

5 MAY 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

PM buys flag from British Red Cross and later has talks and dinner with the Hungarian Prime Minister.

Local government elections

EC: Informal meeting of Small Enterprises and Tourism Ministers, Glucksburg (to 7 May)

The Princess of Wales attends a performance of the Moscow State Circus, London

40th Anniversary, Council of Europe

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STATISTICS

HMSO: Congenital Malformations 1981-1985

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Treasury; Prime Minister

Business: Debate on Agriculture on a Motion for the Adjournment. Details of the EC Documents relevant to the debate will be given in the Official Report.  
Farm Land and Rural Development Bill (Lords): Remaining Stages

Adjournment Debate: Urban Development in the Green Belt (Mr I Stanbrook)

Select Committees: COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL  
Hampshire (Lyndhurst Bypass) [Lords]

Lords: Starred Questions  
Education Reform Bill: Committee (2nd Day)  
Summer Time Order 1988: Motion for Approval

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGEST

You gave your full support to Foreign Secretary's intervention in possibility of BBC film on Gibraltar incident.

BBC to make decision today on whether to screen programme tonight in face of FCO request not to do so. Teddy Taylor MP says BBC seems to have a "death wish" in seeming determined to show film.

Princess Margaret visits injured in Dutch bombings in hospital in Germany.

Tom King says he is encouraged by inter-governmental talks in Dublin; meets Haughey.

P&O rejects union offer to reopen talks on ferry strike - time for talking has passed.

Sequestrators seize NUS assets; staff evicted from Clapham headquarters.

Meanwhile, ferry crews rejoin strike at Portsmouth and Sun says McCluskie could be heading for jail for calling world-wide strike.

Labour MPs agree to have a whip-round for striking seamen - £10 a week.

John Macreadie, CPSA, calls for 24 hour strike in support of NUS.

QEII could join strike today.

Three French hostages - their last - released in Beirut; give Chirac an election boost. Express claims their release was obtained with a £1.5billion payout to Iran. One of released hostages appeals to you to negotiate John McCarthy's release.

Government refers Kuwaiti's 22% stake in BP for MMC examination. Mail says Government is absolutely right.

ACAS reports unions are increasingly being given cold shoulder by companies - 39 withdrew bargaining rights last year.

Preliminary talks about disposal of Government's remaining 49% stake in British Telecom.

Guardian - Government's Chief Scientific Adviser expected to recommend ending fast breeder programme with loss of 3,000 jobs.



PRESS DIGEST

Labour Party alleges Government is hiding massive increases in amount people will pay in community charge because of fears of defeat in local elections.

Local elections comment - Mirror says if you win many seats you will claim a victory - a victory for cuts in social security, for collapsing welfare services, for crumbling, bookless schools, for closing hospital wards and above all for community charge. Express says today is the chance to ensure there is no going back on the tremendous strides made under your Government. Gordon Greig, Mail, says Labour's television image is streets ahead of the party's substance; Tories struggling to encapsulate horizons of Thatcherism. Telegraph - None of the news tomorrow likely to undermine Conservative grip on Government.

Halifax Building Society says house prices are now rising at rate of 20% a year.

Claims that rubbish dumps all over country are dangerously leaking methane.

BUPA launches scheme for low income groups - expected to boost private treatment by 1.5million to 7million people.

Audit Commission says potholed roads result from local councils either not spending enough on maintenance or squandering money which could be used for this purpose.

Unclaimed social security last year totalled £625million.

NAO says pensioners and needy families are failing to claim because they have to wait for so long at offices.

Mail highlights Manchester school within a mile of troubled Burnage school which got its race relations right.

High Court orders Hillingdon Council to find home for former explosives expert forced to flee Ireland by IRA - they refused on grounds he and his family had made themselves "intentionally homeless".

Sun suggests industrial tribunal in Portsmouth has gone stark, raving mad by saying a firm was unfair to sack a woman jailed for 9 months over an eternal triangle case involving attempted murder of her husband. Today says it has made an ass of the law.



PRESS DIGEST

Baby snatched from Cardiff store by bogus woman store detective still missing.

