

19 July 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

YTS Reception, No 10 (photocall)

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh give a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace

Royal College of Midwives conference

HSE press conference on Mental Health at Work with Dr Graham Lucas

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STATISTICS

OPCS: 1991 Census White Paper

OPCS: Fatal accidents during sporting and leisure activities 1986

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PUBLICATIONS

HO: Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Fire Services for England and Wales annual report 1987

HO: Broadcasting Complaints Commission: Annual report and accounts

HSE: Mental health at work report

Overseas Projects Board: Annual report

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Education and Science; Defence; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Standard Form of Lease (Leasehold Residential Property)

Education Reform Bill: Consideration of Lords Amendments. (2nd allotted day)

Motions relating to the Housing Benefit, The Family Credit and the Income Support (General) No 2 Amendment Regulations.

Adjournment Debate: Implementation of the Department of Environment's model rules for management of gypsy sites (Mr G Gardiner)



19 July 1988

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PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Select Committees:

PROCEDURE

Subject: The implications for  
procedure of the experiment in  
televising of proceedings

Witness: Mr C J Boulton, CB, Clerk  
of the House

Lords: Starred Questions

Legal Aid Bill (HL): Consideration of Commons Amendments

Health and Medicines Bill: Committee (2nd Day)

Farm Woodland Scheme 1988: Motion for Approval

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGEST

Iran calls ceasefire in war with Iraq after one million die in conflict.

Change of heart said to be due to shooting down of Airbus.

Move welcomed by UK and USA.

Oil prices rise as news of end of hostilities.

Express notes Britain's role in bringing conflict to an end by taking the lead in drawing up UN Security Council resolution 598.

Dukakis and Jackson make peace - to such an extent that there is speculation whether he is running with two mates.

Big row over loss of 4,900 Rover jobs at Cowley and Llanelli - allegations of bad faith by Government during BAe takeover.

Paul Channon lifts ban on holiday charter flights using Heathrow to help ease congestion. Pressure for night flights from Gatwick increases - Express backs them.

Big rise in mortgage rates expected after sixth rise in interest rates over last 2 months.

Meanwhile High Street spending up 6% on a year ago to record.

And Alan Walters fuels your alleged row with Chancellor by saying Government is having to "atone" for earlier lower interest rates.

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Zimbabwe apologise to Kinnock for holding him at gunpoint.

Mandela celebrates his 70th birthday in prison.

EETPU accepts cost cutting deal with Central TV.

National Union of Seamen instruct Dover's striking P&O ferrymen to end mass picketing to avoid trouble in court.

Ministry of Agriculture to use satellite photos to check for cheating by farmers who agree to take land out of production.

Rapist, married to woman police constable, jailed for 18 years after six attacks.



PRESS DIGEST

Charges against 89 alleged soccer hooligans being dropped because of doubts over police evidence against West Ham, Arsenal and Crystal Palace supporters.

Electronic tags to be used on offenders instead of their being given prison sentences.

Toxic cloud after explosion at pesticide factory near Pisa threatens holidaymakers in Italy.

Russians to check Greenham Common and Molesworth today under INF agreement.

Soviet Union's highest constitutional authority declares Nagorno Karabakh belongs to Azerbaijan even though most of its inhabitants want to join Armenia.

Pictures of DT publicising Birmingham Super Prix - with a drink.

IRAN

Star - Mad 'god' ends his war.

Sun - Dying Ayatollah ends Gulf war; battered Iran is forced to admit defeat.

Mirror - Ayatollah humbled as he says: end Gulf War.

Today - Iran ready to end Gulf War.

Express - Shattered Iran agrees to cease fire in Gulf. Britain played a vital role in bringing conflict to an end.

Mail leads with "Peace in the Gulf at last". Defeats and despair that forced Iran to back down.

Telegraph page one lead - End of Gulf war "within days" as Iran seeks peace. Ceasefire accepted in struggle that leaves 1million dead.

Guardian page 1 lead - Iran agrees ceasefire in Gulf War.

