

11 July 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Ritual lighting of bonfires to celebrate Battle of the Boyne,
Northern Ireland

EC: ECOFIN Council, Luxembourg

EC: Special European Budget Council (to 12 July)

EC: Transport Select Committee visit Copenhagen

Orange Parades, Northern Ireland (to 13 July)

TC and NEDO joint press conference on Demography at NEDO

STATISTICS

DTI: Producer price index numbers (June prov)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Transport; Wales; Energy

Business: European Communities (Finance) Bill: 2nd Reading and Money
Resolution
Motion on the Rate Support Grant (Scotland) Order
Court of Session Bill (Lords): Remaining Stages

Adjournment Debate: The current shortage of physics and mathematics
teachers (Mr P Thompson)

Select Committees: **TELEVISIONING OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE**
Witnesses: Broadcast Debates Ltd.;
Broadcast Communications plc

Lords: Starred Questions
Housing Bill: Second Reading

Motions for Approval -

Town and Country Planning (Assessment of Environmental Effects)
Regulations 1988
Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Regulations 1988
Land Drainage Improvements Works (Assessment of Environmental
Effects) Regulations 1988
Environmental Assessment (Afforestation) Regulations 1988
Environmental Assessment (Salmon Farming in Marine Waters)
Regulations 1988
Highways (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations 1988
Harbour Works (Assessment of Environmental Effects) Regulations
1988

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGEST

MORI puts Conservatives 10 points ahead 48/38/SLD7/SDP5.

Satisfaction with Kinnock has dropped from 39% to 32% with 55% unimpressed with the way he is doing his job.

3 more bodies discovered on Piper oil platform.

Fires still burn as wellheads continue to leak; Red Adair being paid £2million to cap them.

Cecil Parkinson appoints Lord Cullen, Scottish judge, to head inquiry.

Claims that there had been gas leaks before explosion and that detection system had been turned off.

Unions allege Government cover up.

Israel reported to be furious with UK over Saudi Arabian defence deal.

Guardian leads its front page with speculation about a Cabinet reshuffle with John Major seen as key.

Kinnock, in Zambia, says you are "immoral, uncharitable and phoney" for refusing to ban trade with South Africa; John Patten describes his outburst as "an absolute disgrace". Mail feature describes tour as "Kinnock's half truth pilgrimage" and says there ~~is~~ a lot of shallowness in it and more than a pinch of double standards.

Dukakis, on BBC Panorama, says he will press you to drop your opposition to sanctions against South Africa if he is elected President.

USA expected to pay compensation to families of those killed in Iranian Airbus tragedy.

Crews of Iran Air say their military advisers share the blame for not warning pilot they were involved in battle with USA cruiser.

Jaguar sales up 11.5% so far this year.

Berkeley Magnox nuclear power station to be closed on economic grounds this week.

PRESS DIGEST

More airport chaos in store as Greek air traffic controllers threaten trouble over pay.

Telegraph says worries about inflation forms background to public spending Cabinet. Treasury will take tough line.

Greenwell Montagu predict Government paying off national debt and doing away with income tax, so strong is the country's financial base.

There will be 500,000 fewer unemployed this week than when you were re-elected for a third term (Express).

Select Committee report claims that poverty has almost doubled since you took office.

Strong reaction from some MPs to report that Treasury officials are considering taxing profits on house sales to curb soaring prices; Jerry Hayes MP calls it "stark, staring bonkers"; Sun wonders whether they have gone barmy at the Treasury.

Government considering a high speed toll road across London.

Weekend motorway crashes claim 9 lives; 14 die in road accidents overall.

Star, echoing Sunday Telegraph, says police chiefs are planning for an inner cities explosion of violence this summer. MPs demand statement from Home Secretary.

~~More weekend trouble with drunken mob in Aylesbury, Bucks.~~

Police chiefs call for qualifying age for jury service to be raised to 21.

Institute of Health Service Management denies waste; only 5% of total NHS budgets goes on admin, lower than any other national system.

Government scraps student loans, according to Sun, until after next general election. Today says Kenneth Baker should stop shuffling and push the plan through as soon as possible.

Royal Latin GS, Buckingham, to give up teaching Latin after 500 years.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail attacks Ron Todd, and Liverpool City Council for sabotaging Employment Training Scheme while claiming their hearts bleed for unemployed.

Confusion in Church of England as moral issues leads to creation of group of traditionalists who launch their "Church-in-Danger" campaign today.

You are to take part in phone-in with Russia tonight.

Kinnock and Hattersley reported to be cruising to easy leadership victory.

