

8 December 1988

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister addresses Per Cent Club, Royal Academy

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh attend a reception given by the Central Council of Physical Recreation and sponsors of British Sport Fishmongers Hall, London

Gorbachev meets Reagan and Bush

The Prince and Princess of Wales attend the Royal Premiere of the film Willow, London

EC: Transport Council, Brussels (to 9 December)

UN Special Session on 40th Anniversary of Universal Declaration of Human Rights, New York

? Ministerial Salaries announcement

STATISTICS

DEM: 1988 New Earnings Survey, Report Part F: Analysis by hours; part-time women employees

HMSO/OPCS: Population Trends 54

PUBLICATIONS

HSC Annual Report

CO: Levey Report "Polygraphy an Evaluative Review"

PARLIAMENT

Commons ? Welsh Rate Support Grant Statement

Questions: Treasury; Home Office; Prime Minister

Business: Water Bill: 2nd Reading. (2nd day) Money and Ways and Means Resolutions

Adjournment Debates: Noise levels on the Chicester to Havant A27 Trunk Road (Mr A Nelson)

Select Committees: HOUSE OF COMMONS (SERVICES):
COMPUTER SUB-COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS
Associated British Ports (No 2) Bill
North Killingholme Cargo Terminal Bill

Lords: Starred Questions
Debate to take note of the directions given by the Home Secretary, on 19 October last, to the BBC and IBA to restrict the broadcasting of statements by Northern Ireland terrorist organisations and their apologists

Unstarred question to ask HMG whether they will propose a restriction on the right of Lords to vote in divisions, on the basis of a given number of attendances over a specified period

Other Departmental Business

HO: ? Home Secretary announces single immigration channel for EC nationals

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Marplan poll gives Conservatives 6% lead 45/39.

Mr Gorbachev flying home, postponing visits to Cuba and London, after severe earthquake in Armenia.

Meanwhile his major force 5 arms cuts make front page news and are seen as a message of hope.

Army to be reduced by 500,000 and conventional weapons to be cut.

West welcomes announcement at UN.

Dollar rises about 4% on hopes that Russian cuts will help slash US budget deficit.

CBI optimistic about 1989, but pay rises are outstripping productivity.

West Germany joins Britain in criticising Belgium for its lack of support over IRA. Federal Criminal Office protests about poor co-operation on investigation into case of 2 IRA men suspected of bombings on the Continent.

FT - Wilfried Martens calls for EC to adopt common procedures on extradition of suspected terrorists. At a news conference for British journalists he admits publicly for the first time that the Belgium cabinet overruled a confidential recommendation from the Belgium supreme court.

Belgians to seek Bonn support for moves towards an integrated EC police force and a common code on extradition. They will float the idea of harmonising national extradition procedures at EC Interior Ministers' meeting tomorrow. You were negative about this proposal during your meeting with Martens (Independent).

Eggs off the boil but not quite off the menu. Mail says Prince Charles stepped into the row last night blaming modern farming methods for food poisoning. NFU says he is ill-informed.

3 more executives of Barlow-Clowes charged with falsification, conspiracy to steal and theft.

Guardian has leaked document of British Rail proposals to close 30 provincial lines.

Davy Offshore wins £120million North Sea contract that will create

PRESS DIGEST

600 jobs in Dundee (FT).

British Airways to buy 20 short regional jets - a deal that will help privatisation.

GEC scientists claim world lead in race to exploit high temperature super-conducting materials (Times).

PAC sharply criticises Government's management of £350million IT programme (Times).

Reward Surveys shows that company bosses are getting more perks than ever on top of salaries. IOD says basic pay of directors rose by 9.2% over past year.

John Macreadie, CPSA's deputy secretary position under question; union tells him to resign immediately as president of a far Left group.

Sunderland offered £45million development package after closure of North East Shipbuilders announced. Allegations that town has been "betrayed" by Government whose package is not seen as anything like adequate.

Post Office counter staff threatening 24 hour walkout on Monday over downgrading of 250 offices. Express says it is cynical timing.

Only one out of 240 nursing assistants at Carmarthen hospital has been given a rise, according to Mirror.

Mudoch to add sixth TV channel to Astra package (FT).

Mirror leads with "Sex and the poll tax" - an alleged exclusive that town hall snoopers who, according to the AMA, will be able to ask about relationships between people living at an address.

