

31 October 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Mr Edouard Benjamin, Guinean Minister of Plan and International Aid, visits ODA, London

Preliminary hearing into murder charges against three suspects involved in Anderstonstown murder of Army Corporals, Northern Ireland

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STATISTICS

BOE: Provisional analysis of bank lending for house purchase

BOE: London sterling certificates of deposit (Sept)

BOE: Monetary statistics (including bank and building society balance sheets) (Sept)

BOE: Bill turnover statistics (Sept)

BOE: Sterling commercial paper (Sept)

HO: The operation of the prevention of terrorism legislation 3rd Qtr (prov)

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PUBLICATIONS

HSE: Consultation on manual handling at work and proposed regulations.

OPCS: Social Survey Report on the provision of care in supporting lodgings on unregistered homes

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Wales; Energy; Transport

Business: Rate Support Grants Bill: 2nd Reading and Money Resolution  
Foreign Marriage (Amendment) Bill (Lords): Remaining Stages  
Motion on the Penalty Points (Alteration) Order

Adjournment Debates: The textile and clothing industry (Mrs Alice Mahon)

Lords: Starred Questions

Housing (Scotland) Bill: Consideration of Commons Amendments

Firearms Bill: Third Reading

Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1988. Motion for Approval

Penalty Points (Alteration) Order 1988. Motion for Approval

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Autumn Statement could ease revolt on dental and eyesight test charges.

Independent suggests a compromise is in the offing.

Sun says £1 billion extra for NHS sounds a lot but it represents less than 5% of NHS budget. It will not stop all tear-stained stories of queues for operations, shortages of blankets and closed wards. It is wasted money when major surgery is needed.

Guardian leads with report that number of people applying for basic safety net benefit has fallen by more than 25% this year.

London Business School forecasts 3% growth next year and balance of payments peaking this year at £12.5 billion. Cambridge Economists predict 15% interest rates next year.

Chancellor expected to forecast "soft landing" for British economy, with slower growth and declining balance of payments deficit; Autumn Statement will use new model of economy known as the "Slim Model" and about half the size of the old one (FT).

Independent says Chancellor will forecast slower growth and higher inflation in Autumn Statement.

Express leader with you are launching a new drive to clean up litter - you want voluntary action but will consider legislation if necessary.

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Labour Party watering down Clause 4 in favour of good conduct code for private enterprise on social responsibility; but some say it will spark another damaging rift. Express says alternative would be as bad as renationalisation.

Kinnock sets out alternative economic strategy in Times; says there will be no turn round in the economy until taxes are increased.

Paul Channon says he is determined British business should not be penalised by inadequate infrastructure; roads review next year; private money to be brought in gradually. Mail says motorists' penalty points system is to be made tougher. Times, in which interview appears, rules out charging motorists for driving into cities.

PRESS DIGEST

Nicholas Ridley on TV, tells conservationists they must accept a massive increase in nuclear power to win battle against CO2 and SO2 pollution. Friends of the Earth dismiss this as "absolute rubbish". Mail says Mr Ridley displayed his talent for putting the cat of logic among the emotional pigeons. Nuclear will be the great divide in the greening of British politics.

Guardian says our Ambassador to Dublin has hinted at nuclear power station in East London.

Mail leads with ban on killing seals around Britain being imminent; welcomed by environment groups.

Special powers to be tabled in Parliament by end of year to allow owners of sites earmarked for power stations to bid for each other's territory after privatisation (FT).

British firms invested £18 billion in US takeovers last year.

DTI to consider abandoning sale of Girobank. Today is the deadline for final bids and it is thought that no acceptable bids so far come near its valuation (Independent).

French buying into our private water companies and poised to put money into privatisation.

British Rail to fine people £40 a minute for delaying trains - eg contractors and those who damage equipment.

Westland may build American helicopter - could be outcome of MOD ~~rethink~~.

Italy accepts Nissan cars built in Britain while France claims they do not have sufficient EEC components (Times).

IPCS agrees to 5% pay deal under new long term flexible pay structure.

Edinburgh has more working women than six other major British cities according to survey.

TV Times and Radio Times monopoly to be broken - Euro Parliament claims it breaks fair trading laws.

PRESS DIGEST

MPs up in arms at poor showing of teachers in quiz as part of survey conducted by MORI for Sunday Times. Today says teachers as well as children should be tested to see that they are up to it. Express says Government has been right to insist that if teachers want higher wages they should first pull up their socks.

Northern Regional Health Authority bans Dr Marietta Higgs permanently from working in field of child sex abuse.

Government research team says AIDS among heterosexuals is increasing.

Poland: Sun says a tough interviewer - nicknamed Poleaxe Jack - has been chosen to interview you and he won't take kindly to lectures on union freedom.

Today - You are heading into a Polish rift between Government and Solidarity over talks.

Express says you go to Poland with a gesture of solidarity with Walesa.

Mail reports union claims that Industry Minister has ordered closure of Lenin shipyard.

Independent - As Poles prepare for your visit, Rakowski says he would like to be a pupil in your school and Industry Minister says he hopes you will explain to Solidarity the results in Britain of trade union behaviour. Solidarity retort that they would like similar freedoms to British unions. Leader says Poland's crisis is not economic but political. Solidarity acts like a national liberation movement and should be involved in discussing a solution to the problem.

Telegraph says best chance in 7 years for reconciliation between Polish society and Government seems to be slipping away in welter of abuse.

Rakowski, in FT interview, says that main restriction on growth of Polish economy is debt-servicing payments of over \$1.5billion a year.