John Akass, in Express, thinks you are acting out of character in insisting on a national membership card scheme for soccer - a scheme that won't in any case work.

Important week for Football League, with threat of break up as rival bids for TV contracts are considered; Wednesday seen as key day.

Meanwhile, a showdown between ITV and Musicians' Union on the cards; Express says the very future of the union must now be on the line.

Claims that Princess Margaret is dying of cancer dismissed as nonsense.

Cecil Parkinson's daughter by Sara Keays faces brain operation.

Mirror leader concern over detention of five alleged holligans in Spain on minor charges and without trial.

Telegraph speculates that Gorbachev will announce withdrawal of some troops from Hungary during visit to Poland today.

KINNOCK'S TOUR

Pops coverage of tour minimal.

Times - Kinnock bitterly denounced by senior Conservatives after using his tour of frontline states as a platform for an astonishing attack on your opposition to economic sanctions against South Africa. He accuses you of being disingenuous, lacking moral obligation and of being introverted adding that you cared little for the front line states.

Telegraph - Kinnock attack from afar breaks rules.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent - Neil Kinnock has criticised you for failing to understand the potential for catastrophe in Southern Africa and of lacking sufficient moral commitment - during his visit to Zambia.

YOUR MEETING WITH KOHL

Times reports on your meeting at Chequers with Chancellor Kohl saying that both of you are eager to be seen to be on good terms; leader says Kohl's visit could not have been better timed because of Delors' warning that Europe should now be prepared for government; no two countries are more divided in their approach to this than Britain and Germany. The two governments should learn to work closely together because Europe will need both approaches if it is to negotiate the next 10 years safely.

FT - Anglo-German publicity plan. You and Chancellor Kohl conclude that the warmth of relations between the two countries is often undervalued and that more should be done to get the message across.

ECONOMY

Times - City becoming increasingly worried that your reluctance to embrace full membership of EMS and moves towards a European central bank will leave the London financial markets out in the cold.

FT - Lawson may have to raise public spending target. More than one third of the £7 billion reserve for 1989-90 has already been committed.

FT - House prices could thwart war on inflation, according to Oxford economists.

Independent - Treasury Ministers are likely to bow to Cabinet pressure this week for extra spending but will seek to limit the increases to about £2 billion above previous plans.

KENSINGTON BY-ELECTION

Times - Leading candidates in by-election joined yesterday in calling for tighter restrictions on Notting Hill Carnival.

Times - Labour's campaign plunged into embarrassment as former candidate Ben Bousquet accuses the party of committing suicide in the contest.

PRESS DIGESTPIPER OIL DISASTER

Times - Company denies gas leak warning and that the platform's gas detection and alarm system had been turned off; leader says one obviously sensible reform which seems likely to come out of this disaster is taking those men not actually working off the rigs. Living in a hotel above a potential fire bomb may be tempting providence too far. It welcomes the generosity of the Government, EC and company and the inquiry launched by Cecil Parkinson.

Shadow Energy Secretary John Prescott is to convene a conference of organisations involved in North Sea oil industry, to produce a dossier on safety for the inquiry. It will include evidence that safety warnings went unheeded.

A welder refused to light his torch because of leaking on the Piper Alpha platform 48 hours before the explosion.

Shell has warned that it may have to abandon operations if legislation is introduced compelling the company to spend hundreds of millions on new installations.

DISASTERS

The creation of a "disaster squad" has been proposed in a consultation document circulated by the Home Office to county emergency planning officers the day after the oil rig explosion.

GIBRALTAR INQUEST

Sun tells SAS NOT to go to give evidence; risk of identification is too great.

Independent - An ad hoc group of Cabinet Ministers will advise the SAS soldiers whether it is wise to give evidence to the inquest. Cabinet sources insisted yesterday that no hard political decision had been taken on whether they should appear and said in the end it would be up to the soldiers.

Guardian says SAS will attend inquest and give evidence.

SAUDI ARMS DEAL

Sun says the £10billion arms deal is not just a one off. We have won Saudi orders over three years worth £20billion. This is a great tribute to you - the super saleswoman.

PRESS DIGEST

Express pays tribute to the role of the Queen and yourself in wooing Saudi Arabia, and claims this could only be the start of big Gulf arms deals - Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and UAE also interested.

FT - Kuwait signs arms deal with Russia in an effort to step up pressure on the US to approve a £1.1 billion weapons package which includes F-18s.

INDUSTRY

FT - BAe prepared to accept reduction of up to £250 million in Government aid to Rover Group, provided there are concessions. A key area for adjustment is believed to be the size and treatment of Rover's carry-forward losses.

