

TUESDAY 23 AUGUST

Main Newspaper Stories

Royal Navy recruiting officer became the latest victim of the IRA after he was killed by a booby trap device attached to his car which exploded as he drove through rush-hour traffic in Belfast last night.

Suggestions in papers that extra troops and SAS are to be sent to Northern Ireland.

The Government was continuing an urgent review of measures against the IRA. No options had been ruled out.

A compulsory anti-violence declaration for council election candidates in Northern Ireland is to be introduced in time for next spring's local elections, according to "reliable sources".

Gibraltar coroner calls 65 witnesses. Military personnel have been summonsed separately.

Polish strike spreads. Prime Minister to visit Gdansk when she visits Poland.

The Department of Energy is to issue guidelines tomorrow on which companies are to be asked to base safety modifications for offshore installations in light of Piper Alpha disaster. They are likely to force operators to install underwater or subsea emergency shut-off valves.

Prime Minister, speaking at Derriford Hospital, Plymouth said she hoped nurses pay issue would be settled in a "fair and satisfactory way".

Construction of Channel Tunnel is 3 months behind schedule.

Gallantry medals for police officers involved in Broadwater Farm riot in which PC Blakelock died. He posthumously received the Queen's Gallantry Medal.

Labour is preparing an autumn campaign against 'Thatcherism' to exploit findings from private surveys which have disclosed growing unease among the voters about private wealth and public squalor.

First day of all day drinking passes quietly.

Driving tests are to be reintroduced on Saturdays.

The new Princess of York is named Beatrice Elizabeth Mary.

David Blunkett MP has a new guide dog, Offa.

Campaign being mounted by Olympic chief Juan Antonio Samaranch to invite Sebastian Coe to run in the Olympics - though he has not been selected for the British team.

Prime Minister came fifth in a list of 15 and above the Princess of Wales, in a male vote on their dream "Girl Friday".



10 DOWNING STREET

Press Notice

Science Museum

The Prime Minister has re-appointed The Viscount Downe DL as a Trustee of the Science Museum on the expiry of his present term of office.

23 August 1988

Note for Editors

— Lord Downe, who is 53, has been a Trustee of the Science Museum since 1983.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Office of the
Leader of The Opposition

22nd Aug. 88.

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 12 August.

I note that your position on funding the nurses' clinical grading structure seems to have shifted. You told me in the House of Commons on 26th July "that the £803m is sufficient to reach a fair implementation of the structural pay agreement". However, it appears that you now consider that it is merely "not possible to say" whether the estimated £803m cost of the new structure "will be exceeded".

The alteration in your response is interesting. However, you still avoid the central question which I put to you on July 26th:

"The pay review body said "The actual cost of our recommendations may well differ from our estimates". Will the Prime Minister now give a specific undertaking that, if the actual costs are higher than the estimates, she will make up the difference.?"

That is the question that must be answered both to combat the "hypothetical speculation" for which you bear so much responsibility and to ensure that the regrading fulfills its principles in practice.

Clarity is essential. As you must know from the evidence at Area and Regional level some local health managers, fearful that they will have to fund part of the regrading costs from their own funds, are keeping funds back, whilst other health managers do not appear to be following the general principles of what in your letter you refer to as "consistency and fairness", and are tempted to downgrade rather than regrade nurses. Both forms of action are adding to the difficulties and anxieties of nurses throughout the country.

If the new clinical grading structure is to be successful you must act now to make it clear that the spirit of the regrading exercise must be followed by all health managers. This not only means giving an immediate public assurance that you will provide funds necessary to make this possible, but that you will advise the DHSS to withdraw its official guidance on the grading of ward sisters. Nothing could be more guaranteed to drive nurses out of the profession in despair than requiring experienced nurses of similar skills and seniority to compete for their own jobs and to reward them differently.

In view of the urgency of the situation I hope that you will provide an early and positive reply.

Yours sincerely,
Nail Kinnock