Times leads with Iran agreeing to a ceasefire with hope that fighting will end within 10 days. Another sign that Iran wants to mend fences with a string of countries but Iraq is cautious over announcement. British and US Governments expected to view Iran's



PRESS DIGEST

move as a vindication of their hardline policy; leader says the world will still be left with an unpleasant, volatile regime in Tehran, which would be more dangerous in peace than it has been at war.

Independent - David Mellor gives a cautious welcome, but warns that action is required rather than words. Americans call it a major breakthrough. Leader says the Iranian decision is essentially an admission that Iraq has won on points. It sees a growing influence of moderation from Rafsanjani and consequently better prospects for a more normal relationship between the West and Iran. This it welcomes and repeats its call for more normal diplomatic representation between Britain and Iran.

KINNOCK

Star says after Kinnock's humiliating arrest it is interesting to speculate what might have happened had you been in his place. It suggests you would have told him not to be a silly boy and he would have done exactly as he was told and put his gun away.

Sun - Kinnock denies he lost his cool with soldiers but accepts he shouted obscenities at soldiers. Denied he broke first rule of diplomacy by cracking under pressure. Leader says Sun has often wondered what is between Kinnock's ears. Now we know: steam. His head is obviously full of hot air.

Mirror - Mugabe apology for Neil. Julia Langdon feature says when Kinnock arrives back he will have learned a number of lessons about black politics the most painful of which is not to lose your ~~temper~~ temper in a crisis. An informally dressed, mysterious red-headed white man who appears in Zimbabwe out of Mozambique is highly likely to arouse terror in security troops. This alas is the small incident for which the whole Africa trip will be remembered. It helps his enemies to make him appear a leader who has lost his way.

Today - Tory field day over Kinnock's Africa fiasco. Commons rocks with laughter all day. Feature headed "Hot head Kinnock is all tandoori and temper" says an even bigger question mark now hangs over his fitness to be Prime Minister.

Express devotes two pages to "The Trials of Calamity Kinnock" and says all his foreign trips are pretty hairy.



PRESS DIGEST

Mail page 3 - Going great guns, the army of Kinock - recounting how apologies were offered and accepted. Paul Johnson on "The Boyo who never seems to grow up" says black comedy shows yet again why hothead Kinock is unfit for leadership. His pathetic inadequacy attracts particular attention the moment he sets foot on foreign soil. He simply does not know how to behave.

Mail leader headed "Low comedy and high politics" says while Kinock dwindles into cartoon character Dukakis continues to gain credibility. While Dukakis keeps his cool Kinock did what his embarrassed entourage has come to expect of him - lost his head, temper and dignity.

Telegraph - Parliamentary sketch - "Free Kinock" cry on Mandela day. Inside Telegraph - Mugabe sorry for Kinock's angry airbase incident.

Times leader sees Kinock's African visit as akin to an episode from Evelyn Waugh's Scoop and the singing of Jerusalem belonging to the world of comedy. It is critical of Kinock's personal reaction to being detained, saying the reports of the aspiring Prime Minister falling into a rage and replying in four letter terms to a corporal does not inspire confidence. Displaying a loss of temper does not suggest the self-control expected from a claimant to 10 Downing Street.

Guardian, on Kinock's return home to something less than a round of applause, asks whether his supporters are being entirely fair.

LABOUR POLITICS

Sun backs Honest John Prescott for deputy leader of Labour Party because he's a real Socialist not a champagne one like Hattersley or Gould.

Times - Kinock's campaign managers emphasise unlikelihood of Kinock and Prescott being able to work as leader and deputy.

Independent - Labour's National Executive expected to approve tomorrow new policy to replace community charge with a mixture of capital-value rates and local income tax.

Independent - Kinock accused of manipulating Labour party conference to avoid controversy over black sections.



PRESS DIGESTPARLIAMENT

Independent leader says that you should feel embarrassed by the Government's intention to drive through the Commons more than 500 Lords amendments to the Education Bill and more than 400 Lords Amendments to the Local Government Finance Bill in three days. Many clauses will inevitably turn out to be ambiguous, if not illiterate. Your attitude is one of a monarch, not a parliamentarian.

