

21 November 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Princess of Wales attends the film premiere of Who Framed Róger Rabbit at the Odeon, Leicester Square

EC: Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels (to 22 November)

EC: EPC Ministerial Meeting, Brussels

EC: EC/Cyprus Association Council, Brussels (to 22 November)

Hearing of the case of Michael Hickey and others referred to Court of Appeal in accordance with the provision of Section 17 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1988

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MINISTERS      -      See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Kenneth Clarke pledges Government support for health authorities who take nurses to court over disruptive action. Union leaders accuse him of bullying.

Controversy over whether Queen should accept invitation of State visit from Gorbachev - yes, say Lord Hailsham, Lord St John Stevas, Peter Temple-Morris QC, Gorbachev's host in 1984, and Labour spokesman; Bernard Braine against. So too are the Express, Mail and Telegraph.

Sun organises poll of its readers on issue.

IRA detonates car bomb outside Army base in Belfast; 9 soldiers injured.

IRA recruits being trained in the Irish Republic and possibly Libya to use advanced weapons so far not deployed in Ulster.

Express finds unnecessary dangers in RUC's plan to switch 80 officers from normal policing to anti-terrorist duties. Government must ensure money is available to protect law and order.

Stagnant house prices set to curb spending, according to Shearson Lehman Hutton forecast (FT).

Yorkshire and Humberside economy has started to slow, according to survey by region's chambers of commerce (FT).

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Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and Worldwide Fund for Nature throw down "Green Gauntlet" to you to take 30 measures to improve the environment.

Paddy Ashdown writes off Labour Party as Opposition of the future - and rules out pact with Labour. But he offers to give David Owen a front bench job if he breaks with SDP.

Academics at Essex University get £36,000 ESRC research grant to research why Tories are so popular.

CND to seek to establish links with all opposition groups because of doubts about Labour's commitment to unilateralism.



PRESS DIGEST

Queen's Speech: Reports that water charges will rise by 50% by 1993 to pay for investment; plans for a nuclear tax on electricity; and Guardian claims there is to be a new drive to encourage council tenants to move into the private sector by raising rents by up to 100%.

Hugh Rossi MP says privatisation of electricity will not be successful unless enough money is guaranteed to pay for the safe disposal of nuclear waste.

Leading independent energy analyst says Britain may face power cuts before the next election because privatisation has paralysed the electricity industry's investment plans (Independent).

Independent says Government is to impose new restrictions on social security payments for elderly people to enter nursing and residential homes in order to curb soaring cost of their care.

Government to woo small investors in privatisation of water industry.

Colin Moynihan sees outbreak of violence at first hand on eve of Queen's Speech - with 8 British Transport police injured in clashes at Millwall v Newcastle match.

Nicholas Ridley to be called before House of Lords Committee to explain why he has failed to tighten up controls on dangerous waste dump (Times).

British Coal revises pay offer to UDM (after they reject it in ~~ballot~~) with better night shift bonuses.

Jaguar unions considering ballot on strike over pay.

Mirror, after 10-1 vote in favour by readers, calls on cosmetic firms to stop tests on animals.

Up to 10,000 jobs could be lost if Vickers loses order for new Army tank. Army in favour of American replacement. Star advises: Buy British.

President of CPSA warns that you face a major revolt if you try to abolish the annual pay round in favour of individual performance-related pay bargaining (Times).

TUC expected this week to pull back from its opposition to Employment Training (Independent).



PRESS DIGEST

Government to launch £5.5million publicity campaign against AIDS and drugs connection.

Chief Constable of South Yorkshire backs Home Secretary's call to root out police inefficiencies; lazy and ineffecient officers should be sacked, he says.

Belfast High Court today starts hearing appeal which halted last week's "shoot-to-kill" inquest. It could affect future conduct of all Northern Ireland coroners' courts and call into question validity of some inquests that have taken place (Independent).

Star, in one of these media stunts, says Old Admiralty Building is wide open target for terrorists and spies; its reporter walked in as a welder's mate.

Government bows to pressure over inhumane conditions for women prisoners in top security Durham H wing and plans to close it in 1992 (Independent).

Government effectively abandons attempts to investigate tax evasion among the self-employed in many parts of London because of staff shortages (Independent).

BBC apologises to Kinnock for broadcasting his 16 year old daughter's views on drugs - rules broken by not getting parents' permission.

BBC hopes to raise £20million for children in need after Friday's TV marathon.

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In Independent guest article, John Birt argues that the ban on interviews with Irish terrorists undermines broadcasting freedom and the British tradition of free speech.

Gallup poll for Policy Research Associates shows 46% are in favour of the Trident nuclear missile project, 39% against and 15% undecided (Times).

Canadian general election today; you are accused of interfering in the poll by commending free trade agreement with USA.

Supreme Soviet expected to rule this week on legality of Estonian Parliament's vote to give itself the right to veto laws passed by the Supreme Soviet.

Gorbachev faces growing ethnic unrest in Yugoslavia and claims for sovereignty in Baltic republics.



PRESS DIGEST

Pakistan President likely to delay announcing a Prime Minister until outcome of the first vote in the newly-elected National Assembly next month (Independent).

? QUEEN'S VISIT TO RUSSIA

Mirror leader says it is turning out to be a botched job. Russians leaking their intention to invite Queen - no way to do State business with you - was followed by an equally regrettable one from you saying you won't agree. Those responsible in Moscow and London should be ashamed of themselves.

Today says Queen should go to Russia if invited. The murder of the Tsar in 1917 is not a reason at all. The more serious excuse is that she should not be seen to condone the Soviet system before there have been further political changes, bringing greater freedom. But the Queen would be seen to be supporting the changes in Soviet society.

