

1 December 1988

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visit Greater Manchester to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Borough of Bolton and the 50th Anniversary of Manchester Airport

World AIDS Day (World Health Association)

OECD Development Assistance Committee review of UK aid; ODA officials attend

Prime Minister departs for EC Council in Rhodes

Inauguration of Mexican President

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PUBLICATIONS

OPCS : Registration: a modern service, Green Paper (CM 531)

DEN: Electricity Privatisation Bill

DE: Employment Bill

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Treasury; Prime Minister

Business: Motion to take note of EC Documents relating to Fisheries arrangements for 1989

Motion to take note of EC Document relating to Summer Time Arrangements

Select Committees:

Lords: Debate to take note of the Report of the European Communities Committee on Alternative Energy Sources  
Unstarred Question to ask HMG what steps they intend to take with regard to the recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee of Inquiry into the Care and After-care of Miss Sharon Campbell

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Britain admits extradition papers sent to Dublin in Ryan case contained minor defects.

Government moving to call in magistrates or a tribunal to deal with detention of terror suspects after criticism from ECHR.

Labour demand full explanation from Attorney General over Ryan extradition problem and Tony Benn accuses you of leading a lynch mob of MPs in attacking Belgium and Ireland (Times).

Tory MPs from both left and right of the Party and several senior Ministers are making it plain they have misgivings about ID cards for soccer fans. Police Federation also opposed to the plan (Times).

Diplomatic sources say your personal hatred of terrorism lies behind Britain's decision to break a common EC position by refusing to deplore the US failure to grant a visa to Yasser Arafat (Times).

Chancellor brushes speculation in Select Committee over his political future; no difference with you. But Express says he dropped hints about continuing disagreements.

Chancellor tells Select Committee he intends at some point to exclude mortgage interest rate from RPI but has no immediate plans to do so (Times).

Times Employment Affairs staff report that Government pressure to hold down pay awards looks like failing. With an inflation rate of 6.4% earnings are running at 9.25%.

Sun says British Steel is a flop with small investors. Lloyds Bank has paid off half the 500 workers hired to handle applications.

Labour claims electricity privatisation will add £56 to electricity bills in 1990 - a rise of 20%.

Electricity privatisation bill will make it clear that government is to prepare to subsidise only part of the estimated £20 billion future cost of nuclear power. The rest will have to be met by industry and the consumer (Indp).

British Rail offering thousands of workers chance of a 3-day week to streamline track maintenance.

PRESS DIGEST

Express hopes Shopping Hours Reform Council's proposals for Sunday opening will succeed.

BNFL completes £240million investment in waste treatment at Sellafield (FT).

John Lee urges people to holiday at home to reduce deficit on tourism.

Trade in bogus degrees to be outlawed.

Roman Catholic Church warns church school governors that they could face personal financial penalties if they opt out of local authority system (Times).

Express survey on Women in the Nineties headed "We're better off than ever even if Mrs Thatcher seems harsh".

Lord Chancellor orders full report on decision by crown court judge Sir Harold Cassel not to jail man who indecently assaulted his stepdaughter (Times).

Row continues over Judge Cassel's decision to let a child molester go free after accepting he was driven to sex attacks because of his wife's pregnancy. Sun says he is a joke judge.

Judge to retire soon. Some MPs want him sacked.

Drivers convicted of drinking/driving will have to take stiff medical tests before getting their licences back. Today says Government should be trying to stop people drinking and driving in ~~the~~ first place. Mirror says new rules are harsh but right.

Woman charged with crossbow murder of career woman found dead outside her flat in London.

Labour-controlled Association of Metropolitan Authorities urges councils to encourage an atmosphere in which "lesbian and gay staff, pupils and parents are open about their sexuality.

Forensic Science Service is suffering from severe lack of morale stemming from staff shortages and lack of funds (Independent).

15 people hurt after two inter-city trains collided on Tyne bridge.

PRESS DIGEST

PAC says hospital waiting lists could be cut dramatically if NHS operating theatres are better run. Big bold ideas for reform are called for (Express).

17,000 could die of AIDS in next 4 years.

Nurses and midwives in Wales have received significantly higher gradings than their colleagues in England (Times).

Nicholas Ridley goes to Lincoln, according to Today, in car using leaded petrol and asks "What is a Green Party?".

Channel 4 to screen anti-Royal Family documentary made by Scottish TV.

BBC cleaning up its Christmas programmes.

RSPCA expels 5 rebels for bringing organisation into disrepute; set up splinter group.

Benazir Bhutto takes over as Prime Minister of Pakistan.

400 feared dead in Bangladesh typhoon.

Express picks up your South African interview: South Africa must follow the path of negotiation and reform.

Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse has emergency operation after collapsing in Brussels.

Robin Maxwell Hyslop says Gorbachev should be asked to repay ~~Baltic~~ gold reserves which were released by Britain in the '60s (Independent).

Tens of thousands of Armenians fleeing from Azerbaijan as death toll increases in nationalist strife.

IRA

Star leader under heading "Can nobody get it right?" says it makes you wonder whether we can every get anything right.

Sun - Blunder in Ryan papers. Mistakes shrugged off in London. Leader on Ted Heath's excusing Belgians for freeing Ryan points out that he says it is all our fault because we have not joined the EMS. Since he has no future as a politician the Sun wonders if he has thought of a full-time career as a comedian.

PRESS DIGEST

Today - Ryan no right to be priest, says Archbishop Hume. Angry Hurd takes it out on Belgians.

Mirror - Fury over bungled Ryan documents.

Express - Two "tiny" mistakes freed suspect Ryan. Belgian opposition criticise their Government for not offering Britain greater help in drawing up extradition request.

FT - Dublin government spokesman broadly confirms Irish TV reports that extradition papers were badly flawed. Officials accuse Sir Patrick Mayhew of incompetence. Inside, analysis of Irish viewpoint says it is the British, not the Irish, who are seen to be over-reacting. The irony is that your statement in the House has diminished prospects for Ryan's extradition.

Government is accused of incompetence and attempting to override the rule of law after the CPS admitted that 2 sets of warrants for Ryan's extradition from Ireland were flawed (Independent). Home Secretary told visiting Belgian MP's that government's decision to send Ryan to Ireland was a political one and incompatible with friendship. You are criticised for comments on Ryan extradition by Dublin politics.

Kevin McNamara accuses you of misleading the Commons over Ryan. The speaker, when asked to comment on suggestions that AG briefed the press without making a statement to MPs said "If it is true then I think in my judgement the House should also have been briefed (Independent).

Telegraph - Relations between Britain and the Belgian and Irish ~~Governments~~ placed under further strain with bitter recriminations on all sides.

Guardian - Ryan dispute is blamed on UK officials.

YOUR VISIT TO PYKE CENTRE

Sun reports your call to tackle the population problem; otherwise environmental problems will never be solved.

Express - Thatcher calls for halt to babies boom.

Times - You warned last night that the world population explosion was the chief environmental hazard facing mankind.

PRESS DIGESTYOUR VISIT TO FRANCE

Star, Sun, ignore it.

Today reports Gorbachev as backing down on plans for a human rights summit in Moscow as a price of progress in arms control talks - disclosed at your meeting with Mitterrand. Another story reports "Fluffiest omelette fascinates Maggie".

Mirror with picture has story headed "Gorbachev in climbdown - no longer insisting next human rights conference be held in Moscow".

Express - Thatcher: gourmet human rights clash.

Mail - Gorbachev shelves "rights" summit. Maggie's lunch to beat them all.

Harmony at an Anglo-French summit is how Times describes your meeting yesterday with President Mitterrand.

Telegraph with front page picture, under heading "Dame De Fer's summit stamina". It was Mitterrand who flagged during walk. He had to sit down for 10 minutes.

FT - picture page 2 under heading "Summit on the Mount". You and President Mitterrand believe that human rights issue may no longer impede arms talks with Soviet Union.

Independent - You say the question of a human rights conference in Moscow requires no early decision - as no decision has to be reached at the CSCE in Vienna.

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Guardian picture Euro harmony as Mitterrand dines with Prime Minister.

OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT

Ignored by Star, Sun, Express, Mirror

Today reports the biggest shakeup in Britain's official secrets laws for nearly 80 years under heading "Door opens on secrecy". Home Secretary calls it an "essay of openness".

PRESS DIGEST

Mail - Douglas Hurd deserves credit for accepting the challenge. It supports no defence in law for security service staff who blab. The Bill also offers journalists wider immunity. But where it is flawed is in its determination to treat as an offence the breach of any confidence between our Government and other countries which "jeopardises British interests".

Times - Bill includes a number of important new concessions intended to win over some of the principal critics on its own backbenches. Leader says there will still be those who will lament the passing of the "public interest" defence and the defence of "prior publication". Neither should be mourned too long. The claim that information was disclosed in the "public interest" was always open to the individual idealist, notwithstanding the harm done by disclosure. The new test is fair and more objective.

Telegraph - Home Secretary to head off Tory criticism of overhaul of Official Secrets legislation by narrowing Bill's scope. Leader says the Bill appears in the main a sensible measure.

Official Secrets Bill 'rushed out'. Richard Shepherd claims the Bill is "much more subtle" than the White Paper. The damage tests are still remarkable (Independent). Opposition demands for a public interest defence.