2 policemen jailed for life for murdering prisoner in his cell in Morecambe.

4 out of 5 new Tory MPs want to bring back capital punishment, according to BBC Newsnight poll, but Commons still likely to reject restoration of death penalty.

Colin Moynihan, according to Express, will tell UEFA that he is not yet convinced English clubs have got their house in order in curbing hooligans.

4 more cases of Legionnaires disease at BBC HQ confirmed.

Tory MPs up in arms about new style Euro passport.

Prince Charles halts £50million project for luxury flats overlooking Kensington Palace.

7 British soccer fans arrested in Hungary after disco brawl freed on bail and can return home.

Paul Foot, in Mirror, raises question whether UK Government was involved in Irangate as a result of arms trial at Old Bailey.

200 injured and others missing in Nevada rocket fuel plant blast.

Lech Walensa threatens to "mobilise all Poland" unless trade unions legalised.

Israeli troops kill 40 Arab fanatics in battle in Lebanon.

Russell Harty in coma in Leeds Hospital with hepatitis and liver failure.

Dukakis makes his presidential nomination virtually certain with landslide wins in Ohio and Indiana.

Express leader says that although George Bush is thought to be a little wimpish he is a lion by Dukakis and Democrat standards.



PRESS DIGESTTERRORISM/BROADCASTING

Today leader headed "Broadcast or be damned" says it may be questionable judgment for BBC to make a programme beamed specially at Ulster about SAS shootings in Gibraltar. But it is totally wrong for Foreign Secretary to put pressure on BBC to take it off. If programme has broken the law it is up to Attorney General to act.

Independent - BBC faces Thatcher's wrath. You are reported to be angered by reports that new interviews are to be broadcast, although the BBC has yet to decide to defy the Government. Officials in London say the programme would go ahead. Executives in Northern Ireland said to be considering cutting out the controversial witness interviews and substituting a studio discussion.

Times - 70,000 British servicemen and families in West Germany on red alert after it emerges that IRA is receiving indispensable assistance from West German terrorists.

P&O DISPUTE

Independent - NUS has its back to the wall as the sequestration begins to take effect. Not clear how the union will now function although spokesman says it will just go underground.

TAKESHITA'S VISIT

Star, Sun, Mirror, Today ignore it. Express: Maggie's free trade message for Japan. Friendly but firm talks.

FT - Takeshita calls for strengthening of relations between Japan and Western Europe. You press home the Government's wish to see the Japanese ease entry to the Tokyo Stock Exchange and to end alleged tax discrimination against Scotch whisky.

Times - Japanese PM pledges his personal interest in resolving trade differences over whisky taxes and admission of British firms to Tokyo Stock Exchange. Leader says our disproportionate share of Japan's investment will only be maintained if Britain can be the gateway, not only to Europe's markets but also into its political decision-making.

Times - GATT panel convened last night after Japan and US fail to agree on liberalisation of Japanese market for beef and oranges.



PRESS DIGEST

Times - Department of Transport lifts ban on noisy foreign planes using Heathrow and Gatwick because of shortage of new quiet jets and engine "hush kits".

MEDIA

Independent - Government dismisses reports that the Broadcasting Standards Council will be given powers to preview and edit programmes. It becomes clear that the Council is being recast as a body to check the expected excesses of the new satellite and cable broadcasters. Agreement expected within the next few weeks.

ECONOMY

FT - Sam Brittan defends his views on EMS against Alan Walters' article "Britain does best outside EMS"; and goes on to argue that whatever the monetary framework chosen it is essential to stick to it.

NHS

Independent - After tour of American hospitals, Harriet Harman claims health market idea is "a killer". Competition between hospitals is leading to higher death rates as management cut costs to gain business.

Independent - BMA says Department of Health will shortly issue new procedure to tackle consultants who do private practice in NHS time, or persistently fail to do their NHS work.

HEALTH

Independent - Peter Jenkins looks at the Alton Bill and says, with luck, it will be defeated tomorrow or flounder in a confusion of Parliamentary tactics. The Government has no enthusiasm for reforming the abortion laws and hopes the matter will just go away.

