

5 December 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Duchess of York visits the Wilson Ward at the Royal Marsden Hospital and attends a Christmas Choral Concert in aid of the Hospital Cancer Fund, King's College School, Winchester

EC: House of Commons Social Services Select Committee visit The Hague, Paris (to 8 December)

EC: Agricultural Council, Brussels (to 6 December)

WEU Assembly, Paris (to 8 December)

GATT/Uruguay Round Mid-Term Meeting, Montreal (to 9 December)

STATISTICS

DTI: Final Retail Sales and Credit Business (October)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: Curriculum Matters 12: Classics from 5-16

HO: Directory and Guide on Religious practices in HM Prison Service

NAO: Appropriation Accounts 1987-88

OAL: Export of Works of Arts 1987/88 (prov)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Wales; Energy; Social Security

Business: The Elected Authorities (Northern Ireland) Bill: 2nd Reading
Motion to take note of EC Documents relating to European Community Budget for 1989. Details will be given in the Official Report.

Adjournment Debates: The loss of benefit for 16 and 17 year olds
(Mr B Wilson)

PARLIAMENT (cont'd)

Select Committees: **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**
Subject: Quality of clinical care in NHS hospitals
Witnesses: Mr L H Peach, Chief Executive, NHS
Management Board; Mr W K Reid, CB, Secretary, Scottish
Home and Health Department; Mr J W Owen, Director of
the NHS in Wales

MINISTERS - **See Annex**

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Conservatives have 8% lead, according to MORI poll - 45/37 - up from 5% a month ago. Women see Kinnock as serious obstacle to Labour's ambitions.

Haughey gives impression Ryan won't be extradited and suggests his trial in Dublin.

Former Irish Attorney claims UK does not have enough evidence to put Ryan before an Irish court.

Reports in Sun and Express that IRA are planning a Christmas spectacular outrage; guards on Royal Family greatly increased. Major British base targetted.

Edwina Currie faces legal action for compensation from egg users after her "irresponsible" warning that people who eat raw eggs run the risk of food poisoning.

"Most of the egg industry in this country is now affected with salmonella" she told TV.

Egg producers wants her sacked.

MAFF to issue guidelines to farmers today. Telegraph leads with Ministers plan campaign to cut food poisoning because of concern over spread of salmonella.

City broker forecasts that trade gap will rise to £20billion next year and be even higher in 1990 (Times).

Argentine army revolt over without bloodshed.

John Birt, on TV, admits some BBC journalism has been inaccurate and biased and parts of the BBC had lost sight of basic editorial values of accuracy, impartiality and fairmindedness.

Today says shops and stores are slashing prices for Christmas because they fear a sales slump.

Government may this week announce plans for legislation to lower 5% threshold at which shareholders must declare their stakes in public companies to 3% (FT).

Small investors will get their British Steel share applications in full - dealings start today.

PRESS DIGEST

Leeds University Research study says privatised water industry likely to sell or develop many of the half million acres of land it would own (Independent).

Postage stamps to be on sale in 35,000 stores and shops next year.

Express reports Post Office Users' National Council complaining that 4million letters a day are failing to arrive on time.

Britain will pledge continuing support for development of fast reactor system in co-operation with France and Germany next month (FT):

Big businesses gave £4.5million to Conservative Party last year.

Express says French have lifted blockage on British built Nissan Bluebird. Climbdown came at Mont St Michel but there may be similar problems in Spain and Italy.

Today says yuppies are flocking to foreign banks to get lower interest rate mortgage loans.

One in seven property sales in central London over past four months has been to European buyer compared with one in sixteen last year (Times).

Up to 10,000 properties in south-east London and Kent face planning blight as British Rail makes up mind about three different rail routes to Channel Tunnel (Times).

House of Commons Library analysis shows unemployment falling faster in Tory-held constituencies (Independent).

Royal College of Nursing claims it has attracted three times its normal growth of membership since strikes last month. To meet Kenneth Clarke today as COHSE calls a 24-hour strike at London hospital.

