

FRIDAY, 29 APRIL 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister visits Strike Command, High Wycombe and Fleet Headquarters, Northwood (photocalls)

Prince and Princess of Wales open Glasgow Garden Festival

Financial Services Act 'A' day

STATISTICS

BOE: London sterling certificates of deposit (Mar)

BOE: Bill turnover statistics (Mar)

BOE: UK banks assets and liabilities and the money stock (Mar)

BOE: Sterling commercial paper (Mar)

DTI: Engineering indices of production and orders (Feb)

DTI/
CSO Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (March)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

Licensing (Retail Sales) Bill: Remaining Stages. (Mr Andrew MacKay)

Access for Medical Reports Bill: Remaining Stages. (Mr Archie Kirkwood)

Medical Examination of Children at Risk Bill: 2nd Reading (Mrs Virginia Bottomley)

Adjournment Debate: Waiting lists at the Eastbourne General Hospital (Mr I Gow)

Lords:

MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGEST

Big row over Thames TV's account of what happened in Gibraltar, with allegations that the SAS shot the 3 IRA gang while surrendering.

IBA rejects Government's request not to screen film lest it prejudice inquest and makes Ministers furious. FCO says decision is "irresponsible". Tom King alleges "trial by TV".

Programme shown on Gibraltar TV last night.

Tough anti-TV leaders in Sun and Mail.

High Court adjourns for 24 hours to allow talks between Sealink and NUS - some late reports that they reached agreement which will allow holiday traffic.

Midland Bank forestalls any attempt by NUS to foil seizure of its funds by winning High Court order to freeze them.

More reports of threats to P&O strikers who decide to return to work and pictures of home daubed with slogans.

Row in House as David Shaw MP for Dover attacks Labour for backing strike; Labour in turn threaten to withdraw co-operation unless Mr Shaw apologises; he doesn't.

Today asserts Chancellor is to depart for City in September for £250,000 a year job.

Ken Livingstone takes his bat - and his work - home in protest about not being given an office at Westminster; some Labour Whips want to throw him out of the Party.

Mail devotes two pages to its interview with you under front page banner - "Morals and manners in Britain - and why we must change them".

British Telecom puts £500,000 into sponsorship of arts, environment and disabled.

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Mail thinks Harland & Wolff "Ultimate Dream" liner is sunk; Government won't back it with £78million subsidies.

Norwich Union offering every qualified school-leaver in Norwich a job this summer.

Paul Volcker to join ICI board.

Telegraph says Wales TUC yesterday backed single union deals.

Ex-Serviceman who claims he contracted blood cancer during British nuclear tests in the 1950s wins right to sue Government.

Mirror prints picture on its front page of alleged near miss in skies over Gatwick; leaves impression of anything but.

Calls in House for resignation of Patrick Nicholls, Junior Minister for trying to block the building of a factory which would spare the view from his home. Lord President says Mr Nicholls acted in "entirely appropriate" way. Planning application given go ahead by Department of Environment - it is claimed only after publicity given to Mr Nicholls' intervention.

Express portrays your remarks in House on religious education as "Maggie bid to bring back Bible classes".

Pops present Government report of students as parents footing bill for high living by students who spend far more on drink, fags and food than on books.

Seven British soccer fans, arrested in Budapest after international with England, face up to 3 years in jail after violence at disco.

George Bush to be called to testify in Oliver North trial.

Fenner Brockway MP dies at 99.

THAMES TV PROGRAMME

Star leads with - TV slur on the SAS - you were furious over its casting it on the regiment.

Sun - page 1 - storm at SAS telly trial; leader says "Thames' cheap telly scoop is just IRA propaganda. Mischievous and unbelievably irresponsible effect of evidence of woman, Carmen - who is she? - is to convict SAS before their story can be told.

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IBA should have stopped it but under quivering, geriatric Lord Thomson it has not a fibre of strength. And in this dreadful story Labour Party as usual fans anti-British flames. MacNamara has also tried the SAS in their absence and convicted them. A truly black day for TV.

Mirror - Viewers anger at IRA TV film. Howe snubbed on Gibraltar shootings. Thames flooded with TV calls objecting to pro-IRA stance. Some ask why it wasn't producing film about lynching of two corporals in Belfast.

Times leads with Conservative MPs condemning Thames TV's film "trial by television" as Foreign Secretary fails in attempt to delay "Death on the Rock" documentary; former Irish Justice Minister Peter Barry says British Government must bring those responsible to justice and that action of the security forces makes it very difficult for those who believe in the rule of law and who preach respect for it.

Today - TV Chiefs in IRA film row; leader says McNamara behaved with outrageous recklessness in Commons yesterday. He made it clear he knows exactly what happened in Gibraltar and no amount of evidence will change his mind. His "fatuous malice" does not however excuse Foreign Secretary for trying to get programme postponed. It is always wrong for Government to try to twist the arm of broadcasting companies.

Express leads with "Trial by TV now over SAS ambush".

