28 November 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh visits Lisbon, Portugal and attends a luncheon and a ball in connection with the centenary of the Royal British Club

The Princess Royal visit Kent

EC: Transport Council, Brussels

EC: Fisheries Council, Brussels

EC: Informal meeting of Culture Ministers, Athens

EC: OECD Development Assistance Committee Aid review of UK, Paris

EC: EC/EFTA Ministerial Meeting, Geneva (to 29 November)

Zaki Badr, Egyptian Minister of Interior, visits Britain (to 1 December)

ODA: Mr Ahmed Majid, Jordanian Minister of Water and Irrigation visits ODA

? Possible day of action by nurses, London.

STATISTICS

CBI: Monthly trends enquiry (Nov)

PUBLICATIONS

PAY

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Ouestions: Transport; Wales; Energy

Business: Debate on the Address - Environment and Industry

Motion to take note of EC Documents relating Transport

Infrastructure and aids to combined transport.

Adjournment Debates: The Cambridge Structure plan (Sir A Grant)

Select Committees: Not available at time of diary preparation

MINISTERS . - See Annex

Main News

Opposition accuse Chancellor of deception, mismanagement, incompetence and irresponsibility after record trade deficit and rise in interest rates.

And John Biffen says he would welcome Mr Lawson's removal on reshuffle (Mirror).

Express has exclusive interview with Chancellor at beginning of a "nightmare" week for him in which he vows he is not going to leave office.

Saudi Arabia has shattered hopes of a new OPEC oil agreement by insisting that the target price be lowered from \$18 to \$15 a barrel (Independent).

Telegraph says Chancellor is planning to cut tax due on bank and building society deposits by 2% to encourage saving.

Anger across world as US refuses a visa for Yasser Arafat. Telegraph says Britain is set to clash with USA over this.

Gorbachev accuses nationalist extremists of harming his plans for reform.

Protest action by nurses will reduce up to 17 London hospitals to emergency cover today.

<u>Sun</u> says you are afraid you are losing the propaganda war with the <u>mursing</u> unions. Cabinet Minister quoted as saying "There is nothing harder to combat than sight of pretty nurses on picket line".

<u>Mirror</u> claims there is a row over a plan by you to reward retiring Trevor Clay, RCN, with a plum job.

Firebombers attack five estate agencies in West London - could be the work of Welsh Nationalists.

Centre parties are gaining ground in local elections as Tory support slips (Independent).

Colin Moynihan says Government intends to ban soccer hooligans from European as well as home grounds.

Survey shows a clear majority of soccer fans want compulsory identity cards.

Newcastle Utd fans throw bricks and bottles in protest against management of club.

Police Federation chairman said ID soccer plan would cause deaths as supporters surged forward at crowded turnstiles (Times).

Express says Euro Commission will back Britain in row with France and Italy over imports of Nissan cars from UK.

Management pay in privatised firms has risen by 160% since their flotation.

Harland & Wolff privatisation could take place within a few weeks. Negotiation with six potential buyers are at an advanced state (FT).

More than a score of prospective purchasers have emerged for Short Brothers. Deadline is Friday, December 2 (FT).

Michael Checkland, BBC's Director-General, gets 30% (£20,000) rise to induce him to stay to complete his economy programme.

Defence industry sources tell <u>Telegraph</u> Army has chosen American not British tank.

Plessey wins US deal for unique radar systems which avoid attempts to jam it (Times).

Britain looks set to buy a US missile to replace RAF bombs (FT).

Norman Fowler to outlaw closed shop in next session of Parliament (Mail).

Gavin Laird says Norman Fowler could go and whistle in the dark if he expects workers to pitch their claims below the rate of inflation (<u>Times</u>).

Extra £2,250 to £3,000 being offered to attract workers to London (Times).

Prince Philip forecasts a "winter of death" unless action is taken to protect the earth's environment.

Guardian says central London rail study shows rail and Underground system is fast approaching breaking point and requires a 10-year £2-3billion investment programme.