ECONOMY

Today - Lawson blamed for loan rate rise; Alan Walters says mistakes were made by Treasury. He predicts even higher rates after tax policy of last few months.

Express - Lawson under fire in new loans rate row - renewed speculation Chancellor will go to City; leader headed "Higher rates now to save us pain later" says the pain of high mortgage rates is nothing to the social pain inflicted by inflation. News that Alan Walters is to return to No 10 is welcome.

Mail page 1 - Maggie's 'guru' accuses Lawson - causes an outcry. Senior Tories furious over the attack.

Times - Leader discusses the state of the economy and the effect Alan Walters' return might have on the Chancellor. It concludes that a Chancellor can hardly survive without clear backing from the Prime Minister. Mrs Thatcher should make it clear that ~~economic~~ policy will continue to be made in Great George Street.

Times business pages asks: Is that a hump on Nigel Lawson's back? No, it is Sir Alan Walters. The latest 62 year-old recruit to the ranks of teenage scribblers is not making the Chancellor's task easier, in adding his voice to the City's demands for a base rate of 12%, or else.

Independent - Embattled Lawson raises rates and faces criticism on three fronts. City fears rise is too small to tackle inflation. Tory MPs prepare to voice their concern over the economy at a meeting tonight, and the Chancellor shows irritation over high profile comments about his monetary policies from Alan Walters.

FT - Latest base rate increase meets mixed reaction in the City - the Government's gradualist approach being criticised in some quarters but welcomed in others. Lex column's verdict is that the



PRESS DIGEST

half point rise is probably sensible in itself since it steps up pressure at home for a rise in mortgage rates, without causing too much stir on foreign exchange desks overseas.

FT - National Savings sees a net outflow of £60million last month as withdrawals reach £703million.

Guardian leader says it is a rare luxury to be trying to stop the economy running too fast. But the Government is using a blunderbuss when credit controls would suffice. Government has fallen into a hole of its own making.

Alfred Sherman, in Guardian welcomes return of Alan Walters.

Andrew Alexander, in Mail, says Chancellor persists in half measures. If Chancellor had not been obsessed with honorary membership of the EMS we would have been spared some of the recent interest rate changes. It is very good news Alan Walters is to rejoin No 10.

Telegraph - Tensions rise as Walters renews attack on Lawson. Most Tory MPs, according to poll, are against Government curbing mortgage boom. Leader headed "After the ball" says the conflict of opinion between the Chancellor and Walters is more apparent than real when there is no policy disagreement between them. Both accept monetary interest has been too lax.

INDUSTRY

FT - France is likely to oppose import of Sunderland-built Nissan cars on grounds of local content.

FT - Electrolux is to spend £25million on new production lines at its electric cooker factory in County Durham.

FT - Leader on electricity privatisation stresses the amount of work still to be done, with the main danger that cosmetic solutions will be adopted in the hope of draft Bill by autumn. It also believes civil servants at Energy and Environment are in a bureaucratic egg and spoon race to get electricity and water to the finishing line on time. Regulatory bodies should be given wide powers to pick up the pieces and refashion them where necessary.



PRESS DIGESTCRIME

Mirror leader welcomes Green Paper on treatment in community of offenders - sending criminals to prison doesn't prevent crime and the Home Office has at last recognised problem.

Today - Home Secretary is absolutely right to aim at keeping as many of Britain's criminals out of jails as possible. Punishment must fit the crime but it must also be crafted to fit the criminal.

Independent - Mixed reception for Green Paper on criminal punishment. National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders welcomes the general principles but doubts whether the courts will use the sentences as intended, while Chairman of Magistrates Association says there are many imponderables.

Mail says alternatives to prison are urgently needed. And prison is not always the most effective punishment. Custodial sentences should be reserved for thugs and serious offenders. Electronic surveillance deserves a trial.

Guardian leader says the Green Paper represents the hidden consensus between the major political parties on criminal justice.

