

MONDAY, 25 APRIL 1988

PRIME MINISTER

**MAIN EVENTS**

The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, travels on the new British Rail Thameslink Line from King's Cross to Blackfriars Station, where Her Royal Highness will name the train "The Save the Children Week Special"; then addresses the launch of Save the Children Week 1988; later travels to Crystal Palace and attends a party given for children by Network South East.

EC: Foreign Affairs Council, Luxembourg (to 26 April)

EC: Informal Meeting of Transport Ministers, House of Commons (to 26 April)

MOD: ANZAC day

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PAY

London buses drivers and conductors, 14,000; 20 April

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PUBLICATIONS

HMT: TCSC Report on the Budget (and press conference)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Wales; Energy; Transport

Business: Local Government Finance Bill: Conclusion of Remaining Stages  
Motion relating to the Local Government (Prescribed Expenditure) (Amendment) regulations

Adjournment Debate: The closure of Hartland Point Coastal Rescue Station (Miss E Nicholson)

Select Committees: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
Subject: Investigation of fraud and smuggling  
Witness: Mr J B Unwin, chairman, Board of Customs and Excise

Lords: Starred Questions  
Employment Bill: Third Reading  
Housing (Scotland) Bill: Committee (1st Day)

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGEST

Mitterand looks likely to be confirmed as a second term president of France as Chirac does badly and Le Pen unexpectedly well in first round.

Telegraph says first round leaves Le Pen king maker.

Conservatives 5 points ahead in weekend Harris poll - 44/39.

Labour Party expected to be £2million in red this year - hit by falling membership.

Expectations that there will be some social security concessions this week either before or during housing benefit debate; Express says it is make or break for John Moore.

Government to offer young people who join job training scheme extra £10 a week - Meacher says this is an admission of the scheme's failure.

IAAF withdraws its threat to Britain's place at the Olympics because of Zola Budd but they still want her banned.

BAAB now to hold its own investigation into the Budd affair. Norris McWhirter starts two court actions against IAAF, accusing officials of blackmail.

P&O withdraws recognition of National Union of Seamen and hopes to resume ferry sailings from Dover this week; advertises for non union crews.

NUS orders pickets to lay seige at port.

Today's front page lead: P&O strike smashed. Mail: police preparing for violent clashes.

Times reports NUS accused of threatening children of seamen who have signed new terms with P&O.

British Coal said to have lost £500million last year - partly due to overtime ban and redundancy. British Coal extending its summer discount period to 4 months from May 1.

Queue for Jaguar cars now up to 18 months.

British Airways slashing up to 25% from fares to 19 European countries - Sun says this shows freedom works; but Today says look at the small print - bargains only run to May 28.

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PRESS DIGEST

IPCS says air traffic control system is so overloaded that it is like "allowing ships to sail with bow doors open". Mirror wants public inquiry.

Banking union says 10,000 City jobs have been lost since stockmarket crash.

Row expected in Commons over Government's willingness to allow a free vote on an hour longer drinking on Sundays.

Allegations that Left in North London and Belfast are offering raffle prizes to help boost vote in telephone engineers' union elections.

Sun interprets Chancellor's BBC TV interview as his telling you not to tear a strip off him again in public; Chancellor says the incident is behind us. But Times thinks this raises question of longer term relationship with you.

Sun leader mounts scathing attack on Foreign Secretary for his comments on Haughey's speech in USA; it asks why Sir Geoffrey always has to play the fawning spaniel. Haughey deserved to be slapped down. Put Norman Tebbit at the FCO.

Mail says Left are to demand, as part of Labour policy, places on boards of companies adjudged to be falling down on the job.

Claims that Rugby hospital authorities are stopping Saturday operations to save money - consultants had volunteered to work for nothing on non-urgent cases but nurses got overtime.

Chancellor suggests well off should show a sense of social obligation by charitably giving to NHS.

Big surge in numbers of children at private schools - not surprising, says Express; parents are spending money as they wish.

Express says tens of thousand of illegal immigrants are sneaking into Britain each year; Home Office considering new legislation to curb it.

Labour Party to commit itself to EC today with launch of a campaign to show it will work within the Community to get best for Britain.