Mail also leads with fury over SAS trial by TV. Commentators' view on programme says any reasonable viewer would have been left in no doubt that your personal wishes and orders were carried out to the letter when 3 IRA people were shot dead by SAS. A woefully one-sided look at the killings. Leader headed "Shameful and irresponsible" says Government's argument for postponing the programme has a great deal of force. There is reason to doubt both the factual accuracy of the programme and the bona fides of its makers, both of whom have been in trouble before. Ironically IBA has recently been considering a system of penalties against TV companies which offend against standards. It should put its own house in order first.

Independent - Sir Geoffrey's request to the IBA to postpone last night's transmission of the Thames TV programme on the Gibraltar shootings is extremely unusual, but in line with the political pressure being placed on TV, especially the BBC. Leader says the IBA refusal was a bold but justifiable response to an arrogant and

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increasingly authoritarian executive which has consistently attempted to impose unreasonable new restraints on the media. The stated reasons for the Foreign Secretary's approach are seriously flawed. If potential members of the jury are susceptible to comment in this country, then surely Sir Geoffrey would have been more tentative when delivering his initial version of events.

Telegraph leads with "Defiant ITV angers Ministers as plea on SAS film is rejected" Gibraltar Government may be asked today to prevent screening of film to colony.

Telegraph leader headed "Unjustified request" says it gained a far wider audience for the programme than otherwise. There seems no reason to suppose that it was any more, or less, prejudicial to the inquest than previously published material. The IBA was right to refuse.

Guardian leads with IBA rejects Government's gag attempt.

IRELAND

Joe Haines in Mirror commenting on Haughey's New York speech, says he has long suspected that Haughey and his like prefer the grievance of a divided island to the solution of a united Ireland.

KEN LIVINGSTONE

Star says his withdrawal from Parliament must please most of the other 649 members of the House, especially Kinnock. He's a sulker who has taken his ball home.

Express says that as Commandant of County Hall Livingstone has hot and cold flunkeys at his beck and call. As a mere MP he doesn't even have a desk or phone. No wonder he is boycotting Westminster. Labour Whips of course realise this removes a thorn from their side.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Times - Nicholas Scott announces further change in social security benefit to give transitional protection to vulnerable people on income-related benefits; you describe Wednesday's £100million announcement as a modest adjustment but Kinnock accuses you of making a U-turn.

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Times leader under heading "Off Course" says the Government is looking as if it has lost its way. A fog of concessions has been allowed to fall upon what had already become a dark and confusing forest of local Government and social security reform. There may be nothing wrong with individual changes but everything wrong in the way they have been forced upon it. It describes the aims of the DHSS to stop cash going to those judged not to need it as laudible but if Government simply miscalculated the amount of pain the changes would cause, then it should have given itself time to take proper stock before being forced into daily appeasement of its opponents. Tory MPs would have been better advised countering with details of some of the thousands who would be better off instead of contributing to the further blunting of much-needed reform.

Today political columnist quotes Labour MP on this week's concessions "We keep putting up foxes and she (ie you) keeps shooting them".

FERRY STRIKE

Times - NUS bankers get High Court order to stop union from taking any action to avoid possible sequestration of its £2.2million assets; strike hits morale of Dover seamen's families.

Times - Commons chaos threatened as Labour say they will withdraw all co-operation in the running of Parliamentary business unless Dover MP David Shaw withdraws claim that Labour supported the NUS by "expressing solidarity with acts of violence" in the strike.

Express leader headed "Toady Neil in another union hole" says by declaring his solidarity with the union he shows unflinching loyalty to his paymasters. He has apparently learned nothing since coal strike. And it goes for the Mirror for "yapping" its support for NUS when Maxwell was making 136 journalists redundant in Manchester for same reason P&O is trying to slim down - competition.

Mail leader under heading "Futile strike" says the Left-wing urge to futile martyrdom seems to have the striking seamen firmly in its grip. it is typical of Labour and its leader that at this crucial stage in trades union affairs they choose to back the old and oppose the new.

Guardian - seamen scuppered by their own bank.

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PRESS DIGESTCOMMUNITY CHARGE

Times - Rebel Conservatives planning war of attrition against community charge when it goes to Lords by spinning out consideration of Bill over many weeks through tabling amendments on whole areas which they believe went largely unexamined in Commons. Rebel Tory MPs hope to enlist active support of Lords Pym, Fawsley and Chelwood.

MEDIA

Times - Rupert Murdoch considering establishing broadcasting centre in Isle of Man to transmit commercial TV channel to parts of the mainland.

FT - Sir William Rees-Mogg, widely regarded as front runner for Chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council, wants the council to have right to preview only material that is bought in by broadcasters.

FT - Virgin is poised to take control of super channel.

FT - Row over Government spending over advertising continues with disclosure that DHSS is to spend £4million mainly on advertising pensions and family credit.

INDUSTRY

FT - Government will announce in about four weeks who will run the three private companies to be formed from the break-up of CEGB.