Express - Human rights price of Queen's visit to Russia. But line does not command universal support in Tory party. Leader headed "The time for a Royal NO" says there is more than a suspicion that the Kremlin is trying to manoeuvre the Queen into a Moscow visit before she is ready to go. The Queen should refuse. The Russians have much more to gain from an early visit than Britain.

Edward Pearce, in Express, thinks it a pity you are taking a rigid line. Gorbachev, for all his imperfections, represents great steps towards the light.

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Mail says you are not slamming the door on a Royal visit but want to see more evidence of human rights reforms. It is a case of later rather than sooner. Leader headed "The White Queen and Red Czar" says Kremlin's propagandists have encouraged speculation and Downing Street has been rather cool. While you can be combative in Moscow the Queen's presence would carry far heavier symbolic clout and Gorbachev would milk the occasion for all it was worth. What better overture could Gorbachev contrive for the world conference on human rights he wants to stage in 1991? You do not want to see the Queen used in this way.



PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph - Dispute spreads over possible Royal visit to Soviet Union. Leader headed "Not yet time" says Downing Street is correct to make known its view that it is still too soon for the Queen to visit Moscow. While it is on the whole persuaded of Gorbachev's sincerity, grave doubts remain as to his ability to overcome entrenched opposition. The Queen's advisers are correct to proceed cautiously.

Guardian - Prime Minister attacked for veto on Queen's trip to Russia after briefing by B Ingham. Leader headed "Swallowing the lobby fodder" describes B Ingham as "Head Gardener of the Rhubarb Patch", and says the net result is that nothing has happened or will because an invitation won't now be extended and you won't have to say No.

Independent - Possibility of State visit to Soviet Union causes consternation in Downing Street, which flies its own kite to indicate to Russians that an invitation would not be acceptable. Leader says the invitation would not be acceptable. Leader says the arguments show a curiously negative attitude to the significant changes taking place in the Communist world.

Times - You soften your all-out opposition to participation in human rights conference in Moscow after your visit to Washington. You are prepared to go along with US willingness to take part, though only on strict preconditions. But you will still advise Queen against going to Moscow.

FT - Royal Soviet trip unlikely, as Government seeks to play down suggestions that Mr Gorbachev's visit could result in an early ~~visit~~ by the Queen. Diary item, headed "Neighbours fall out" suggests that something is clearly up between No 10 and FCO or that Government information machine is not working properly.

EDUCATION

Times leader is critical of the four big banks for their cool reception of student top-up loans plan.

Times - DES to tell local authorities to make lessons more exciting to lure truants back to class as part of a government crackdown on record levels of absenteeism.

ENVIRONMENT

Times - 40,000 homes are to be built in rural areas to help young villagers priced out of their communities by soaring property costs.



PRESS DIGEST

Times highlights the homes blighted by the planned high-speed rail route between London and Channel Tunnel.

BUSINESS IN COMMUNITY

Times leader discusses Business in the Community saying the Government's programme for inner cities requires co-ordination between property developers and government departments. Education and Employment Ministers, for instance, should not proceed as if oblivious to policy on inner cities.

LAW AND ORDER

Times - Lord Chancellor calls for fresh ways to punish offenders other than prison, which should be seen as a last resort for vast majority of offenders.

Times - Lord Chancellor decides secrecy about choice of magistrates should end to help attract a wider pool of people.

DEFENCE

FT - £6billion contract for full-scale development of European Fighter Aircraft expected to be signed this week.

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MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses official opening of Midlands Means Business, NEC, Birmingham
- DTp: Mr Channon addresses the ROSPA Road Safety Congress, London
- HO: Mr Hurd addresses British Institute of Innkeeping
- WO: Mr Walker addresses dinner for launch of Wales Quality Centre, Ruthin Castle
- DEM: Mr Nicholls attends Ministerial group on drug abuse
- DEN: Mr Morrison addresses EIC Seminar and lunch, London
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Libraries Exhibition Hall in Birmingham to celebrate Primary Mathematics Year
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses University of East Anglia
- DH: Mr Meller opens International Business Communications Ltd conference on private health care, London
- DH: Mrs Currie attends launch of the latest Drug Misuse Campaign
- DOE: Mr Trippier addresses Urban Renewal conference, London
- DOE: Mr Moynihan addresses Joint LGC Communications, Deloitte Haskins and Sells seminar on Leisure Management and Compulsory Competition
- DOE: Lord Caithness receives the Greek Presidency Minister, Mr Colombus
- DTI: Mr Maude addresses Financial Times Conference on 1992
- DTp: Mr Portillo attends British Rail presentation on the Corporate Plan, London
- HMT: Mr Lilley visits Imperial Tobacco, Nottingham
- HMT: Mr Lamont presents awards at BES Investment Awards Ceremony, London
- MAFF: Mr Ryder meets President of New Zealand Federated Farmers
- MAFF: Mr Thompson visits Humberside and Grimsby
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses launch of Museum Year at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London
- SO: Lord Sanderson visits Inverness Highland Regional Council and Highlands and Islands Development Board
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mrs Chalker (to 22 November) attend FAC/POCO, Brussels

DTI: Mr Clark attends FAC, Brussels; later visits Czechoslovakia (to 23 November)

MOD: Mr Hamilton visits BFG and Ex Iron Hammer (to 23 November)

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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DES: Mr Baker interviewed by Anglia Magazine

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TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Kilroy': BBC 1 (9.20)

'You and Yours': BBC Radio 4 (12.00) Are we a nation of givers?

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

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

'The Education Programme': BBC 2 (19.35). What does the future hold for small rural schools

'Watchdog' BBC 1 (19.30)

'World in Action': ITV (20.30)

'Cities Fit To Live In': C4 (21.00) The prospects for Liverpool

'Panorama': BBC 1 (21.30) The Future for General Pinochet in Chile

'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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