

9 June 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister opens Grosvenor House Antiques Fair and has talks followed by dinner with President of Tanzania (photocalls)

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh will be present at Beat Retreat by the Royal Marines on Horse Guards

EC: Social Affairs Council, Luxembourg

NATO meeting of Foreign Ministers, Madrid

EC: Energy Council, Luxembourg

Educational Institute of Scotland annual meeting, Inverness (to 11 June)

Kenneth Harris biography of Prime Minister published

STATISTICS

CBI: CBI/FT Survey of distribution trades (May)

PUBLICATIONS

CO: Regional Trends

HO: Annual Report of the CRE 1987 (prov)

HOC: Minutes of Evidence Transport: Air Traffic Control Safety

PARLIAMENT

Commons

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

Business: Housing Bill: Progress and Remaining Stages

Adjournment Debate: The Department of Transport report on the rail accident at Colwich Junction on 22 September 1986 (Mr J Heddle)

Select Committees: AGRICULTURE
Subject: Chernobyl: The Government's Reaction
Witnesses: Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Department of Agriculture and Fisheries for Scotland and Welsh Office Agriculture Department

Lords: Starred Questions
Local Government Finance Bill: Committee (5th Day)
Lord Chancellor's Salary Order 1988: Motion for Approval
Consumer Arbitration Agreements Bill: Committee

MINISTERS - SEE ANNEX

PRESS DIGEST

You make a lot of news today: your warning to TV to clean up its act - or else; your claim that Britain is "humming"; your visit to Battersea with pictures; your interview on Russian TV and Russian emissary delivers you a personal message from Mr Gorbachev giving an account of the Summit. Mail says your prominent position in world peacemaking dramatically spotlighted by the personal emissary's visit. At the same time you tell Russian TV viewers that a new book is opening up in East-West relations.

French call to cut debt of Third World by one third - for discussion in Toronto.

Speculation that Iranians in Embassy compensation talks, are preparing to discuss release of hostages. Government denies that Iran has put forward a list of demands for release of hostages in Lebanon. Iranian officials said to be happy with compensation negotiations (Times).

John Moore launches all-out attack on dependency culture which has sapped people's ability to stand on their own feet (Express). Young women getting pregnant to jump housing queues.

Claims that Ken Dodd has fiddled tax for 14 years.

Select Committee on Members interest to examine political lobbyists publicly to establish whether their activities are damaging to Parliament.

Independent leads with claim that money belonging to 11,000 investors was used to buy yacht - new City investigation

Murdoch, with Alan Sugar, goes into satellite TV and launches dish at just under £200.

BP and Texaco put 3.6-3.7p on gallon of petrol. But doubts whether the increase will stick.

Rules eased for open cast mining.

Maxwell buys IBM's educational and professional publishing business for £82million.

Rise in leukaemia among young people living near Dounreay. Mirror leader says the most worrying aspect is that scientists don't know the reason. Finding out should start today. Independent says nuclear plants are "probably to blame".

PRESS DIGEST

OECD says only 4 countries (France, Denmark, Japan and New Zealand) enjoyed a more industrially peaceful 1986 than Britain. Mail says surely those who are not your supporters cannot want to go back to previous anarchy.

Express notes that people and prosperity are slowly spreading North and the sooner the better for all concerned. Guardian devotes a page to examining reasonably positively inner city action 12 months after election.

DPP halts private action against Ron Brown MP for damaging mace - already dealt with by House.

Dukakis clear favourite to win presidential election with British bookies 11-8 on. But Express sees him on collision course with you over sanctions against South Africa.

Mail highlights Dukakis' dilemma - he can't win without Jackson but will he win with him?

Hanging - Teddy Taylor MP, in Star, asks MPs why they won't listen to public. Express leader says the Government must make plain that to reject hanging is not to go soft on crime and the need for re-think is underlined by London crime figures.

Mail finds gap between MPs and public opinion worrying. And it notes Labour Party could not find one MP to share overwhelming working class belief that death penalty should be revived.

Former Tory chairman of Avon and Somerset policy authority, convicted of drink driving, calls for drink drive laws to be scrapped. Terry Dicks MP says the man's an idiot.

South Africa protests to BBC for televising non-stop 70th birthday rock concert for Nelson Mandela on Saturday; calls up recruits as tension rises over alleged Cuban military build up on Angola's border with Namibia.

Sun leads with Myra Hindley wanting to become a nun.

Three England cricketers alleged to have been involved in sex romps at team's hotel during Test match; Sun claims captain Gattling was involved with barmaid.

Gattling also threatened with sack if he allows book detailing his row with Pakistani umpire to go ahead.

PRESS DIGEST

Majorca bans Spurs and Coventry City from taking part in international tournament because of fears holidaying fans will attach themselves to clubs and cause trouble.