FT - PSA should be dismantled and reduced to agent for the Treasury, according to centre for Policy Studies report.

POLITICS

FT - Bryan Gould writes to you highlighting the rift with the Chancellor over the handling of exchange rate policy.

HEALTH

Times - Smoking could be banned in public places throughout Europe in 1992; an all-party backbench Bill banning smoking in working places is almost certain to be killed off by Government at second reading today.

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Times - Specialist tells BMA that many women will be spared mastectomy if planned national screening succeeds.

Times - Tidy Britain Group to launch campaign to persuade more British seaside resorts to clean their beaches.

Independent - Edwina Currie marked the launch yesterday of a 10-point code against cancer.

DEFENCE

Times - Select Committee reports MoD has repeatedly refused to supply full details of senior officers and Civil Servants who left to join defence contractors and other private companies.

Under heading "How Thatcher scuppered US Navy", Times reports American official as saying that President Reagan's controversial decision to allow Britain to sell Canada submarines was taken in the teeth of strong opposition from the US Navy, mainly because you used your considerable influence with him.

EDUCATION

Independent - Government plans to abolish the ILEA are likely to destroy what is now excellent while reinforcing what is already poor, according to the Conservative Education Association.

NATO

Times - NATO Governments take another tentative step towards modernising nuclear weapons in Europe but choice of weapons and decisions on deployment were left aside; leader says NATO has reached a key point in its history and describes the Nuclear Planning Group meeting as a modest success. It warns that the Western Alliance cannot rely on Soviet Union statements of good intent for its security.

Independent - NATO defence ministers yesterday agreed at their NPG meeting to press ahead with the development of two new types of nuclear weapons.

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PRESS DIGESTJAPAN

FT - Preview of Takeshita's visit says the Japanese are asking "what will Mrs Thatcher throw at us this time?". You have already made it clear that you expect straighter answers on Japan's plans to reform liquor taxes and to ease entry to the Tokyo Stock Exchange for British securities firms.

MINISTERS UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Fowler addresses Walsall Chamber of Commerce, Aldridge, Birmingham; later opens EITS office, Aldridge

DES: Mr Baker presents records of achievement to second concert of pupils, Soudes Place School, Corking

DHSS: Mr Moore visits Dystleigh Grange Retirement Home, Macclesfield

DOE: Mr Ridley visits the Glasgow Garden Festival

HMT: Mr Major addresses the Manchester Action Committee

HO: Mr Hurd opens Fullsutton Prison, York

MAFF: Mr MacGregor visits British Sugar, Bury St Edmonds

SO: Mr Rifkind and Mr Lang attend opening of Glasgow Garden Festival by Prince and Princess of Wales and later meet Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, Edinburgh

WO: Mr Walker opens PD Engineering offices, Llantrisant; later attends lunch with the Lord Mayor of Cardiff, Mansion House; also opens May Fair, Welsh Folk Museum, St Fagans, Cardiff

DEM: Mr Cope visits Penzance

DES: Mr Jackson visits Replan and addresses the Ashmolean Museum AGM, Oxford

DES: Mr Dunn visits Ludlow College, Shropshire

DHSS: Mrs Currie visits South and East Birmingham Health Authorities

DHSS: Mr Portillo launches Reformed Benefit System, Warbreck Hill, Blackpool

DOE: Lord Caithness visits Wessex Water Authority

DOE: Mr Chope attends opening of Fullsutton Prison, York; also visits RAF Leeming and Doncaster Crown Court

DTI: Mr Maude addresses Europe 1992-the new competition, CBI/Economist conference, Centre Point

DTp: Lord Brabazon visits Jersey (to 1 May)

DTp: Mr Mitchell performs sod cutting ceremony on A36, Steeple Langford, Salisbury

FCO: Mr Mellor addresses conference on Trade and Investment in Morocco

HO: Mr Patten addresses Victim Support Scheme AGM, London

MAFF: Baroness Trumpington visits ICI's Jealott's Hill Research Station

MAFF: Mr Thompson opens Artificial Insemination Centre, Selby

SO: Lord James Douglas Hamilton opens Housing Associations in Glasgow

WO: Mr Grist addresses Institute of Housing, Cardiff

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

WO: Mr Walker interviewed by Mr Lyn Evans of 'Y Pryn' Magazine on his first year of office as Secretary of State for Wales

FCO: Mr Mellor appears on Radio 4's Any Questions

TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

'The Parliament Programme': C4 (14.00)

'Power to the Imagination': C4 (20.00) Europe's Revolutionary Spring

'Any Question?': BBC Radio 4 (20.20) David Mellor, John Smith, Professor John Ashworth and Rosalind Miles

'The World Tonight': BBC Radio 4 (22.30) followed by 'The Financial World Tonight'

'The London Programme': ITV (22.40)

'Newsnight': BBC 2 (22.50)

'Power to the Imagination': C4 (23.45) Hindsight
