

Tuesday, 10 May 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Mr Rong Yiren and later President of Guyana (photo call)

ACP/EC: Council of Ministers, Port Louis, Mauritius (to 11 May)

National Union of Lock and Metal Workers annual conference, Willenhall

ODA: Caribbean Development Bank annual meeting, Manila, Philippines (to 12 May)

UNA Lobby of Parliament on disarmament

The Princess of Wales opens the Birthright Mother and Child exhibition at the Leferne Gallery, London

MINTEL Statement on 'Thatcher' Youth Survey

Danish General Election

Nebraska and West Virginia US Primaries

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Defence; Employment; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Take Overs and Mergers (Employment Protection)
Finance Bill: Committee Stage (3rd day)
Motion on the Control of Misleading Advertisements Regulations

Adjournment Debate: Building problems at the Clyde Submarine Base (Mr J McFall)

Select Committees: TRANSPORT
Subject: Air Traffic Control Safety
Witness: Institute of Professional Civil Servants; British Airline Pilots Association

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

Hampshire (Lyndhurst Bypass) [Lords]

Lords: Starred Questions
Education Reform Bill: Committee (3rd Day)
Dartford-Thurrock Crossing Bill: Committee (on re-commitment)
Licensing Bill: Consideration of Commons Amendment

MINISTERS - See Annex

Lorry drivers block Dover, Calais and Dunkirk demanding end to dispute; they threaten to shut all ports.

NUS negotiating with Sealink and other companies which have sacked members in connection with P&O problems.

P&O's Canberra sails a little late last night from Southampton despite dispute;

Labour decides to devote Wednesday's Opposition motion to dispute instead of housing.

Zola Budd retires from sport for long period depressed by row over her attendance at South African sports meeting. Suffers nervous collapse.

Sterling soars, though rise perhaps tempered by renewed rumours the Chancellor has resigned. Spending boom at new peak.

Sun has an exclusive with plans to turn No 10 into a mini fortress costing £300,000.

Steel to announce his decision on leadership on June 1. Guardian thinks that the sooner he says he is standing down the better.

Kinnock is to modify Labour's nuclear defence policy and to recognise the protection of the nuclear umbrella within NATO framework (Independent).

Telegraph says Labour also aims to drop its high tax image and to keep rates "in line with Europe".

Treasury Minister says reduction in total income tax bill for top 1% of earners greater than for bottom 70%.

Cost of October hurricane put at £1.5billion.

You make it clear to Cabinet colleagues you are not persuaded of merits of private postal service (Guardian).

Labour Party up in arms over reported plan to appoint Sir Jeffrey Sterling Chairman of IBA.

Community charge under fire in Lords 2nd Reading; Express says you are facing a showdown, with Lord Chelwood in the lead.

Express feature on Lord Belstead as the going gets tough.

200 students beseige Twickenham police station after 7 arrested during Kenneth Baker's visit to Richmond college.

Black activists disrupt press conference and accuse Burnage school enquiry team as rascists. Head of inquiry says playground murder was racial but not caused by anti-racial policies.

Off duty policeman, 2.5times over legal drinking limit, fined £200 and found not guilty of causing death by reckless driving.

Labour Party offers half-price membership, for £5, to trade unions.

CPSA expected to revert to moderate control today with ousting of Militants. Conference rejects call for strike ballot over pay.

National Union of Civil and Public Servants accept 4.5%.

Today claims Gurkhas may be sent to serve in Northern Ireland.

Guardian says you personally authorised use of SAS in Gibraltar.

BBC service engineers apparently commits suicide, believing himself to be responsible for Legionnaire's disease outbreak.

Widow leaves £2.75million to RSPCA.

Nigel West, alias Rupert Allason MP, goes into business conducting retired CIA men around spooky London.

Donald Regan says President Reagan was kept a virtual prisoner in White House because of his wife's belief in astrology - his book shocks USA. Mail says this may damage Bush.

Chirac hands in his resignation today; Rocard expected to replace him.

Star editor finds it ironic that France, who harboured Ayatollah for years, has had to pay £1billion ransom for its hostages to Iran.

British holidaymaker stabbed to death in Turkey for £10.

TERRORISM

Sun leader says that for TV the funeral of one of the Servicemen killed by the IRA in Holland was the end. There will be no fearless investigation by TV into how they died. No search for witnesses to testify they were given a chance to surrender or had guns in their hands. And no painstaking reconstruction by the

Observer. By depicting the terrorist gang eliminated in Gibraltar as martyrs TV and unbelievably mischievous newspapers have given the IRA the finest propaganda platform it has enjoyed in years.

Times - Gibraltar Attorney General says SAS could face murder charges if further evidence shows IRA terrorists were shot when trying to surrender. Police widen inquiries and are to visit Britain to interview witnesses.

Independent - Gibraltar's Attorney-General criticised the police for ignoring for nine weeks a key witness to the shooting.