Age Concern challenge Edwina Currie's assertion that pensioners can afford to keep their heaters on this winter because of lower fuel costs, help with fuel payment and State benefits.

More schools want to opt out as councils fight parents' ballots (Times).

Lord Chancellor sets up pilot scheme to recruit more solicitors as circuit judges (Times).

Five sacked officials of Prison Officers' Association are to set up a rival union.

Prison Reform Trust opposes private remand prisons (FT).

Lord Dacre says security services should be able to go beyond the law in fighting espionage and terrorism, and that citizens have no right to know about their activities (Times).

Home Secretary examining evidence that Carole Richardson's conviction for the Guildford pub bombings was unreliable.

Some doubts whether Irish Replublic will respond to our request for extradition of former priest wanted in UK in connection with terrorist offences. <u>Sun</u> says you are furious with Belgium for refusing to extradite and will have a difficult meeting with Martens in Rhodes.

Body of girl missing in Shropshire found in Severn after man is arrested in France.

Mr Speaker, in <u>Mail</u> interview, thinks TV will end "theatrical" performances from troublemakers. He claims behaviour of the Commons is possibly better than it ever has been.

Jacques Delors, speaking in a "Panorama" interview tonight will warn the EC could be faced with a crisis if Britain persists in a refusal to move towards economic and monetary union (<u>Independent</u>).

Denktash and Vassiliou are stepping back from the target of a deal by June. A twin track policy of reinforcing Greek-Cypriot defence while continuing peace talks (FT).

The release of 2 ailing black leaders in South Africa has fuelled speculation that Mandela is to be released (FT).

ECONOMY

<u>Mirror</u> - Frank Field says everyone is a loser because of Chancellor's "blundering" approach to the economy.

<u>Today</u> says Chancellor may be shifted from his post by next summer unless he can show his policies work. John Biffen says he is in a very exposed position.

Express leader says Chancellor faces worst week of his political career, with debate tomorrow and Select Committee on Wednesday. Even his strongest supporters are saying that if his policies of relying solely on interest rates to control the credit boom is not showing signs of working by his next Budget, it must be his last.

<u>Mail</u> leader says of Kinnock's alternative recipe - an increase in top rate taxes - that the effect on an overheated economy would be negligible, but the politics of envy would be appeased. London would not long retain its place as one of the world's greatest money markets under a Kinnock Ministry of Economic Salvation.

<u>Guardian</u> - MPs on both sides of the House will test the Chancellor's nerve this week.

<u>Times</u> - Chancellor faces a twin task tomorrow of repelling a Labour onslaught on his handling of the economy and allaying growing alarm among his own backbenchers.

<u>FT</u> - Chancellor's speech in Queen's speech debate tomorrow has been elevated into a make or break test of whether he can maintain <u>Confidence</u> in his economic strategy (<u>FT</u>). City economists, including Chief Economic adviser to Barclays Professor Alan budd, back Lawson.

Criticism of Chancellor building up: John Biffen claims he has a problem of confidence because of his "major miscalculation" of inflation and his under-estimation of the trade gap (<u>Independent</u>).

Anxiety that a further fall in share prices could dent the sale of British Steel: expectations of the premium on the 60p parly paid shares have halved from 20p to 10p (Independent).

<u>Independent</u> leader says Lawson has picked the right weapon: given time the strategy should be worked. Higher interest rates are a blunt but effective way of reducing domestic demand with fewer drawbacks than any other method.

NURSES

Today says never in the history of public employment can a Government have spent so much money on a pay rise and got so little gratitude as on nurses. Government would have been much wiser to have left pay to local negotiations than try to grade nurses across the country.

RYAN EXTRADITION

Star wants to know who is paying for Ryan's 5-star private hospital stay while extradition request is dealt with.

<u>Mirror</u> - Belgian Cabinet's decision to return Ryan to Dublin was a political and not a legal decision and if the Irish Republic refuses to extradite him that will be a political decision too.

Today says Ireland must not reject British warrants for Ryan's extradition.

