

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister records Christmas messages

Meeting of Anglo/Irish Intergovernmental conference, Belfast

The Queen visits Queen Mary College, University of London and opens the new College Library

The Princess of Wales visits the West Midlands

The Duchess of York presents Children of Courage awards, Westminster Abbey

UN Assembly session continues in Geneva

HMSO launched as executive agency

EC: Tourism Council, Brussels (prov)

EC Agriculture Council, Brussels (to 15 December)

EC: ECO/SOC Committee, Brussels (to 15 December)

Association of University Teachers Bi-annual Council, Warwick (to 16 December)

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STATISTICS

CSO: Index of output of the production industries (October)

DES: Medical Research Council's annual report 1987/88

DTI: Investment Interventions Figures (Autumn 1988)

DTI: Car and Commercial Vehicles Figures (November)

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PUBLICATIONS

NIO: Equal Opportunities Commission for Northern Ireland 12th Annual Report

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## PARLIAMENT

### Commons

Questions: Environment; Scotland; Foreign and Commonwealth

Business: Debate on a Government Motion on British Shipbuilders.  
Transport (Scotland) Bill: 2nd Reading and Money Resolution.

Adjournment Debates: The implication for Manchester International Airport of the forthcoming talks between the UK and US authorities (Sir F Montgomery)

### Select Committees:

#### ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Toxic Waste

Witnesses: London Waste Regulation Authority

#### FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union

Witnesses: Professor G Hosking, School of Slavonic and East European Studies, London University; Professor P Hanson and Dr J Cooper, Centre for Russian and East European Studies, Birmingham University; and Professor A Nove, Centre for Development Studies, Glasgow University

#### EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: Higher Education

Witness: Mr Robert Jackson, MP  
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,  
Department of Education and Science

#### EMPLOYMENT

Subject: The employment patterns of the over-50s

Witness: Professor Charles Handy

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#### HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Forensic Science Service

Witness: Professor Knight, Professor of Forensic Pathology, Forensic Professor J M Cameron, Professor of Forensic Medicine and Dr M A Green, Secretary, British Association of Forensic Science; Mr Henry Horsfall Bland, UK Forensic Science Service Ltd.

#### PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: The Defence Estate; RAF Tanker Fleet

Witnesses: Sir Michael Quinlan, KCB, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence; Sir Gordon Manzie, KCB, Chief Executive, Property Services Agency

PARLIAMENT (cont'd)

## SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: The responsibilities of the Secretary of State for Social Security

Witnesses: Mr John Moore, MP, Secretary of State for Social Security and Mr Nicholas Scott, MBE, MP, Minister for the Disabled

## COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS

Unopposed

1. Port of Tyne [Lords]
2. London Regional Transport (No 2)

Lords:

Starred Questions

Short Debate to call attention to the situation in Southern Africa.

Short Debate to call attention to the continuing violation of human rights worldwide and particularly in Uganda, Iran and Chile.

UQ to ask HMG whether, in view of the findings of the primary school staffing survey published in the Welsh Education Statistics Bulletin No 5, they now intend to carry out a parallel survey of English primary schools.

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Big row over Ireland's failure to extradite Ryan, though it is mostly on inside pages as the Clapham crash still dominates the news.

Ryan fails to appear at a press conference in Co Tipperary; he issues warning he will begin another hunger strike if Irish law is invoked against him.

Home Office denies there is Cabinet row over how to respond to ECHR ruling on Britain's anti-terrorist legislation (Independent).

Death toll in Clapham crash now put at 33; 113 injured.

British Rail signalman claims there were signal failures every week at Clapham Junction.

Mirror says BR wanted to sack job of guard who ran along track to stop a fourth train running into wreckage - NUR says that on this account job cuts could have cost dozens more lives.

B/Rail to give needy families of victims £2,000 as soon as possible.

Express suggests widows could get £1million compensation for loss of high earning husbands.

Campaign for telephones in cabs to ensure 2-way communication.

Pictures of you and Duchess of York visiting injured.

Star and others feature 12 year old schoolboy hero who crawled through wreckage to help save 50 people.

Much criticism of Armenian leadership in co-ordinating rescue.

Nationwide advertising campaign to restore public confidence in eggs to be launched today; sales of eggs down 60% and 10,000 jobs at risk.

Meanwhile, there is, according to press, a blazing row behind the scenes over the contents of the advertisement.

Britain to send one million eggs to Armenia (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Arafat falls short of meeting US terms for direct negotiation on Middle East and Shamir attacks speech as monumental act of deception. Disappoints Western observers.

Mirror says Arafat's peace bid fails. John Dickie, in Mail, says Arafat played to the gallery but not to the governments.

Chancellor damps down expectations of further tax cuts in next Budget while hinting at new incentives to encourage savings (Times).

Survey shows that Britain is becoming one of the cheapest countries in the world. League table of 70 countries puts Japan at the top and Britain 52nd (Times).

CBI is considering plan to introduce training voucher system to give over-16s £2,000 a year to spend on training schemes of their choice.

Hopes of pre-Christmas payout of 25p in the Barlow-Clowes affair dashed after Gibraltar court refuses to sanction it (Independent).

2 aircraft "near misses" are blamed on overstressed air traffic controllers in latest CAA report (Independent).

Hundreds of fishermen could lose their jobs as the fish quota is cut back (Independent).

French firms working on Channel Tunnel say they are 6 months behind schedule but blame Eurotunnel company (Times).

HOTOL dealt severe blow by MoD's decision that details of its revolutionary engines must remain classified (Times).

Ernest Saunders granted legal aid for his defence on Guinness charges (Independent).