Telegraph leader says Rakowski would not enjoy life in your school. You have persuaded people to accept harsh economic lessons but Rakowski has no popular legitimacy. It hopes you won't advise Walesa to behave responsibly. That time will come when Poland moves along the road to democracy and free market.

PRESS DIGEST

Jaruzelski, in interview with Guardian, cautions you against pressing the case for legalising Solidarity. Concerned to achieve wide measure of political power sharing and economic liberalisation.

Manchester City Art gallery mounting exhibition which belittles Falklands war (Star); Geoffrey Dickens MP says it is a slur on the men who fought and died there.

Newham Council offers free education to two members of ANC; Tory MPs shocked.

Law Society to urge Home Secretary to take swift action on growing problem of remand prisoners held in police or court cells (Times).

Anglican Church in new turmoil as a women rebel priest ignores a Bishop's orders and celebrates Holy Communion.

Security forces fear IRA is preparing pre-Christmas bombing campaign.

Man with prison record for violence sent to guard your Dulwich home for 3 days.

Staff at GCHQ claim that now the Government has got rid of trade unionists it is to introduce lie detectors. Independent says Civil Servants show little enthusiasm for strike over GCHQ sackings.

IBA stops Sinn Fein interview on Channel 4 as confusion grows over ~~Government~~ ban (Times).

Prince Charles: No doubt, except in minds of architects, he was right about post-war architecture (Mirror). Today says Prince speaks for nation and having kicked the architects he should now do the same to those who give architects their orders. Express - public support for Prince is no surprise.

Haughey still in hospital after 16 days and likely to remain there until the middle of this week.

Mother and three children die in fire bomb attack on Israeli bus in West Bank.

Many British travel agents pull out of conference in Jerusalem after threats from Arab terrorists.

PRESS DIGEST

Bush maintains 10% lead over Dukakis with a week to go but limits role of Quayle if he wins. Jon Akass, in Express, hopes Bush stays healthy.

Mail pays tribute to Reagan - a remarkable president who has left Democrats in ruins.

Telegraph says Attorney General is pressing for international agreements to allow breach of confidence cases against former security service agents to be pursued in foreign courts.

Mobutu of Zaire planning State visit to Pretoria; wants to take Mandela back on visit to Zaire.

HEALTH CHARGES

Star - Crunch time on teeth and eye test charges.

Sun - Maggie to defy rebels in health fees storm; ready to risk defeat.

Today - 70 Tory MPs fight to halt £10 eye test fee; you are under seige.

Express - Maggie braving defeat in health charges revolt - up to 60 threatening to rebel. Government will not budge.

Mail - Tory war over teeth and eyes; Cabinet facing defeat - at least on paper.

~~Telegraph~~ page 1 lead - Lawson aims to defuse NHS row with extra £1billion. No concessions.

Times - Government to buy off 70 Conservative rebel MPs over plans for eye and dental test charges by Chancellor announcing £1billion extra for NHS tomorrow.

Independent - Clarke prepares deal to quell health revolt. Cabinet may compromise on eye and dental charges if Government appears likely to lose vote tomorrow.

FT - Tory MPs set to rebel over proposed charges for dental checks and eye tests. More than 60 backbenchers have signed Jill Knight's Commons motion.

PRESS DIGESTNORTH/SOUTH

Times report says misconceptions about the North West are so ingrained in South East folk legend that 93% of company chief executives and finance directors recently surveyed would rather resign than move north. He speaks to an architect who moved north 5 years ago and who says he would have to be dragged screaming and kicking back to London.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses National Restaurateur dinner, London; later addresses and gives interviews at Docklands Mobile Job Centre launch
- DES: Mr Baker visits the University of Sussex
- DTI: Lord Young announces CBI 1992 Initiative, London
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Queen Mary College, University of London; later addresses SEAC/GCSE press launch
- DES: Mr Jackson visits University of Salford
- DOE: Mr Gummer visits Didcot Council
- DOE: Mr Chope visits Hampton Court Palace
- DOE: Mr Trippier visits Lambeth Housing Action Trust sites (HATs)
- DTp: Mr Bottomley chairs the SW Regional Annual Consultative Committee, Trowbridge; later opens Warminster Bypass
- DTp: Mr Portillo attends British Rail presentation, Euston House, London
- HO: Mr Hogg visits HMP Pentonville
- HO: Mr Renton addresses Indo-British Association annual dinner
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses London Philharmonic Orchestra dinner, London
- ODA: Mr Patten hosts dinner for Mr Zhang Haorou, Governor of Chinese Sichuan Province, London
- SO: Lord Sanderson addresses Hotel and Catering Industry lunch, Signet Library, Edinburgh
- SO: Mr Forsyth holds press conference to launch leaflets explaining changes of Curriculum and Assessment, New St Andrew's House, Edinburgh
- WO: Mr Roberts attends Indo-British Association dinner, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington visits Nigeria (to 6 November)
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TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Kilroy": BBC1 (9.20)

"Business Daily": C4 (12.30)

"The World at One": BBC Radio 4 (13.00)

"Watchdog": BBC 1 (19.30)

"The Education Programme": BBC 2 (19.35). Looks at primary education, and children who start school below statutory age

"World in Action": ITV (20.30)

"Cities Fit to Live In": C4 (21.00). Profile of Dublin and Dubliners

"Panorama": BBC 1 (21.25). Pakistan's role in the Afghan War, including an interview with Benazir Bhutto

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

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.30)

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