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BBC launches inquiry into allegations its technical staff are moonlighting with BBC's own video production equipment.

Chris Moncreiff, PA, writing in the Tatler, says there are often more MPs in Palace of Westminster drinking dens than in the House itself.

AEU said to be contemplating withdrawing its sponsorship of Ron Brown MP.

Double agent George Blake appears on Soviet TV - 22 years after his escape from Wormwood Scrubbs and says he is having an amazingly good life.

Archbishop of Canterbury upset over release of tapes of Terry Waite's bugged telephone in Beirut; says they have hurt Waite's family.

Jeffrey Archer buys a £1.2million share in the Playhouse theatre.

Irish vote you third most admired person in World after Pope and Mother Teresa; Haughey way down list.

COMMUNITY CHARGE

Times - Conservative whips been working overtime again seeking to contain yet another rebellion - not as big as last week - on community charge tonight. Times has studied the 14 most important rebellions and concludes that 22 MPs have been habitual offenders and were mostly regular grumblers.

Independent - the Government faces a renewed revolt today over the third reading of the rates reform legislation. Whips were hard at work this weekend to limit the rebellion on the Bill in an attempt to reduce the possible threat in the Lords.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Times - Government poised to make concessions in attempt to pacify growing number of Conservative backbenchers who are concerned about the new social security benefit scheme. Ministers attempting to persuade you that significant changes are needed to head off a damaging rebellion over housing benefit rules on Wednesday.

Independent - Concessions on housing benefit are urgently being studied by Ministers to head off a renewed Tory revolt in the Commons and restore stability to a Government shaken by two weeks

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of rebellion by Conservative MPs. Ministers are considering raising the limit from £6,000 to £10,000.

FT - You will discuss with senior Ministers this morning how to head off further Backbench revolt on social security changes. Signs last night were that no main suggestions would appear before Wednesday's Labour's Ministerial debate.

Guardian says CCO is trying to rally MPs behind reforms with an internal briefing in housing benefit which has been leaked to Alf Morris.

FERRY DISPUTE

Today leader says two things stand out: if company doesn't cut its costs it will never match competition from the Channel Tunnel and that the union has not held a ballot on its proposals. There is a single solution - a secret ballot of all P&O seamen.

INDUSTRY

Times - Civil servants' names, telephone numbers and areas of expertise to be given to those with questions about European single market.

Times - Tory controlled select committee to press for increased Government help for science in reports to be published next month.

Times - OPEC chief to attack UK for refusing to order oil output cuts in North Sea to help send world price upwards.

Independent - British companies are being forced to provide the US Government with classified information on nuclear weapon sites in the UK. They fear they would lose access to US technology if they fail to meet the demands. You are to be questioned about the US exerting control over British companies exports.

FT - Up to 1,000 jobs could go at UK Atomic Energy Authority over next two years as a result of cuts in research contracts, according to Chairman, John Collier.

FT - TUC's education and training committee and employment policy committee meet this morning to discuss whether unions should co-operate with planned employment training programme.

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PRESS DIGESTPOLITICS

Times - You are opposing the creation of a fresh batch of Labour peers.

ECONOMY

Mail - Chancellor says he does not want the pound to rise any more; leader says Chancellor's steadiness of purpose is fuelled by intellectual conviction. He remains his own man. It is good to have in this Government a Chancellor whose very considerable weight is right behind the central thrust of Thatcherite reform but prepared to fight his corner.

Telegraph - Chancellor signals new alert over pound; a further rise in its value will damage industry; leader says that a reversal of the current popularity of the pound can't come a moment too soon because while a strong pound helps to lessen threat of overheating it does little to abate the competition to lend or the rapid growth in labour costs.

Independent - Lawson admits inflation progress has slowed down.

Guardian says the Chancellor tried to reassert his authority over exchange rate policy.

EDUCATION

Independent - Bishop of London is to attempt to delay the abolition of the ILEA and force the Government to look at alternative ways of meeting the educational needs of inner London.