LAW & ORDER

Times - John Pitts, Chairman of new Legal Aid Board, confesses to being an "ignoramus" about the law and legal services.



PRESS DIGESTSOCIAL SERVICES

Independent - Local authorities and social workers react bitterly to Government's decision to reject plans to extend social work training from 2 to 3 years.

IRELAND

Times - signs of further improvement in relations between British and Irish Governments emerged last night after an extended session of Anglo-Irish Conference.

EC

Independent - To your irritation, declaration calling for increased powers for the Euro Parliament and a commitment to political union, backed by majority of Euro MPs including most Tories, likely to be discussed at Hanover summit.

ANGOLA

Independent - London talks on Angola end with vague promises that the participants should meet again.

FT - Hopes for an end to the Angolan war were boosted when South Africa, Angola, Cuba and US agree to further talks, possibly in Lusaka within the next few weeks.

JAPAN

Geoffrey Smith in the Times under heading "To compete or collaborate: that is the question" asks how far would a closer relationship with Japan and Western Europe be realistic? How far, indeed, would such a relationship be in Europe's interest.

PEOPLE

Article and photograph of Government whips in Times under heading "Background men emerge cautiously into light of day".

FT - Diary says Sir Geoffrey Littler is set to retire from the Treasury two years early, with banks and financial institutions queuing up for his expertise.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Fowler visits Sutton Coldfield

DEN: Mr Parkinson addresses the British Gas annual luncheon, Cafe Royal; later addresses the London International Capital Marketing conference, Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre, London

DTI: Lord Young and Mr Clark meet Hungarian Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Grosz; later Lord Young meets Mr Navey Yarman, Japanese Minister of Posts and Telecommunications

MAFF: Mr MacGregor addresses British Poultry Federation AGM lunch, Cafe Royal, London

SO: Mr Rifkind addresses breakfast meeting of Group Relations Educational Trust, Claridges, London

DEM: Mr Nicholls visits Edinburgh and addresses Women and New Technologies seminar

DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses an Industrial Society Peppercall Unit conference on Women in Work in the 1990s

DES: Mr Jackson visits Westminster College, Oxford; later opens Germination IV Exhibition and RCA Gallery

DHSS: Mrs Currie visits Cancer Research Campaign Laboratories, Charing Cross Hospital

DHSS: Mr Newton visits Roche Pharmaceuticals and launches Herts Family Practitioner Committees cervical cytology call and recall scheme

DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses the British Aggregate Construction Materials Industries lunch, London

DOE: Mrs Roe visits the Rural Development Commission in London

DOE: Lord Caithness attends launch of Tidy Britain Group's Blue Flag Scheme for beaches, London

DTp: Lord Brabazon attends annual awards ceremony at the Royal Aero Club, Hamilton Place, London

HMT: Mr Lilley addresses the Institution of Taxation conference

MAFF: Mr Thompson and Baroness Trumpington lunch with Savills, Lord Agents and John Carlisle MP, L'Amico, London

WO: Mr Grist addresses Association of Welsh Health Authorities annual dinner, Porthcawl

WO: Mr Roberts unveils World Heritage Plaques at Conwy and Caernarfon Castles

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DEM: Mr Cope attends informal meeting of small firms Ministers, Glucksburg, Germany (to 6 May)

DTI: Mr Maude attends informal meeting of small firms Ministers, Glucksburg, Germany (to 6 May)

FCO: Mrs Chalker attends Congress of Europe meeting, The Hague (to 7 May)

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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DEM: Mr Fowler takes part in Central TV News election results programme

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TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Business Daily": C4 (12.30)

"The Parliament Programme": C4 (14.00)

"The Sharp End": C4 (18.30)

"From Raj to Rajiv": BBC Radio 4 (19.30) Fortress India

"Bodymatters Special": BBC 1 (20.00) European Cancer Week

"This Week": ITV (20.30) Why Save?

"Question Time": BBC 1 (22.00) includes George Robertson, Shirley Williams and Sara Parkin

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

"The City Programme": ITV (22.35)

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.55)

"News and Local Election Special": BBC Radio 4 (24.00)

"Local Elections 88": BBC 1 (24.00)

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