Sun leader says COHSE and NUPE are politically motivated and it urges nurses to join the RCN.

Students plan another big demonstration in February against loans proposals. More than twice as many students could be involved compared to last month's march (Independent).

Government aims to let NHS hospitals "opt out" after health service review is published in the new year (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Dr Martin Mogridge, one of the world's leading traffic experts, writing in the Times, says that our cities are becoming choked by traffic and that if fire engines had been able to negotiate London's traffic the King's Cross fire may not have killed 31.

Mirror leads with chairman of Central Birmingham Health Authority having surgery in £200 a day private clinic although his hospitals are starved of cash for life-saving children's operations.

Fabian Society says 40% of low income families are worse off because of this year's tax and social security changes.

Claims that 93% want random breath tests introduced.

Sussex wants yet tighter controls over amusement arcades because they are being turned into dens of vice.

Home Office report shows crime costs each man, woman and child £360 a year.

35 Cleveland families caught up in the child sexual abuse crisis take cash offered by county council to help rebuild their lives (Times).

Lord Chancellor wants more women judges and Magistrates and wins plaudits from Mirror.

Adam Smith Institute suggests prisoners could improve their morale and conditions by working for private companies (Independent).

Paul Fox, BBC, launches campaign to retain licence fee if viewers want to continue watching top quality TV.

Leon Brittan expected to get competition and Bruce Millan regional policy in new EC Commission.

One of Kinnock's close political allies, John Evans MP, calls for political pact with SLD.

Kinnock wants Commons sittings televised without delay so that public can see rowdy antics of some Tory MPs.

Disaffected members of former Liberal party ready to split from SLD (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Archbishop of York attacks you and Government for criticising Church for lack of moral leadership without having foggiest notion what priests and bishops are preaching. Rules himself out of Canterbury on grounds of age.

Sir Bernard Braine condemns as a "stunt" any plans by Gorbachev to see families of terrorists jailed for IRA pub bombings.

Guardian suggests Gorbachev will take a new deal to the UN.

Express says a major problem for next week's visit by the Gorbachevs is to find time for Mrs Gorbachev to change to show off all her outfits.

Papandreou cancels holiday with mistress as protests over affair mount.

12 blacks killed in Natal township riot over weekend.

South Africa leaves Angola and Namibia peace negotiations in suspense after abrupt departure from Brazzaville talks.

CURRIE AND EGGS

Star page 1 lead - Currie in egg pickle! Poison farms fury; leader says Mrs Currie is renowned for her strange ramblings and every time she opens her mouth she offends someone. It is about time her feathers were ruffled.

Sun page 2 - Resign! Farmers to go to war on Edwina over poison eggs; apologise or we will sue.

Sun leader says Edwina Currie often talks good sense but her latest remarks on eggs were "irresponsible alarmist nonsense". She should in future think before she opens her mouth.

Mirror page 2 - Roller egg Currie will not chicken out. She is refusing to back down. Yet even some of her own Department officials have supported the attack on her.

Today page 1 - Egg farmers set to sue Edwina.

Express page 1 lead - Axe Edwina call in egg poison row. Clash between MAFF and Department of Health.

Mail page 1 lead - Edwina egg row boils over.

PRESS DIGEST

Edwina Currie faces resignation demands and threats of legal action after saying eggs affected by salmonella. An extremely angry MAFF will announce new code of practice today for egg production (Times).

Independent - Edwina Currie starts a major inter-departmental argument and risks libel action after claiming most of Britain's egg production is infected with salmonella bacteria.

Guardian depicts Government expert as saying only solution is cull of millions of infected hens.

IRELAND

Sun - I won't send you any IRA men - Haughey's new snub. Your remarks have made it impossible for terrorist suspects to get justice here. Leader headed "Thank God for Maggie" - you are the voice of the people and act as required. That's the reason it doesn't matter a tuppenny damn who is in opposition. You act for us all.

