

4 July 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh attend a garden party given by the Grenadier Guards Association, Buckingham Palace; later The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visit the Netherlands (to 6 July)

EC: European Parliament Plenary, Strasbourg (to 8 July)

BMA annual representative meeting, Norwich (to 7 July)

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STATISTICS

BoE: Capital issues and redemptions (June)

DOE: Housing starts and completions (May)

DTI: Retail sales and credit business (May final)

HMT: UK official reserves

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Energy; Transport; Wales

Business: Civil Evidence (Scotland) Bill: Remaining Stages  
Electricity (Financial Provisions) (Scotland) Bill:  
Committee and Remaining Stages  
Legal Aid Bill (Lords): Remaining Stages

OPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS

North Killingholme Cargo Terminal Bill

Adjournment Debate: The placing with Cluttons of the contract for the valuation of Richmond Yard (Mr D Campbell-Savours)

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Select Committees: EMPLOYMENT  
Subject: Legionnaire's disease in the Working Environment  
Witness: British Broadcasting Corporation

TELEVISIONING OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE

Witnesses: Portcullis Productions Ltd; Diverse Production Ltd; Broadcast Communication plc

Lords: Starred Questions  
Local Government Finance Bill: Report (3rd Day)  
Sex Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 1988: Motion for Approval

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGEST

USA admits shooting down Iranian airliner with 290 people on board, 66 of them children - a tragic mistake during naval engagement.

No 10 regrets loss of life; records America's right to defend its forces; calls for early end to Iran/Iraq conflict.

Iran calls the attack a barbaric massacre and says they will not leave "the crimes of America unanswered".

Americans trying to establish how sophisticated radar systems on US warship could confuse airliner with a fighter.

Incident feared likely to imperil release - and possibly lives - of hostages held in Lebanon.

USA Embassies around the world on the alert for Iranian revenge attacks.

Dearer mortgages likely this week if, as expected, base rates rise again.

Gulf incident overshadows Labour's critical celebration of NHS's 40th anniversary; and Benn takes the shine off Kinnock's attack on Government.

Kinnock attacks Government, on 40th anniversary of NHS, for sabotaging it. Mirror claims NHS all over Britain is struggling to make ends meet in the face of "Tory cuts".

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Meanwhile MORI opinion poll puts Conservatives 10 points ahead - 4 points up on a month ago.

Mail says Kinnock is fighting with increasing desperation to halt the slide in his own and Labour's popularity.

Stuart Bell MP says families hit by Cleveland sex abuse scandal should get immediate compensation.

Much concern over weekend delays to flights to Continent because of crowded skies.

More trouble with rural violence over weekend.

And British in trouble in Majorca after taxi driver dies of heart attack going to aid of three others being assaulted by British yobs; 5 Britons arrested.

PRESS DIGEST

John Carlisle MP says rowdies should be birched; so does Andrew Hunter MP.

Chairman of Avon & Somerset Police Authority wants flying squads to tackle rural yobbos.

Sun says police are ready to scrap their no-strike pledge over plans to end indexed linked rises for junior officers and cut rent allowances; leader says this is no way to treat the police but striking is not the right response either.

Telegraph says police are to use video cameras in patrol cars to catch dangerous drivers.

New effort to clear BAe/Rover issue with EC this week.

Mail puts British Coal's loss at £200million compared with British Steel profit of £400million.

Tax perks for savers canvassed for next Budget.

Kenneth Baker robustly defends GCSE in Express.

Brian Gould admits many people feel good under your Government and voters lack confidence in Labour's ability to manage economy.

Labour Party aiming for one million individual members in 4-year recruiting campaign.

New leader of BMA is anti-abortion Roman Catholic - accuses Government of being out of touch with people's needs in relation to NHS.

Select Committee to make 44 recommendations today on overhaul of British broadcasting.

Mail reporter and photographer minutely searched and paper and film removed from them before leaving Rumania where they had been investigating what is happening.

Chequers vicar predicts second coming of Christ within 10 years.

Joan Collins, actress, says she models herself on you.

David Lange, New Zealand Premier, has heart operation.

PRESS DIGESTUS/IRAN

Star page 1 lead - US admits killing 290 on Iran jet; Reagan facing worst crisis.

Sun page 1 lead - Blown out of the sky by mistake; leader headed "Blame the Ayatollah" says any nation that permits its airliners to run the gauntlet of the war zone must assume responsibility for the consequences.

Mirror page 1 - 298 die as US blasts airliner. Warship's missile blunder.

Today page 1 - America regrets as 290 die. 66 children. Incredible blunder; leader headed "Horror that had to come" says it is perhaps luck it hasn't happened before. And unless world takes action it will be greater luck still that something even worse doesn't happen soon. US commander's decision to shoot was probably inevitable. Europe and USA, plus Gorbachev, must mount a drive to end Iran/Iraq war.

Express page 1 - Our tragic blunder by Reagan. America admits warship missile shot down Iranian passenger jet, killing 290 innocents. Leader says Reagan has had the courage to apologise immediately. Perhaps both East and West might now recommit themselves to bringing the Gulf hostilities to an end.