Senir DTP official identifies serious deficiencies in roads network for which he hopes ministers will be presented with feasible solutions by next spring (Times).

Westminster City Council criticised in Ombudsman report for selling 3 cemeteries for 15p without consulting relatives of those buried there.

Paul Foot says Salisbury, Wiltshire, council has spent more than £100,000 in frantic effort to sell off 7,800 council houses to a housing association.

PRESS DIGEST

→ Citizens Advice Bureau report finds many people in South East who are in arrears with mortgage payments (FT).

50p tourist tax suggested for visitors to Lakeland to maintain environment.

4million people said to have given up eating red meat for health reasons - 1million in last year.

→ Government appoints 13 new environmental inspectors, but Society for Clean Air says it isn't enough.

Government says social workers in Cleveland dealing with child abuse still not up to scratch (Express).

1,000 Muslim children will boycott school in West Yorkshire next week and may be permanently withdrawn unless a Muslim girls school is given voluntary-aided status (Independent).

FCO official who criticised you in letter to Guardian suspended. Today wants him fired for betraying trust.

Guardian says you requested a daily summary of the progress of the South African case,

Number of quangos rose by 5 last year to 1648 compared with 2167 when you took office (Telegraph).

Mandela moved from clinic to guarded residence where he will be able to meet his family - apparently another stage in his phased release.

→ Arafat in Sweden admits Israel has a right to exist and renounces terrorism but says clashes in West Bank and Gaza will continue until Palestinian State is established. Israel says it is a publicity stunt.

British Gurkha officer killed by booby-trap bomb in Hong Kong barracks (Independent).

Your tribute unable to cure the ills of Papandreou. Your touching letter receives widest publicity in the Greek statemedia - perhaps the only kind words he heard among the welter of foreign and domestic disparaging comment after Rhodes.

GORBACHEV

PRESS DIGEST

Star page 1 lead - The Dove. gorby slashes 500,000 troops in bid for new era of world peace.

Sun page 1 lead - 500,000 troops axed by Gorby. Russian pledge at UN. David Owen describes it as a great step on the road to peace. Leader dares to ask if the Cold War is finally over. It says Mr Gorbachev's speech was historic and the reductions is at least a start. For the first time the Soviet Union has made a concession without looking in advance for a reciprocal gesture from the West. We should not be too starry-eyed about Gorbachev but there has never been a greater chance for peace and understanding in the world.

Mirror page 1 - 500,000 troops cut by Gorbachev. His Christmas present to the world. Inside - West cautious over Red Army peace bid with NATO worried that the arms gap stays wide. Leader headed "a giant step" says Gorbachev's speech to the UN was probably the most important ever to be made there. He is signalling the end of the 40-years cold war. and he is taking a risk with Soviet marshals. We now need statesmanship from the West and swift steps of its own in conventional disarmament.

Today page 1 lead - Fall out. Gorby cuts his armies by 500,000.

Express page 1 lead - Mikhail's Christmas cracker. Deeds not words, vows Gorbachev as he pledges Soviet troop and tank cut backs. West welcomes package but NATO still wary over balance of power. Leader says the Christmas gift is gratefully received, but it will barely dent Warsaw Post's preponderance in conventional forces. You should ask for more.

Mail page 1 - Gorbachev pulls back the Red Army - 500,000 troops cut; tanks will move out. You led the way in welcoming reductions and are convnced West's tough stand has paid off. Leader headed Gorbachev's great gamble said nobody can accuse him of lacking nerve! But his very drive and pace are as worrying as they are exciting. As we welcome his military entrenchment we also have to calculate what will happen if it all fails.

FT page 1 lead - "Gorbachev pledges unilateral arms cuts". Inside, one page of analysis and comment. Yours is said to be a positive but relatively cautious response. Leader saus Gorbachev has succeeded in wrongfooting his Western interlocuters. His UN speech does not in itself resolve the imbalance of conventional forces in Europe; but the world has now learned not to take his speeches lightly.

Telegraph page 1 lead - West welcomes Gorbachev plan to cut

PRESS DIGEST

troops. Ovation at UN assembly for new world order of peace. John Keegan says cut in tank divisions is significant factor. Leader says the tone of the remarks was the most constructive of any Russian leader since the war. but we should not over look the historical and geographical "constraints" of Russians ideology or expansionist tendency. The offense is more in the nature of reaction to a series of standing invitation to the West. Gift horses must expect close inspection they have better so often before.