ZOLA BUDD

Mail says Zola Budd's ordeal is to be prolonged. It wonders whether the four weeks it will take the BAAB to complete their inquiry are four weeks to establish the truth or four weeks for Budd to succumb to the pressure and quit. She did not break the rules but her pursuers will do their damndest to break her.

HEALTH

Times - AIDS vaccine to get first full European trial on 24 volunteers in London this summer.

Times - Report being prepared by BMA says doctors should seek alternative to tranquillisers to treat stress and anxiety.

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Independent - You summoned senior ministers to Chequers yesterday to discuss plans for the fundamental reform of the NHS. Ministers have objected a wholesale shift from a tax-based system to private health insurance, but they are convinced that higher investment in private health care should solve some of Britain's problems.

INNER CITIES

Peter Davenport in the Times reports on a "remarkable transformation" in the north-east where Government's efforts to stimulate the small business sector to help revive the economy had been slow to take off - until now. He adds that the Small Firms Service in Newcastle has become so busy it is having to move to larger offices.

FT - Newcastle and Birmingham selected by CBI for business-led experiment in regeneration.

MEDIA

FT - Thames Television will tell staff tomorrow that job cuts of about 200 are required.

WAR CRIMES

Times - Britain appears to be alone in deciding to re-open files on alleged war crimes of Wilhelm Mohnke.

IRELAND

Independent - Demands for action on Irish grievances in Ulster will be made by opposition leaders after the admission by Sir Geoffrey Howe that Britain understood the 'hurt' caused to the Irish in Northern Ireland.

Guardian leader says Haughey should not have made his New York speech. It won't help the chances of getting general backing for an Agreement which Dublin needs or the emerging political process in Northern Ireland.

MIDDLE EAST

Times - Arafat visits Syria to end five-year rift.

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PRESS DIGESTGULF

FT - Reagan administration has decided in principle to broaden the role of the US Navy in the Gulf to protect neutral merchant shipping.

DENMARK

Times leader says Britain's decision to postpone naval visits to Denmark until after their General Election should help concentrate the Danish minds as to whether they want their country to really stay in NATO. Mr Schluter has shown himself to be a politician of skill and courage. He deserves all the support that the NATO council can give him.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DHSS: Mr Moore addresses Institute of Economic Affairs Health Unit conference on American health care
- DTI: Lord Young attends Goldman Sachs International Investments Banking conference, Claridges
- HO: Lord Ferrers visits Thames Valley Police
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor attends Venture Cash conference 1988, CBI Conference Centre, Centre Point, London
- SO: Mr Rifkind hands over keys for 20,000th council house sale, Currie, Edinburgh
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Wolverhampton Education Authority
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses the Association of University Teachers annual conference, on widening access to university education
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave attends Wandsworth Council key handover ceremony, Bath
- DOE: Lord Caithness attends tree planting ceremony by Berlin's Minister of the Environment, Kensington Gardens, London
- DOE: Mr Trippier visits Bradford (inner cities)
- DTI: Mr Maude visits London Fox Exchange
- DTp: Mr Bottomley receives the Castrol/Institute of Motoring Industries Gold Medal, London
- HO: Mr Patten presents Three Mines certificate at Sussex Police HQ
- HO: Mr Hogg visits HM Prison Blandford
- SO: Mr Lang launches Border Region Electronics Guide, Scottish Business Centre, Cockspur Street, London
- WO: Mr Roberts attends Freight Transport Association dinner, London

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTp: Mr Channon attends meeting of European Transport Ministers, Germany
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe departs for Brussels for Shultz briefing at NATO; later with Mrs Chalker (to 26 April) attends FAC, Luxembourg
- MOD: Mr Freeman visits the Falkland Islands (to 30 April)

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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DES: Mr Baker interviewed by The Western Mail
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TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Money Box': BBC Radio 4 (10.00)

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

'Horizon - Doctors to Be': BBC 2 (20.10)

'World in Action': ITV (20.30)

'Panorama': BBC 1 (21.30) Israel at 40

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

'Newsnight': BBC 2 (22.40)

'The Eleventh Hour: The Cold War Game - the USSR': C4 (23.05)

'Business Matters': BBC 1 (23.25) The Quality Man

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