Express - Irish facing political embarrassment. Many of Haughey's rank and file want extradition agreement with Britain scrapped.

<u>Mail</u> - Maggie furious over freed priest. You have ordered our British Embassy to report urgently on why Belgians refused to extradite Ryan. <u>Leader</u> says Belgium's decision to refuse Ryan's extradition is contemptible. It mocks previous declarations by EC members of a firm and united stand against terrorism.

Times reports that you are furious at Belgium's decision over Ryan and that you have ordered an urgent report from our Ambassador. It adds that the Rhodes summit may witness a bitter showdown over anti-terrorism co-operation. Dublin sources suggest that the Irish Attorney General has taken the view that evidence applied against Ryan is vague and inadequate.

LAW & ORDER

<u>Times</u> leader says by their opposition to the Home Secretary's electronic tagging, probation officers risk being pushed to the sidelines of their business. A private security firm could be used instead, employing probation officers only to prepare reports and the police to enforce the law where necessary.

FRANCE

<u>Times</u> leader discusses problem facing Mitterrand in France saying your meeting with him this week will be as elder statesman of Europe and the world. But the meeting will not be quite the discussion between influential equals which Mitterrand would wish. Constitutional and personal problems between the President and M Rocard have increasingly blurred France's political profile abroad and made it harder to discern where policy is made.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEN: Mr Parkinson meets Mr Olen, Norwegian Energy Minister; later addresses Meet the Minister

DES: Mr Baker visits Garth Hill School in Berkshire

DTI: Lord Young addresses Salomon Brothers

DTI: Mr Newton visits the West Midlands

LCD: Lord Mackay chairs lecture to Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

WO: Mr Walker tours South Wales with Korean Ambassador

DEM: Mr Nicholls addresses Hull Chamber of Commerce; later presents prize to 1000th ET Trainee and dines with French journalists

DEN: Mr Morrison dines with Norwegian Delegation

DES: Mrs Rumbold launches Design and Technology Bus in Bexley

DES: Mr Jackson addresses the Royal Society Industry Education Symposium on A Government Perspective on Scientific Research and Training

DES: Mr Butcher opens residential hotel at Queen Alexander's college for the blind

HO: Lord Ferrers visits the National Council for Voluntary Organisations

HO: Mr Hogg visits HM Prison Canterbury

HO: Mr Patten addresses National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Officers conference, Bristol

MAFF: Baroness Trumpington visits London Fox Luncheon, London

MAFF: Mr Ryder attends tree planting ceremony, Chelsea Physic Garden

DTI: Mr Maude addresses Association of Economic Representatives, London

DOE: Lord Caithness launches English House Condition Survey

DOE: Mr Chope visits Hampton Court Palace

DOE: Mr Moynihan sees Andorran Minister for Tourism and Sport

DOH: Mrs Currie attends Womens Health Careers launch, QEII Centre and later addresses MIND Annual Conference, Bournemouth

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DEM: Mr Fowler visits Madrid (to 29 November)

DTp: Mr Channon visits Hong Kong and China (to 7 December)

DOE: Mrs Bottomley addresses International conference on Ozone Depletion,

Riba

DOE: Mr Trippier visits Indonesia (construction) (to 5 December)

FCO: Mr Eggar addresses Brazilian Chamber of Commerce

OAL: Mr Luce attends two day EC Cultural Ministers meeting, Athens

SO: Lord Sanderson attends EC Fisheries Council, Brussels

MAFF: Mr Thompson attends EC Fisheries Council, Brussels

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DTI: Lord Young interviewed on Channel 4 'Margaret Thatcher' programme

TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Kilroy': BBC 1 (9.20)

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

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

'The Education Programme': BBC 2 (19.25). Independent schooling

'Watchdog': BBC 1 (19.30)

'World in Action': ITV (20.30)

'Cities Fit to Live In': C4 (21.00). Turku in Finland

'Panorama': BBC 1 (21.30). A Report on the Future of European union post-

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

'Newsnight': BBC 2 (22.30)