COMMUNITY CHARGE

Express leader headed "Let the poll tax go ahead" says the Lords would be wrong to pass the proposed amendment destroying the basic proposal of the charge - to restore the link between taxation and representation.

Times - Conservative rebel peers confident they can muster enough support to force Government to make further concessions over community charge.

Independent - Local authorities may be forced to sell the names and addresses on their poll tax register to anyone who wishes to buy them.

Independent - Continues feature on the community charge and looks at problems of industrialists attacking the uniform business rate, and councils fearing bureaucratic chaos.

Independent - Columnist asks if not the community charge then what? The community charge is going to be implemented and it is workable. It is fanciful to believe that its opponents can defeat it altogether. The real purpose of opposition is to solidify the unpopularity of the tax.

WELFARE

Two judges decide tenants who receive housing benefit can spend it on luxuries without fear of prosecution (Mail); man acquitted of theft for spending half of lump sum of £480 on new shoes and day trip to London. Case highlights problem of abuse.

SEAMEN'S STRIKE

Times leads with lorry drivers blocking Channel ports leaving 1,000 holidaymakers stranded. P&O fly crews to Holland for three

freight ferries saying they have no intention of compromising. NUS split over Sealink peace plan.

EDUCATION

Express leader calls for urgent action to combat violence in schools. Kenneth Baker says teachers should require tougher discipline.

ECONOMY

Lord Cockfield adds his voice to those supporting full British membership of EMS; he says it's "high time" we signed up.

ENVIRONMENT

Times - Nicholas Ridley thinking again about Green Belt as a 100 or so Tory MPs start lobbying over policy in the South-East.

Telegraph - feature on the battle of the Green Belt - can Nicholas Ridley reconcile housing with heritage?

INDUSTRY

Times - BA sends MPs memo criticising performance of CAA's air traffic control system.

Times - 75 B-Cal captains accept demotion in BA merger deal.

FT - London Dockland Development Corporation concludes deal to start rehabilitation of Royal Docks - one of the largest development opportunities in Europe.

FT - British Rail virtually rules out construction of high-speed line from London to Channel Tunnel.

Times - Pressure rises for Nestle bid for Rowntree to be referred to Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Times - Report shows British engineering designers are far less well trained than those abroad, leaving an alarming gap of unfilled needs and posing a threat to the competitiveness of manufacturing industry.

JAPAN

FT: - To the Bank of England's embarrassment, two major Japanese securities firms have been blocked from becoming market makers in

the British gilts market, though no-one admits responsibility. Move seen as retaliation for Japanese blocks on British firms' applications for seats on the Tokyo stock exchange.

POLITICS

Times - Deep divisions among Conservatives over Scottish devolution and future Government policy in Scotland were exposed yesterday in conflicting prescriptions from the right and left of the party.

Independent - Labour leaders have criticised the Government's use of "poisonous" abuse and "threats and menace" to intimidate the Speaker and broadcasters who refuse to toe the Whitehall line.

Independent - State-backed garages, estate agents and building companies should be set up by a future Labour government to challenge private enterprise, a Labour policy review said.

Times - Labour peers fear you are damaging House of Lords by a marked bias against the Opposition through refusing to create any more working peers.

T E Utley writing in the Times under the heading "Wooing the Scots impartially" looks at the recent local election results saying the Conservatives last year were in second place, but they have now dropped to third place. The likelihood is that you and your colleagues will be subjected to a renewed bombardment from Scottish Tories to reintroduce legislative devolution (a home rule Parliament for Scotland).

Telegraph says Tory Reform Group yesterday strongly attacked introduction of hardline Thatcherite policies in Scotland.

Telegraph - Sir Russell Fairgrieve argues for a move towards a federal Britain; leader says this is not an option likely to commend itself to the Government or most Britons. The fact that every other party North of the border advocates devolution is no argument for the Conservatives following suit.

NHS

Times - John Moore still pressing for an extra £200million for NHS to avert another spate of ward closures later this year, but John Major is not convinced further cash is needed.

Times - BMA says mercy killings would be almost inevitable among casualties of a major nuclear attack with priorities having to be

decided as to who should be helped and who should be left.

AIDS

Times - Commons Committee says Scottish Office has done little to act on a Government report urging controls in Scotland to stop the spread of AIDS among drug addicts.

LAW & ORDER

Times - Junior solicitors in some firms handling criminal legal aid are being paid more than those in any other field of legal work.

Times - Criminal Bar Association say committal proceedings should be abolished and replaced with a formal "paper" procedure by which cases would be transferred to the Crown Court without a hearing and within statutory time limits.

Times - Claims that Post Office is persecuting sub-postmasters who have been robbed, trying to blame them for breaches of security and making unreasonable demands for contributions to make up losses.

POLITICS

Independent - Peter Jenkins looking at the bias in the political fitness test says that plans for you to stay on as long as you can is scarcely news. You give the impression of presiding impartially over some process of natural selection or political Darwinism, which will produce your fittest successor. But if you are not careful you may come to be seen rather as the author of a continuing purge against the brightest and the best.

