

19 October 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

House of Commons returns

Prime Minister records message for Turkish radio; has lunch with Daily Express; and meets Mr Papandreou (photocall)

? Harland & Woolf announcement

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STATISTICS

WO: Index of production and construction for Wales (2nd qtr)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons:

Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth; Trade and Industry; Environment

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: North West Regional Assembly. There will be a debate on a Motion to Approve the Defence Estimates 1988 (CM 344) (1st day).

Adjournment Debate: The conditions of Glenochil Prison (Mr M O'Neill)

Select Committees: Educational  
Constitutional Affairs

Lords: Starred Questions  
Firearms Bill: Report

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Curbs on broadcasting of interviews with IRA and Sinn Fein announced today, but reports incomplete. Kevin MacNamara, Opposition Northern Ireland spokesman, and Tory MP Hugh Dykes critical of curbs.

Times says Sinn Fein is expected to launch a world propaganda campaign against undemocratic censorship.

Labour Party launch an attack on Government's handling of the economy - want tax cuts reversed and proceeds to be invested in schools, hospitals, roads and housing.

Sir Ian Gilmour says Government's mistakes will be followed by long period of stagnation and could cost them next election.

Mail says Chancellor will give another upbeat message to City in Mansion House speech tomorrow.

Lord Stevens, of United Newspapers, says balance of payments is a cause for concern but he agrees with Chancellor it can be controlled by higher interest rates.

Leader says that with hindsight the Stock market "crash" of one year ago looks more like a "correction".

Treasury appeared to be on verge of settling most departmental public spending totals last night (Independent). Agreement reached with defence, environment and health. Social security is outstanding.

Civil Servants walk out in protest against sacking of 4 GCHQ workers. Norman Willis in the Times looks at the wider implications of the GCHQ union ban saying that by its actions the Government diminishes the ILO and the UN system and undermines the role which it is uniquely equipped to play in laying a basis for improving the quality of life for all people. Independent says Government action is petty, vindictive and obsessive.

Express feature reveals Delors as hurt by your Bruges speech and outraged by the questioning of his professional integrity. He wishes you would not mix debate on where EC goes with one on its ideology.

Chancellor Kohl sets out agenda for EC development sharply at odds with yours according to Guardian which says he proclaimed his faith in monetary and political union.



PRESS DIGEST

Kohl reaffirms goal of European union, calling for rapid strides to be made in tax harmonisation, social and environmental policies and greater monetary co-operation (FT).

Independent describes speech as an "unmistakeable rebuttal" of your Bruges "attack on European federalism".

Princess of Wales attracts wide coverage for her Dr Barnardo's speech on importance of family life to children.

Child Poverty Action Group says one-fifth of Britain's children are living on the poverty line.

Today leader says CBI is beginning to look as irrelevant as TUC. CBI claims £5billion a year could be saved if public sector went out to tender.

Civil Aviation Authority unveils £600million programme over 10 years to improve air traffic control, but it doesn't satisfy unions.

Ford confirms it is to invest £725million in Bridgend engine plant. Guardian says part of £2billion investments announced at Motor Show yesterday.

Jaguar unveil a £300,000 Supercar.

Makers of Mr Harry suits creating 300 jobs in Hartlepool because they cannot recruit enough staff in South.

Coal prices to merchants frozen for a year because of reserve productivity but this will not head off electricity price increases.

George Younger denies land deals were sweetener to get Royal Ordnance privatised; Labour to demand public inquiry.

Joint committee on Private Bill Procedure has recommended action to prevent developers using private legislation to bypass normal planning procedures (Independent).

French water companies bid for our private water authorities.

Mirror wants Elders bid for Scottish & Newcastle Brewers referred to MMC.

Judge attacks marketing of beer in a deceptively glamorous way in jailing a lager lout.



PRESS DIGEST

Heysel Stadium trial turns into farce when defence lawyers threatened to boycott case because vital witnesses would not be called to give oral evidence; eventually they win their point. Only 8 of 26 British on trial turned up yesterday - many thought to have gone home. Times however says those who want to see justice served have as yet no good reason to despair, though the opening of the trial has been unfortunate.

NACRO report says British courts are toughest in Europe in jailing law breakers.

HM Inspectors call for urgent changes in 20 areas of GCSE though generally they say it has been an outstanding success.

Wellcome Trust to give £3million more a year towards research in medical schools and universities.

Today says IBA has approved screening of explicit sex scenes, by way of illustrating how US and Euro Channels break code of conduct, in Sunday's debate on future of TV.

Govan by-election fixed for November 10.

Football League president and vice chairman lose posts in reaction to their attempt to set up a TV deal which split clubs.

Queen gets standing ovation after addressing both Houses of Spanish Parliament.

Dukakis camp now admit they are awaiting a miracle.

Argentine Foreign Minister says they are prepared to talk with UK about Falklands without any pre-conditions.

Stalemate with Iran forces Britain towards hard choices over renewing diplomatic relations (Times).

Kurds claim Iraq has again used poison gas in two attacks on October 11 and 14 in Kirkuk region (Independent).

Princess of Wales

Star says she broke her silence to make magnificent sense. No-one is more qualified to talk about the subject of family life.

PRESS DIGEST

Sun, criticising Duchess of York, says Princess of Wales stressed the importance of families staying together; not gallivanting round the world while baby frets at home.

Today says Princess Diana has shown up the Duchess of York who would do her family and her reputation a power of good by taking what Princess said to heart.

Mail says preserving the family is the duty of us all. Politicians, even when well intentioned, often pursue policies by which the family is undermined.



**MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)**

DEM:Mr Cope visits Small Firms Centre Cambridge, and addresses A and J Cole and Sons, Great Chesterford

DEM:Mr Nicholls visits Womens Training Group, London

DOE:Mr Gummer meets Local Authorities, Nottingham

DOE:Mr Trippier meets tenants in Southwark (HATS)

DOE:Mr Moynihan opens school sports hall, Tunbridge Wells

DTp: Mr Bottomley visits the cycle route through South East, Cambridge

DTp: Mr Portillo attends London Regional Transport Presentation, London

SO: Mr Lang meets Scottish Business Rates Committee, Edinburgh; later launches Tayside Enterprise Board, Dundee

WO: Mr Roberts launches one stop shop, Aberdane and Merthyr Tydfil; later attends 1992 Seminar, Llanelli

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**MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)**

ODA:Mr Patten visits World Health Organisation and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Geneva (to 20 October)

SO: Lord Sanderson attends Fisheries Council, Luxembourg

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