Independent leader says other countries have come to terms with the measuring rod of public interest. There is no reason why this country should continue to be an exception.

~~Guardian~~ says the Bill would still stop Massiter revealing telephone tapping; still put Ponting behind bars; not allow TV investigation of the past to be made. Mr Hurd ought to explain why this Bill is really necessary.

Guardian - "Hurd tightens secrets law with catch all clauses". This newspaper devotes nearly a page to painting up deficiencies of the Bill as it sees it.

ECONOMY

Times carries a profile on the Chancellor under the heading "Alone again, naturally". It says many people who have invested heavily in him are getting cold feet. But should they be rushing to sell him now?

Pound at DM3.20 despite intervention by Bank of England (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

FT - Chancellor declares that Government's anchor against inflation is its determination not to allow a devaluation of the pound. He tells TCSC that he does not want to see a sharp upsurge in the dollar exchange rate.

FT - US Treasury officials say they favour a G7 meeting shortly after George Bush's inauguration.

FT - Sam Brittan reviews five books, including his own, on the political economy of Thatcherism.

DEFENCE

Times leader under heading "Divisions of Labour" says allied defence Ministers are bracing themselves in Brussels today for a special report on "Rules, Risks and Responsibilities" - the three Rs which NATO is having to re-learn. For behind the innocent title of the study lurks one of the most divisive issues in Alliance history. After ducking and dodging the question for two decades, they are trying to do something constructive on burden sharing.

GATT ROUND

FT - Whole page devoted to preview of Montreal Uruguay Round. Agriculture will be the make or break issue amid dispute over goals for long-term reform.

EC

~~FT~~ leader says it looks as if EC leaders will be lucky to avoid acrimonious squabbles. The most obvious source of potential friction is your stance on the Community's future development; but several other leaders are growing nervous about the challenges which the logic of 1992 integration poses to national interests and prerogatives, particularly in economic policy.

Special report on Europe. The ties binding EC countries and the attitudes which unite them. Leader says a pleasing irony of the Franco-British relationship is we see similar faults in each - notably arrogance and chauvinism (Independent).



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DTI: Lord Young meets President and British Vice President of European Investment Bank; later meets Canadian High Commissioner, addresses European League for Economic Co-operation.

CO: Mr Luce addresses Bahrainian Society annual dinner

DEM: Mr Nicholls attends ET Promotional Tour (prov)

DEM: Mr Cope addresses BVCA Financial Forum, London

DOE: Mr Howard addresses SANE Planning Group

DOE: Mr Chope meets Jordan's Minister of Water and Irrigation

DTp: Mr Portillo meets Portuguese Secretary of Transport, London

DTp: Mr Bottomley addresses the Institute of Transport Studies, Leeds

FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses group of British and European Industrialists

ODA: Mr Patten addresses International Seminar on Tropical Forests, Wilton Park

WO: Mr Roberts presents Enterprise Allowance Scheme, Wales, Small Business Awards, Cardiff

WO: Mr Grist attends European Investment Bank reception, London and later addresses World AIDS Day launch, Hensol Castle

HMT: Mr Lawson addresses Conservative National Golf Tournament dinner

MAFF: Mr Macgregor presents British Poultry Breeders and Hatcheries Association Annual Awards, London

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DTI: Mr Clarke meets Jordanian Minister of Water and Irrigation and later Yugoslav Minister for Tourism

DOH: Mr Mellor addresses National Aids Trust/Kings Funds Conference on Aids, opens New Aids Helpline premises and addresses meeting of the Central Committee for Hospital Medical Service.

DOH: Mr Clarke attends conference with members of US Senate

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe attends European Council, Rhodes (to 3 December)

FCO: Lord Glenarthur visits Bangladesh (to 6 December).

MOD: Defence Planning Committee Ministerial Session, Brussels (until December 2)

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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DTI: Mr Forth on BBC TV "Question Time"

DES: 'Blue Peter': BBC 1 (17.05) - Interview with Mr Baker

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TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Kilroy': BBC 1 (9.20)

'The Parliament Programme': C4 (12.00)

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

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

'Analysis': BBC Radio 4 (20.15). Are the Conservatives carrying out a major policy review?

'This Week': ITV (20.30)

'40 Minutes': BBC 2 (21.30). The women of the Ulster Defence Regiment

'Question Time': BBC 1 (22.00). Eric Forth, Lady Antonia Fraser, Jack Straw and Ann Burdus

'Newsnight': BBC 2 (22.30)

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

'The City Programme': C4 (22.35)

'Remember Terry': BBC 1 (22.30). A film on World Aids Day about the death of an Aids victim

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