Independent - Lord Young is considering returning to Brussels for last minute talks on the proposed British Aerospace purchase of Rover. Further negotiations would centre on the £25 million difference between what the Commission and B/Ae regard as an acceptable reduction in the Government's cash injection.

Independent - Environmentalists expressed extreme concern yesterday at reports that Nigeria was preparing to move thousands of drums of toxic waste against scientific advice. The leaking drums are considered a severe fire hazard. They were sent to Nigeria by an Italian businessman.

Independent - A Halifax businessman with Libyan connections is likely to come under scrutiny of DTI inspectors investigating the Barlow Clowes scandal.

TRAINING SCHEME

Independent - Civil Servants employed by the Training Commission will face disciplinary action if they publicly criticise the Government's new training scheme for the long term unemployed.

LAW & ORDER

Times - Ministers planning to introduce government-backed lessons in parenthood as part of a package of new measures aimed at tackling crime.

Times - Report says police are increasingly being ambushed on way to investigate crime.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent - Curbs on drinking at work will be recommended at a meeting today of the Wakeham Group on Alcohol Misuse. A separate paper on alcohol related violence will be put forward by the Home Office.

SHARPEVILLE SIX

Independent - You are to see Miss Mokhesi tomorrow. She will ask you to intervene personally with President Botha to ask for clemency for the Sharpeville Six. You refused to see her in March.

MEDIA

FT - Douglas Hurd, Lord Young and Norman Lamont meet today to agree outline of broadcasting White Paper.

FT - ITN studies new joint venture with CNN.

FOREIGN SECRETARY

Telegraph feature on Foreign Secretary who appears on Wogan show this evening. It says he seems to be making "a bit of a bid".

CHARITIES

Times - You have ordered a scrutiny of the politics of those charities receiving substantial sums of public money. also you are expected to be involved in drafting a White Paper due in ~~January~~.

EC

FT - Diary piece says Peter Sutherland is likely to be replaced by Ray MacSharry as Ireland's member of the European Commission.

Fascinating Guardian leader - an exercise in wishful thinking - on the possibility of a split in the Conservative Party over European integration.

ANGLO-JAPANESE

Times - Task force set up by Japanese to assist British companies in Japan after weekend meeting between business leaders and ministers from the two countries.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent - A senior Japanese politician indicated yesterday that the share scandal which hit leaders of the ruling Party last week could delay the implementation of a tax reform which would open the market to imported scotch whisky.

HONG KONG

Times - Hong Kong lawyers to lobby MPs on Wednesday over draft constitution for colony recently put forward by the Chinese.

SOVIET UNION

Times - Gorbachev arrives in Poland today and during his 6-day visit he will attempt to dispel decades of Polish suspicion and hostilities towards the Soviet Union.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Fowler addresses ETB Rural Tourism launch, London

DHSS: Mr Moore and Mr Newton meet TUC Health Services Committee

HO: Mr Hurd addresses English Speaking Union conference, Oxford

MAFF: Mr MacGregor attends dinner with Scotch Whisky Association, London

DEM: Mr Nicholls attends Ministerial Group on Alcohol Misuse

DEM: Mr Lee makes presentation at Catey's dinner, London

DEN: Mr Spicer visits Selby coal pit

DES: Mr Jackson addresses the Society for Research into Higher Education one-day summer conference and visits North London Polytechnic

DHSS: Mrs Currie attends International Society of Blood Transfusion reception

DOE: Mr Trippier visits Ellesmere Port

FCO: Mr Mellor addresses Arab Research Centre, London

FCO: Mr Eggar addresses English Speaking Union conference, Oxford

MAFF: Mr Gummer visits Fishmarket, Lowestoft and meets Lowestoft Fishing Vessel Owners Association, Lowestoft Fishing Forum and fishermen from Yarmouth and Aldeburgh; also visits Clacton Sea Defence

OAL: Mr Luce addresses opening of Royal Institute of British Architects exhibition, London

SO: Mr Lang attends news conference on publication of Locate in Scotland annual report, Scottish Development Agency, Glasgow

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Mr Maude attends ECOFIN Council, Brussels

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe appears on BBC TV Wogan programme

ANNEX

TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Money Box": BBC Radio 4 (10.00)

"Business Daily": C4 (12.30)

"World in Action": ITV (20.30)

"Panorama": BBC 1 (21.30) Who is this man Dukakis? Fred Emery looks at the career of Michael Dukakis

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

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.35): Profile of Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