LAW & ORDER

Times - Law officials want to limit the right to trial by jury because they believe the shortage of circuit judges is so severe that this is the only way to tackle the mis-match between judicial manpower and the Crown Court workload - 97,000 cases went to Crown Courts in 1986 compared with 34,000 in 1979.

Times - Report says millions of pounds of taxpayers' money will be saved if a family court is established.

ROVER

Times - Rover's decision to close two plants with loss of 4,900 jobs seen by unions as collusion between DTI and BAe. Bryan Gould unsuccessfully calls for emergency Commons debate accusing BAe of asset stripping. European MPs express shock and dismay.

Independent - Leaked minute on Lord Young's talks with EC Commissioner Sutherland reveals BAe was forced against its will to accept last week's debt figure of £100million in the Rover package. And Lord Young threatened to sell Rover to the Japanese.



PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph - BAe under pressure to halt planned closure of two Rover plants.

CIVIL DEFENCE

Independent - Home Office said to have imposed cuts on regional civil defence salary budgets which could lead to redundancies in emergency planning staff, though it claims there is no need for job losses.

EDUCATION

Kenneth Baker tells House that teachers who do not believe in God should not be allowed to teach religion.

Times - Up to 10 university science units are facing the axe, say vice-chancellors.

HOUSING

Independent - Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors says London house prices may fall as the overheated property market begins to cool off.

FT - RICS survey of three months to end of June finds pace of house price increases in London has slowed considerably.

LAMBETH CONFERENCE

Times - Bishops at Lambeth Conference told by Dr Runcie to choose ~~between~~ unity and fragmentation in the world-wide Anglican Communion.

Independent - Archbishop of Canterbury makes strong appeal for unity within the Anglican communion in keynote speech to Lambeth conference.

NHS

Times - Environmental health officers to apply for emergency court order today to close kitchens at Charing Cross hospital which they say are infected with cockroaches.

Independent - Women's National Commission says women are turning increasingly to cigarettes, alcohol and drugs to relieve stress of marriage and caring for children.



PRESS DIGESTSOCIAL SECURITY

Independent - NUCPS survey shows long delays in decision on benefit claims, more than three months after changes in social security.

SOUTH AFRICA

Independent - Thatcher silent as the world pleads. You are again out of step with the rest of the world on South Africa when you are the only major Western leader not to mark Mandela's 70th birthday with either a greeting or a plea for his release. But it is understood you are becoming frustrated by Pretoria's refusal to release Mandela or grant clemency to the Sharpeville Six.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Fowler attends Nottingham Business Club Lunch, House of Commons and later attends YTS reception

WO: Mr Walker visits Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, Builth Wells

DEM: Mr Cope attends launch of Payment on Time booklet, London

DES: Lady Hooper launches Career Booklet at Society of Motor Manufacturers, London and school/industry links booklet

DOE: Mr Waldegrave opens Moors Valley Country Park in West Dorset

DOE: Mr Trippier visits ARC Quarries in Bath

DOE: Mrs Roe visits Lewisham to discuss Right to Buy

DOE: Mr Moynihan presents trophies at Dextrosol Coach of the Year awards, London; later hosts reception for International Association, Water Pollution Research and Control UK Committee in Brighton

DTI: Mr Clark addresses Trade Campaign '88, organised by Arab British Chamber of Commerce

DTP: Mr Bottomley opens the Okehampton Bypass

MAFF: Mr Thompson visits Produce Export Services, Cambridgeshire

OAL: Mr Luce addresses launch of Business in the Arts scheme, London

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

MAFF: Mr Macgregor and Mr Gummer attend Agriculture Council, Brussels

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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DEM: Mr Lee interviewed for Channel 4's Small Difference programme on the disabled

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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) Reports on initiative, enterprise, innovation and success in the world of commerce

'On the Line': BBC2 (20.30) Brass Tacks on Sport

'Bandung File': C4 (21.00) Current affairs with reports from Britain's black communities

'The Duty Men': BBC2 (21.30) Inside Customs and Excise. This week, drug smuggling at Heathrow

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

'Newsnight': BBC2 (22.50)

'Network' BBC1 (23.00) The portrayal of religion on TV. Is the so called God-slot outdated?

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