DEFENCE

Independent - Britain's busiest air-sea rescue station will close next year if Ministers approve proposed changes to helicopter coverage.

FRENCH ELECTION

Mail leader says tortoise beat the hare. The moral: there's no nobbler like an old nobbler.

Times says British relief at being able to deal with a French Government speaking with a single voice will entirely outweigh any preference the Government may have had for Chirac's policies. For

past two years you have had to consult both President and Prime Minister without being able to take for granted a consistent line.

Times leader says Mitterrand's victory is in danger of being widely and deliberately misunderstood. Kinnock describes it as a great victory for the French socialists, which it is not. The whole point of Mitterrand's strategy during the last two years was to detach himself from the French socialists. That was how he secured the great victory.

SPORT

Mirror leader says the trouble with British sport is that it has a day of shame every week. If it goes on its ignorant, violent, blood-nosed way only thugs will turn out to watch and play. The guilty must be dealt with severely.

EC

Times - EC report says that firms will save £140 billion when European trade barriers are dropped in 1992.

Times - French schoolchildren will soon receive French lessons in their classroom beamed by satellite from Scotland.

FT - Lord Cockfield predicts the unified internal market could lead to larger and more specialised companies.

FT - European Commission publishes most detailed forecast yet on the impact of 1992. It says that to exploit all the gains it needs not only a complete single market but also a strong competition policy and rapid agreement on co-ordinated macro-economic policies.

DENMARK

FT - Danish General Election unlikely to resolve crucial question of whether it should remain fully committed member of NATO.

Times - NATO diplomats fear Schluter's election gamble over Denmark's NATO role will fail and that this will give Moscow impression of Western disunity at a critical time.

ANGOLA

FT - Surprise announcement of further round of talks aimed at bringing peace to Angola and independent to Namibia set for Brazzaville later this week.

SOUTH AFRICA

Independent - South Africa's gag on press widens with magazine ban.

POLAND

Times - Lord Bethell, in Poland as member of Anglo-Polish Round Table, detained for 50 minutes by police near Lenin shipyard for taking photographs. His film was confiscated but he claims he was only taking shots of architecture.

SOVIET UNION

Times - KGB swoops fail to deter illegal opposition party which met in Moscow yesterday to adopt a party programme.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses Chemical Engineers conference, London
- DES: Mr Baker meets Professional Association of Teachers, Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association and Secondary Heads Association about the Interim Advisory Committee's report on teachers pay
- DTI: Lord Young opens Friends Provident new offices, London
- DTP: Mr Channon inaugurates Thames Line, Charing Cross Pier; later addresses Road Haulage Association dinner, Grosvenor House, London
- HO: Mr Hurd visits Hertfordshire Police
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor and Mr Thompson attend meeting with Jim Granam, New Zealand Dairy Board; later Mr MacGregor opens new lecture hall of Brewing Research Foundation, Lyttel Hall, Rehill and Mr Thompson launches Shell film, The Farming Business
- WO: Mr Walker addresses Farmers' Union of Wales annual general meeting, Aberystwyth
- DEM: Mr Cope visits North West
- DEM: Mr Nicholls addresses Chemical Engineers conference, QE 11 Centre, London
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses CATE conference for local committees
- DHSS: Mrs Currie addresses Devonshire House Management Club dinner, London
- DHSS: Mr Newton addresses annual ladies night dinner of the General Dental Council, London
- DOE: Mr Trippier visits the National Council for Voluntary Organisations in London
- DOE: Mr Moynihan visits Birmingham to view sports facilities; later opens Roehampton Recreation Centre
- DTI: Mr Atkins visits BAe, North West
- DTI: Mr Maude visits Newcastle Single Market campaign; later addresses the Society of County Trading Officers, Cafe Royal, London
- DTP: Mr Bottomley visits Securon Ltd, Near Amersham, Bucks
- DTP: Lord Brabazon attends the RNLI buffet luncheon and annual presentation of awards, Royal Festival Hall, London
- FCO: Mr Mellor addresses members of the London Diplomatic Association
- SO: Mr Forsyth meets Scottish Trade Union Congress on competitive tendering in the National Health Service, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for bilateral talks, Berlin (to 12 May)

ODA: Mr Patten attends a meeting between the European Community and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries which are signatories to the Lome Convention, Mauritius (to 11 May)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

HMT: Mr Lawson interviewed by the Wall Street Journal

TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

'The Parliament Programme': C4 (14.00)

'In Business': BBC Radio 4 (16.05)

'The Cook Report': ITV (20.00)

'Alasdair Milne': BBC Radio 4 (20.30) in conversation with Frank Gillard about his time at the BBC

'Brass Tacks': BBC 2 (20.30) The English Disease - football hooliganism

'Newsnight': BBC 2 (22.25)

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

'Munich - the Peace of Paper': ITV (22.35)