Metropolitan Police Commissioner vows not to go soft on soccer thugs after collapse of recent trials.

YOUR SPEECH AND BATTERSEA

Sun page 2 - World knows Britain is great says Maggie; Economy humming.

Mirror - Maggie's dirty TV warning - clean up screen or face action.

Today - Thatcher warns of TV sex crackdown - duty to protect youngsters; leader on change coming in TV says that for far too long Britain has been smothered by the myth that it enjoys the best TV in the world. This is a lie put about by BBC and ITV. Now, thanks to Murdoch and Sugar, the viewer will have his choice of channels doubled. British people will at last be able to choose between Pravda of BBC and Izvestia of ITN. You put the revolution in exactly the right context when you said Britain was humming.

Express leads with "Clean up TV or I'll do it". Maggie warns she will sort out porn and violence as satellite viewing gets cheaper. In a news story on Battersea you are pictured against the background on the power station.

Mail - Praise for humming Britain. You also warn TV to stop producing violent and prongraphic programmes - or else. David Shaw, Director of ITA, dismisses your warning.

Another story, with diagram of what Battersea will look like, headed "Maggie lights way to a landmark's future".

Independent carries front page picture of you in Battersea control room.

Independent carries a footnote to Murdoch/Sugar development saying you are worried about the great changes facing television and radio. If the media do not use self-restraint, you will do everything to protect young people from sex and violence.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph page 1 lead - Clean up threat to TV by Thatcher. Legislation if self-regulation fails. Picture story of "The Battersea's opening bang".

Guardian page 1 - Thatcher urges media restraint on pornography.

Times - You welcome advent of more TV channels at PA lunch and dismiss suggestions that this could inevitably lead to a lowering of standards.

Times - picture shows you firing a laser gun at Battersea Power Station setting off firework which bring out four fire engines.

FT page 9 - Thatcher warning on television violence, as you ask broadcasters to exert self-discipline and self-regulation.

HOMELESS

Sun leader on your Commons remarks on Tuesday, says you gave wise advice in telling youngsters to stand on their own feet or go home to Mum. By contrast we have the usual load of codswallop from Kinnock.

LAW & ORDER

Independent - Metropolitan Police Commissioner admits that the collapse of three football hooligan trials has cast doubts on the integrity of police evidence in courts. Senior police officers concerned at lack of faith and rising level of violence against the police. Leader says juries are nowadays less deferential and more street-wise. It is up to Mr Imbert to gain control of his force and end the downward spiral and the lingering belief that the police fabricate evidence.

Times - Law Society council to propose new, tougher measures to identify dishonesty or incompetence among the 3,700 one-man firms of solicitors.

DEFENCE

Independent - Leon Brittan calls on the US to abandon Star Wars and for a fundamental review of Britain's defence commitments, with the possibility of cuts in the Royal Navy.

Independent - Three top Soviet officials, including Shevardnadze, take Sir Geoffrey Howe to task at the UN, for remarks he made about the Soviet arms control stance.

PRESS DIGEST

Peter Jenkins, in the Independent, traces the roots of Labour's current turmoil over unilateral disarmament to a similar controversy over 25 years ago involving Bevan and Gaitskell. He concludes that the case for Britain clinging to its own ultimate deterrent in the changed circumstances of today is even stronger than it was in the early Sixties.

Times - Soviet Union now third in international arms-sales league behind the US and Britain.

Times - Leon Brittan calls for the West, to do a deal with the Soviets involving abandonment of NATO's short-range nuclear weapon in return for Soviet agreement to a tank-free central Europe.

EDUCATION

Independent says you personally intervened to order the last minute rejection of the Higginson report on A-levels fearing a dilution of the high standards of A-levels. Your dispute with Kenneth Baker on this matter follows a highly publicised dispute between you over proposals for testing in schools.

Times - Dr Higginson, whose proposals to change A-levels were rejected by Kenneth Baker, says that reforms will come in the end.

Times - Industrialists want to see more young people in higher education and to see the routes to university widened beyond A-levels.

Writing in the Times under the heading "Investing in Education" Max Beloff calls for a radical change in our attitudes to students.

INDUSTRY

Independent - Work on Trident submarines at Vickers shipyard stops as 13,000 employees stage unofficial walk-out in a dispute over holidays.

Times - Labour Party says thousands of jobs in manufacturing will be lost if the Government does not act to stop foreign multi-nationals making hostile bids in the run up to 1990s; leader says the battle for control of Rowntree has convinced almost everyone that the first big impact of the move towards a single European market will come in the market for companies rather than in the market for goods.

PRESS DIGEST

Times - CBI President says Britain's merger policy should allow the creation of really big companies that would rank alongside their largest rivals in world markets.

FT - Kenneth Clarke tells Commons that nationality of ownership of companies is increasingly irrelevant.

