": Channel 4 (12.30)
- "The World at One": BBC Radio 4 (13.00)
- "The Parliament Programme": Channel 4 (14.00)
- "PM": BBC Radio 4 (17.00)
- "Anatomy of an Epidemic": BBC Radio 4 (20.15) Looks at the spread of AIDS
- "This Week": ITV (20.30)
- "The World Tonight": BBC Radio 4 (22.30) followed by "The Financial World Tonight" then "Today in Parliament"
- "The City Programme": ITV (22.35)
- "Question Time": BBC 1 (22.40) with Sir Robin Day are Paddy Ashdown, Kenneth Baker, Ann Taylor and Baroness Warnock
- "Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.40)