Independent page 1 lead - Gorbachev's peace initiative. Chief of Staff "retires" as Soviet President slashes armed forces in Europe. United States gives muted applause to the Soviet decision. Britain discreetly enthusiastic. Frenzied spree of dollar buying which drives up US currency over prospect of cutbacks in American military spending. Leader says that by any yardstick the Soviet proposals represent a worthwhile reduction in the disparity of military strength. But Gorbachev is only reducing, not removing, Warsaw Pact's superiority in conventional arms. However his unilateral gesture will put him in a strong position to demand genuine reciprocity. It is now up to NATO ministers to show imagination.

EGGS

Star sends a manservant around to Edwina Currie's flat with a boiled French egg which is suggested to be free of cholesterol and salmonella. She declines to partake.

Independent leader looks at the eggs row and suggests that calling for the execution of the messenger bearing bad tidings will do nothing to limit the egg industry's problems. It is time that the NFU cast off its unhealthy complacency.

LABOUR PARTY

Sun says Kinnock sat for 45 minutes yesterday as his MPs accused him of handing victory over terrorist legislation to Government.

Express - Kinnock wrong say angry Labour MPs. Shadow Cabinet promises to consult more widely on policy and voting.

POLITICS

Peter Jenkins, in Independent, commentary, draws attention to the decoupling, for the first time, of the correlation between economic confidence and voting intentions.

PRESS DIGESTYOUR VISIT TO ASDA

Mirror - picture of you inspecting cooked turkey.

Express picture of you with gift of Teddy bear - Thatcher all set to meet Soviet bear.

WATER PRIVATISATION

Independent - Ministers told privatised water industry faces serious legal problems over pollution and the quality of drinking water. Threat of EC prosecutions. Study into groundwater in England and Wales shows that underground water reserves, providing a third of drinking water supplies, suffer from chemical pollution.

ECONOMY

FT - Sam Brittan argues that fear of overkill has been partly responsible for slow motion, step-by-step rise in interest rates. Treasury has underestimated buoyancy of British economy for several yers. but sure way of destroying its new found vitality is to go back to near double digit inflation. Risk is worth avoiding even at cost of some overkill.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DTI: Mr Newton addresses General Motors European Advisory Council
- HMT: Mr Major addresses the Westminster Industrial Brief
- HMT: Mr Lawson attends dinner of CBI Economic and Financial Policy Committee
- MOD: Mr Younger presents awards for Apprentice Industrial Training Scheme, London
- WO: Mr Walker attends National Farmers Union lunch, London
- DEM: Mr Cope opens Filton School's Vocational Training Unit, Bristol
- DEM: Mr Nicholls attends ET promotion, TBA, Birmingham
- DEN: Baroness Hooper visits Dungeness B Power Station
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses Structural Engineers conference on Getting Construction into Schools
- DH: Mr Mellor visits North West Thames Region
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley turns on Christmas Tree Lights, Trafalgar Square
- DTI: Mr Forth addresses Cussor Electronics Quality Awards ceremony
- DTp: Mr Portillo visits Thames Railway Link
- DTp: Mr Bottomley opens the Dorchester Bypass, Dorset
- FCO: Mr Waldegrave addresses Foreign Press Association, London
- HO: Lord Ferrers addresses Regional Association of Chief Police Officers conference, Wakefield
- MAFF Mr Ryder attends Royal Smithfield Show
- WO: Mr Roberts attends Granada TV reception, House of Commons

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTp: Mr Channon attends European Community Transport Council, Brussels (to 9 December)
- FCO: Mr Eggar addresses UN special session on 40th Anniversary of Universal Declaration on Human Rights, New York

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- FCO: Mrs Chalker appears on 'Question Time', BBC 2
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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)

"Prisoners of Conscience": BBC 2 (19.55)

"Analysis": BBC Radio 4 (20.15) Legislation to ensure that charities are better regulated

"This Week": ITV (20.30) "Criminal Wages". Report on the possibility of private firms employing prison inmates. Comparison with American system

"40 Minutes": BBC 2 (21.30) Jam Today. Dangers of debt, as we approach Christmas

"Question Time": BBC 1 (22.00) Lynda Chalker, Donald Dewar, Charles Moore and Marie Staunton

"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)