FT - Alan Clark tells Anglo-Japanese High Technology Industry forum that the expression free trade does not seem to have quite the same connotation in Japan as it has in the UK.

FT - ICI plans to cut 550 jobs at fertiliser plants on Humberside, Teesside, Severnside and Scotland.

POLITICS

Times - Finds signs of serious backlash against Kinnock's attempt to shift the Labour Party away from unilateralism emerge as Labour's Parliamentarian CND group tell him of widespread disquiet over his statement on TV on Sunday.

UNIONS

Independent - TGWU organises boycott of Government's new £1.5billion training programme. Their decision opens the way for much wider disruption of the scheme with other public service unions likely to follow.

AIDS

Under the heading "The Duty to Know" Times leader discusses the question of routine tests for Aids. It says that the only answer is to test everyone routinely for Aids when their blood is being tested for clinical reasons, whether during pregnancy or for the treatment of injury or disease. Not to screen for HIV while screening for less pathogenic organisms is illogical and irresponsible.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Independent devotes whole page to review of Regional Trends, showing that Britain has become a land of wealthy shires and impoverished cities, with the exception of London.

Mail highlights the penalties of living in the South East.

PRESS DIGESTTRANSPORT

Independent - Escalators and lifts were out of order at more than a fifth of London Underground's 252 stations last month.

ENVIRONMENT

Independent - Adam Smith Institute attacks sanctity of Green Belt system in call for development permits in the south East. It says much of the Green Belt consists of wasteland and could be developed if further areas are restored to pleasant greenery.

Times - Adam Smith Institute says Green Belt land should be thrown open to development and the restrictive planning powers of counties and the Government repealed.

Times - William Waldegrave sets out terms under which local authorities can dispose of council houses to private sector.

Times - NAO report criticises PSA for sitting on a £130 million backlog of essential repairs to Government buildings.

FT - Leader on reviving the rental market argues that tax reliefs on mortgages are looking ever more outrageous. The Government must examine the case for either phasing out mortgage interest subsidies or taxing the imputed income from home ownership. It should also consider extending capital gains tax to principal residences. The crucial point is that people will be encouraged to exploit their "right to rent" only if the artificial attractions of their "right to buy" are reduced.

IRAN

Independent - Britain and Iran begin Embassy compensation talks in a "practical spirit". Subsequent call by delegation leader on head of FCO Middle Eastern Dept leads to speculation that the Iranians were preparing to discuss hostages, but Iran spokesman dismisses as rubbish newspaper claims that they were ready to issue set of demands before British hostages could be freed.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr Baker meets Campaign for the Advancement of Secondary Education; later meets Councillors Fletcher and Riddell about Education Support Grants
- DTI: Lord Young dines with the President of Tanzania
- LCD: Lord Ferrers visits Tottenham Police Station
- DEM: Mr Nicholls tours the East Midlands
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses Leeds University about the national curriculum
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses Strategy into Action in Higher Education conference
- DHSS: Mr Newton opens new extension of AML Alexandra Private Hospital, Manchester and opens phase two of Orlau Unit, Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Hospital, Oswestry
- DHSS: Mrs Currie attends the launch of NHS Recipe Manual, London
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses the Institute of Economic Affairs conference, London
- DOE: Mr Moynihan attends Wang Golf Tournament at Moor Park
- DTp: Lord Brabazon visits Metair to inaugurate an aircraft handover, West Malling, Kent
- DTp: Mr Bottomley attends press launch of National Bike Week, Royal Festival Hall
- FCO: Mr Eggar addresses Canning House on recent Latin American visit
- HO: Mr Renton opens N. Peckham Task Force Vietnamese Employment and Training Project
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington opens ASSINSEL (International Association of Plant Breeders) congress, Brighton
- MOD: Mr Freeman hosts visit to the UK by the German Parliamentary Secretary of State for Defence
- WO: Mr Roberts meets Mr Bottomley to discuss Drink/Drive campaign '88, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DEM: Mr Cope attends formal meeting of Employment and Social Affairs Ministers, Luxembourg
- FCO: Mr Mellor departs for Potsdam German Democratic Republic conference on recent Latin American visit

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DOE: Mr Ridley appears on BBC TV's Question Time

TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

'The Parliament Programme': C4 (14.00)

'This Week': ITV (20.30)

'Nature': BBC 2 (20.30) From Atomic Power to Zoos - hunt saboteurs

'Question Time': BBC 1 (22.10) Patricia Hollis, Lord Jenkins, Suzanne Reeve and Nicholas Ridley

'Newsnight': BBC 2 (22.30)

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

'The City Programme': ITV (22.35)

'On Earth as it is in Heaven': BBC 2 (23.20) The Russian Orthodox Church's millenium