Mail page 1 - America's terrible blunder. Airliner ignored all US warnings. Maggie sends her deepest sympathy but backs US right to defend itself; leader says the tragedy must be placed in its true perspective - that of the continuing and far greater tragedy of the Iran/Iraq war. Americans have right on their side in striving to defend free passage. The blunder was America's but the ultimate blame must rest with the fanatical warmongers of Baghdad and Tehran.

The shooting down of the Iranian Airbus dominates the front page of the Times. All US Embassies warned to take measures against Iranian retaliation. France expresses consternation at the incident, calling it a tragic mistake that should be fully explained.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent - All 286 people on board an Iranian airliner are believed killed after it was shot down by a US warship, over the Straits of Hormuz, in the apparent belief it was an F-14 fighter. Iranian Prime Minister has said US "will not be exempted from the consequences". US pledges full investigation into role of ship's radar.

Telegraph page 2 - 290 die as US cruiser shoots down Iranian Airbus over the Gulf. Airliner mistaken for attack fighter; leader on an "appalling mistake" says it is as well to remember that accidents do happen in the course of war. And Iran is not an innocent party. Yesterday's sequence of events began with an Iranian assault on a Danish tanker. More lives would have been lost over past year if US ship had not been on station yesterday.

Guardian - leader on "a tragedy waiting to happen" claims there is a considerable difference on a radar screen between an airliner and a fighter. The error lies somewhere between the incompetent and the inexcusable and an early court martial is the least one may expect.

Independent - Leader says Washington expressed no hint of concern that one of the most advanced naval vessels in the world had somehow failed to identify a civil airbus.

YOBBOISM

Sun says not long ago being a Briton abroad meant you could hold your head up high. Sadly all that has changed. Only one thing will make the resorts safe again - locking up the yobbos - six months or more. The message should be: Behave decently or you'll wish you'd never been born.

Today claims you will give backing to the idea of withdrawing driving licences from drunken yobs even if their offences have nothing to do with driving; leader says every Briton who has worked hard for his holiday will now have to pay for the vileness of the Majorca yobs. It wants Parliament to pass a short Bill before the summer break providing for passports of violent thugs to be taken away from them for a year.

Express news feature on plague infesting Europe highlights the new drunken breed of the Englishman abroad.

John Akass, in Express, shares your robust opinion that British holidaymakers who rampage abroad should be allowed to stew in foreign dungeons. The turn of events is a national humiliation.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail report on "Shame in the sunshine" quotes judge in Majorca as saying "Britons are the only nationality who cause trouble. Young hooligans are always the same. They swear; they have tattooed arms, a little money, no brain for drink and a will to fight".

Times - Vandalism and fighting, much of it drink-related, broke out in Kent, Essex, Shropshire, Hampshire, Berkshire, Lincolnshire and Oxfordshire over weekend.

Independent - Air traffic chaos and drunken violence are the result of the dramatic growth in cheap package holidays.

Telegraph - Drunken youths repeat rampage in rural areas; new punishment for thugs is being recommended by Government; feature argues the need for a programme of citizenship education.

LAW & ORDER

In an exclusive interview in the Times John Patten explains that the Government is to direct its latest attack on violence, disorder and crime at children as young as seven. Children are to be taught about the consequences of crime and a "moral dimension" will be added to the new national curriculum.

Times - MORI poll shows law and order is climbing sharply towards the top of the political agenda; up 11% over the past month and now in third place, one per cent behind NHS.

Times - Legislation expected forcing football authorities to introduce national membership scheme.

OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT

Times - Government determined to press on with drawing up a new contract for all members of security and intelligence services to discourage any repetition of the Spycatcher affair.

DEFENCE

Times - Dr Christopher Coker, LSE lecturer and longstanding critic of British defence policy, accuses Government of failing to adapt its defence strategy to a changing political environment and of having no clear understanding of the direction in which it is moving.

PRESS DIGESTROVER

Express leader says neither the British Parliament nor the people would accept any EC attempt to dispose of it to a foreign competitor, supressing both its identity and dealer network.

Independent - Lord Young is flying to Brussels in a list ditch attempt to win clearance for the British Aerospace/Rover deal after reports that the European Commission is likely to block it.

Guardian says Ford may compete with Volkswagen for Rover if EC blocks BAe deal.

POLITICS

Times - Kinnock fought yesterday to try to restore his standing in the Labour Party with a savage attack on you. At 40th birthday party for NHS he accuses you of adopting the values of Marie Antoinette in your attitude to the health service. Looking at Kinnock's problems in the Labour Party Times says that his 11 day visit to Africa while House is sitting is being questioned by colleagues.

Times - Over past month concern over health service has dropped from 44% to 35% while concern over disarmament and nuclear weapons has increased from 13% to 17%

Independent - Labour Party proposals for reforming the party by centralising recruitment and modernising subscription payments are expected to be approved today.

Telegraph says Labour's chances of victory in Kensington have suffered a severe blow with the fading popularity of the party and in particular Kinnock in the polls.

INDUSTRY

Times - TUC says record amounts of overtime are threatening gains made by unions in securing shorter working hours.