Sun feature on "why double-crossing Irish won't give up Ryan" says Haughey's Government is anti-British. He is slippery and his hypocritical stance has deeply damaged relations between the two countries.

Mirror says Haughey hinted that Ryan will stay free.

Express leader headed "A feeling of disgust" says you spoke from the heart and on behalf of the majority of Britons when you drew a firm line between diplomatic niceties and fighting terrorism.

Your abrasive words may not suit the apologists of the FCO and they have handed a cheap stick to the Labour Party and EC partners. But they remain the total justification for your stand in extradition battle.

Jon Akass, in Express, says that after your harangue in Rhodes there is now little prospect of Ryan facing charges in a British court. On the other hand it is not unsatisfactory that he will now remain in retreat.

Mail - Terror suspect Ryan may face Dublin trial. It would mean huge security costs for Irish. Leader says "Do you wonder at Margaret Thatcher's fury over refusal of Belgian Government to extradite Ryan and the failure of the Irish to hold him?"

PRESS DIGEST

To the suggestion that you might have been more diplomatic your answer was scolding. Who in Britain could doubt her? It calls for a bigger international propaganda effort. There is a disinclination of many public servants abroad to speak up for Britain over Ulster.

Independent - Irish Attorney-General will rule on Ryan extradition this week, which could start a process lasting well over a year. Resentment about your intervention is running high in Dublin. Leader urges Irish government to take a decision on legal, rather than political, grounds in contrast to the disgraceful case of the Belgian Government.

Times - Haughey hints that Irish will refuse Ryan's extradition to Britain. His remarks threaten to further sour relations between the two countries and will fuel resentment among Tory MPs towards Anglo-Irish agreement.

Telegraph page 1 - Ryan tug-of-war likely to intensify. Little sign Ryan will stand trial in Britain. Leader says it is less important in the fight against terrorism to engage in recriminations over who is to blame for the Ryan fiasco than to seek his removal to Britain for trial. You have every right to express the nation's displeasure. Belgium will come to realise how badly it has diminished its stature. But the onus is on now on Haughey to display his commitment to the fight against terrorism.

Guardian page 1 - Haughey says extradition is becoming unworkable. Leader headed "Hectoring is not the way ahead" asks what Britain has a Foreign Secretary for. Or indeed an Attorney-General or Home Secretary? Belgium should have left it to judges to extradite. Haughey in turn should leave the decision to due legal process. But you have not helped in short and longer term. There used to be a better way of achieving objectives involving Ministers quietly going about their business.

FT - EC leaders launch initiative to reconcile goal of open borders with necessity of controlling crime. You are due to give a Commons Statement tomorrow. Inside, fuller coverage concentrates on pledge that 1992 will not result on EC turning in on itself. Leader says this was by far the most significant outcome of the meeting; but it believes that, while perfectly understandable, your comments on terrorism make it all the more difficult for the Dail to renew the Irish Extradition Act.

PRESS DIGEST

Diplomats in Rhodes say your drive to step up the fight against cross-border terrorism and to improve radically EC co-operation on extradition procedures is to be intensified (Times).

MEDIA

Express leader notes that no sooner has Paul Fox slipped from advertising driven world of ITV into sheltered waters of the BBC than he starts defending the licence system. His eloquence about value for money is contrasted with Saturday night which produced only wall to wall drivel.

GORBACHEV

Gorbachev and you will spend at least 10 hours together in talks. Some reports say he may meet terrorists' relatives while he is in Britain (Times).

Independent - Gorbachev plans human rights attack; set to launch counter-offensive during London visit, including a possible meeting with relatives - lawyers of those convicted for the Guildford and Birmingham pub bombings. The Government is prepared to tolerate such a meeting but would be extremely angry if it interrupted the agreed schedule. Leader says Gorbachev is attempting to encourage the notion that in an imperfect world there is some sort of moral equivalence between his regime and Western democracies. This is no more than retaliation for Western leaders over-emphasising gesture politics on visits to Eastern Europe.