Times - Labour Research Department report "explodes the myth" that stress is an executive disease. It says manual and clerical workers are more likely to suffer from stress at work than executives.

Times - Sir John Hoskyns says directors must pay more attention to performance and less to inflation when fixing pay increases.

PRESS DIGEST

FT - Split between EETPU and TUC may enable unions hostile to Employment Training Scheme to muster sufficient votes to reverse TUC policy of support.

FT - Fire Brigades' Union denounces Home Office proposal to re-examine firemen's pay and conditions.

FT - Survey from Institute of Directors and from Dun and Bradstreet appear to confirm that demand in the economy is still growing rapidly, although they do not take latest 0.5% interest rate rises.

Independent - British Rail is to cease ticketing and timetabling services for much of the continental rail network causing disappointment and fare increases for tourists.

Independent - A new national information technology programme of research and development expected to be worth £85million a year is launched today.

EDUCATION

FT - University Vice-Chancellors agree new system for pricing contracts which could mean their charging outside bodies up to £80million a year extra.

Independent - There is no hard evidence for the claim that there is a serious widespread and deteriorating discipline problem in schools, the Children's Legal Centre says in a report to the Discipline Inquiry being conducted by Lord Elton.

Times - Kenneth Baker's plans to introduce top-up loans for students suffer setback as Government business managers refuse to give his legislation priority in the next session.

MEDIA

FT - New Sunday newspaper planned for launch in February is believed to have raised its first-round financing of £1.5million.

NHS

FT - Confirmation that the NHS review will recommend building on rather than replacing the current structure will come over the next few days in a series of speeches from John Moore.

Independent - More than 4,000 people took part in Labour's 40th birthday celebrations for the NHS at Alexandra Palace yesterday.



PRESS DIGEST

Guardian leader says the delay in the Government's review stems from the soundness of the NHS structure and from its winning public support. The aim must be to improve care according to a patient's ability to benefit rather than ability to pay.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Times - Government to introduce Child Care Bill later this year which will support findings of Cleveland inquiry.

CLEVELAND CHILD ABUSE

Independent - Support grows for getting the Government's 18 month old White Paper on law reform on to the statute book urgently as a means of speeding up the reform of child-care law.

Guardian says Ministers are considering giving £20million to boost training in child abuse specialisation.

GIBRALTAR

Independent - Gibraltar's Attorney-General said yesterday a decision would be taken later this month whether the SAS soldiers will face criminal charges arising from the killings. A preliminary hearing is to be held today in preparation for the inquest into the deaths.

HONG KONG

Times - 3 British Ministers have visited Hong Kong in the last month and their visits have called attention to their central difficulty - how the Government walks out of Hong Kong without breaking into a run.

SOVIET UNION

Times leader looks at the momentum of change in the Soviet Union saying that Mr Gorbachev has had the courage to recognise that Soviet socialism, far from providing the world with a model for the future, is giving socialism a bad name. That is what he has set about changing.

Independent - Gorbachev says the main elements of the revolutionary overhaul of both party and government should be in place within a year.

50 attempts have been made to hijack internal Aeroflot flights in the last 15 years.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr Baker attends Aims of Industry National Free Enterprise Awards as Guest of Honour; later meets Dr Theodore Cooper, Dean of Cornell University
- DHSS: Mr Moore hosts Government reception for long-serving staff to mark 40th anniversary of the NHS, QEII Conference Centre, London; later addresses Centre for Policy Studies seminar on Government's record on the NHS and the future
- DTI: Lord Young attends Alvey conference, Swansea
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor attends Royal Agricultural Show, Stoneleigh
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave attends National Federation of Housing Associations AGM, Keele University
- DOE: Mr Trippier launches Parliament Industrialists Association Industry Watch Scheme, Liverpool
- DOE: Mrs Roe visits the Royal Show (rural housing), Stoneleigh
- DTI: Mr Clark meets Mr Gotsev, Bulgarian Deputy Foreign Minister, London
- DTP: Mr Mitchell visits the Villager Community Bus Company, Kingham, Gloucestershire
- FCO: Mr Mellor addresses Institute of Contemporary British History, London
- HO: Mr Hogg visits Wandsworth Prison
- HO: Lord Ferrers addresses the Association of Civil Defence and Emergency Planning conference
- WO: Mr Roberts opens Welsh Pavilion, Royal Agricultural Show, Stoneleigh

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- WO: Mr Walker leads exporters mission to Soviet Union (to 8 July)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DES: Mr Baker interviewed by Peter Forbes, Editor of Poetry Review, on poetry in education
- DHSS: Mr Moore on the Today programme, Radio 4 (prov)
- DEM: Mr Cope meets leader writers about the Small Firms annual report

TV AND RADIO

'Today: BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Money Box': BBC Radio 4 (10.00)

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

'Horizon': BBC2 (20.15) The Quest for Tannu Tuva

'World in Action': ITV (20.30)

'The Indomitable Teddy Roosevelt': C4 (20.30) Documentary

'Panorama': BBC1 (21.30) Can we Afford The Doctor? Review of the NHS  
and how changes may affect everyone in Britain

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

'Newsnight': BBC2 (22.35)

'Business Matters': BBC1 (23.30)

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