You will meet Gorbachev next week with full backing of your EC partners for improved East-West relations (Times).

TRADE

Times leader under heading "Free Traders Unite" discuss the GATT, the problems it is facing and the political significance of the Montreal meeting. It adds that if successful this round of talks will produce the most far-reaching trade agreement since GATT was founded 41 years ago and will extend international discipline to new fields such as agriculture, banking services and insurance. Should its founder, the multilateral trading regime could well break under the increasing strain to which it is subject.

PRESS DIGESTEC

Telegraph says two day meeting in Rhodes went off without a hitch on Community issues.

Guardian - John Palmer typically leads with the goal of a single frontier - free European market by the end of 1992 is threatened by new conflicts over border controls tax which emerged in Rhodes. Split down the middle, too, over PLO.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Fowler attends IPM reception, London

DES: Mr Baker lays foundation stone at Notts CTC

DH: Mr Clarke meets Royal College of Nursing

DOE: Mr Ridley and Mr Howard meet Water Authority Chairman

DSS: Mr Moore visits Glasgow

DTI: Mr Newton opens Wandsworth Youth Enterprise Centre, London

HO: Mr Hurd addresses International Press Institute dinner

LCD: Lord Mackay responds to toast on the Law and the Press at the dinner to mark the 75th Anniversary of the High Court Journalists' Association, London

WO: Mr Walker addresses Single Market Campaign regional breakfast, Cardiff; later presents Wales National Business Awards, Cardiff

DES: Mrs Rumbold shadowed by Alison Castor, schoolgirl

DH: Mr Mellor visits Middlesbrough

DH: Mrs Currie visits Well Woman Clinic, St George's Hospital and Drug Dependency Unit, Springfield Hospital

DOE: Mr Gummer visits the North West and meets Trafford Council and Greater Manchester Urban Development Group

DSS: Mr Lloyd visits Newcastle Central Office

DTp: Mr Bottomley launches Christmas Drink/Drive Campaign, London

DTp: Lord Brabazon visits Field Aviation, Heathrow

HMT: Mr Lamont addresses the West Midlands Agricultural Council

HO: Mr Patten addresses the Action Resource Centre

MAFFBaroness Trumpington attends Agricultural Training Board, Smithfield reception; later addresses Royal Smithfield Show dinner, London

MAFFMr Thompson visits Newlyn and Brixham to meet South West fishermen

MAFFMr Ryder meets Institute of Grocery Distributors, London; later meets Federation of Wholesale Distributors, London

MAFFBaroness Trumpington meets Mr Dogan, Turkish Minister, London

OAL: Mr Luce addresses opening of Jeremy Hammick exhibition of Kenyan Watercolours; later addresses National Campaign for the Arts reception

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Lord Young attends GATT, mid term meeting, Montreal (to 7 December)

MAFF Mr MacGregor visits Montreal, Canada (to 8 December)

DTI: Mr Maude visits BIEC 1992, Milan

FCO: Mr Waldegrave visits Bonn (to 6 December - prov)

ODA: Mr Patten attends OECD Development Assistance Committee, High Level Meeting, Paris (to 6 December)

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). New fitness tests for children, from the Sports Council and Health Education Council

"Watchdog": BBC 1 (19.30)

"Prisoners of Conscience": BBC 2 (19.55). First of two weeks series of five-minute profiles of men and women jailed for their beliefs (rptd 23.20)

"World in Action": ITV (20.30)

"In the Club? - birth control this century": C4 (21.00). First of the three programmes, "We were all young once"

"Panorama": BBC 1 (21.30) Council Housing: The Last Frontier. If the Conservatives replace council-house culture with enterprise culture, who will gain?

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

"Newsnight": BBC 2 (22.30)

"The Eleventh House": C4 (23.00) Dounreay; Plutonium Dream