Sun leader says a new shadow is cast over Wapping by the decision to charge 20 policemen on duty on night of riot. The police fought for freedom now they must fight for justice. DPP should drop the charges.

4 women and 3 men charged with violent disorder and one woman with grievous bodily harm and possession of an offensive weapon after Moroccan was stabbed on Underground in argument with skinheads.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail leader on spate of violence on London rail and elsewhere says that if you do not act swiftly to bring this epidemic under control your prospects at the General Election must soon look very sick indeed.

Douglas Hurd and Lord Young both known to be cool towards abolishing BBC licence fee and the idea's inclusion in the broadcasting White Paper is put down as a Prime Ministerial whim (Times).

BBC announce plans to drive "unnecessary sex, violence and bad language" from TV screen.

FT - IBA may allow takeovers of 16 independent TV companies in advance of new broadcasting legislation.

Lords fear falling standards in TV 'free-for-all'. Former senior broadcasting executives joined in a fierce and sustained cross party assault (Independent).

Chiltern District Council has been given the go ahead to sell its entire housing stock to the Chiltern Hundreds Housing Association (Independent).

Prospect of tax relief for private health insurance in health service White Paper is fading. Kenneth Clarke said to be unenthusiastic although Ministers agreed provisionally in the summer to tax relief for pensioners (Times).

Commons social services select committee calls for new government initiative to cut deaths in infants and new born babies (Independent).

Lord Mackay has set up a pilot scheme to advise him on the appointment of more solicitors as judges (Independent).

Brynmor John MP dies from heart attack, 54.

Tales of fraud and poor control of spending in EC over CAP and early retirement, with golden pensions, of EC officials as "invalids".

Refugees may face a bleak future in EC after 1992 as the intention is to make it more difficult for outsiders to enter the "ring fence" around the community (Independent).

PRESS DIGESTIRA

Post - Storm over Ryan's IRA haven. Irish refuse to send him back to face an "unfair trial" in Britain. Thatcher: a great insult to British people.

Star page 6 - Maggie's fury at Irish insult to Britain. Call to hand over Ryan is blocked. You savage the Irish Government.

Sun page 2 - Maggie rages at Irish "insult".

Today page 7 - Outrage as Dublin shields Ryan. Leader headed "No justice in Irish insult" says you are right to be outraged but you can hardly be surprised. Irish extradition law has turned justice for terrorists into a political lottery. Irish Government must honour its promise to review it.

Express page 1 - Thatcher anger over Ryan snub. Government determined to make Anglo-Irish Agreement work despite this. Leader says the Irish decision is no less shocking for being predictable. The precise purpose of Haughey's amendment to extradition law was to allow politics to override the dictates of justice. That is exactly what we have witnessed in Dublin. Haughey and his Cabinet care far more about their political hides than the lives and limbs of the citizens.

Mirror page 7 - Fury as Irish refuse to hand over Ryan. Thatcher hits at insult as wanted priest stays free. Ken Maginnis, Ulster Unionist, says Anglo-Irish Agreement now means nothing.

Mail page 9 - Maggie's fury over "insult" to Britain; Ireland "let us down" in Ryan terror case.

Independent - you utterly repudiate Irish AG's claim that Ryan would not get a fair trial in Britain and denounce decision as an "insult" to the British people. Irish AG's invitation to make use of legislation which allows suspects to be tried in the Republic for offences committed elsewhere is criticised by Ryan who says he will go on hunger strike if such action is taken. Anglo-Irish relations near freezing point - though Agreement does not appear to be in jeopardy.

Telegraph page 1 lead - Dublin's refusal to give up Ryan "insults" Britain. Thatcher angered by "fair trial impossible" ruling.

PRESS DIGEST

Times leads with Irish refusal to extradite Ryan brings reaction in London and provokes bitter inter-governmental dispute. You describe decision as an insult to the British people. Possibility of a trial in Dublin appears remote, with concern for safety of witnesses a prime factor. Under the heading "Weasel Words" leader says Irish decision is a shabby evasion and the Irish Government has dodged its fundamental duty both to separate law and politics and to assist its partner Britain.

FT page 1 lead - Prime Minister reaffirms support for Anglo-Irish pact despite row over Ryan. The affair is likely to dominate what was to have been a routine session of the Anglo-Irish inter-governmental conference.

Telegraph leader says Dublin is far more preoccupied with ensuring it is not seen to bow the knee to London than with assisting the British to defeat terrorism. The grounds cited by the Irish Attorney General for his refusal to extradite smack of disingenuity and political expediency. But it says comments by British Ministers while extradition was pending were imprudent.

Guardian page 1 lead - Irish snub demand for Ryan. Extradition rethink urged after "great insult" to Britain. Leader says that for you the failure to extradite Ryan is a failure of will. Yet what you describe as a great insult to the people of this country - not to extradite on the grounds that Ryan could not get a fair trial in Britain - will have been greeted across the water as a statement of established fact. You should work for a more general Euro agreement on extradition.

CLAPHAM CRASH

Post says the inquiry must focus on two vital issues - why there are no phones in drivers' cabs when BR spends millions on advertising; and the claim that signals were regularly out of order.

Star leader headed "Minister must carry the can" says Paul Channon is a lucky man in view of King's Cross and Clapham incidents. But isn't the top man the one who should accept ultimate responsibility? Centre page picture of you visiting injured girl in hospital.

Sun searches for the slapdash electrician who, it says, is believed to have caused the crash; centre page includes a picture of your visit.



PRESS DIGEST

Today - pictures of you with injured girl and Duchess of Kent with other victims on centre page.

Express suggests widows of better paid victims of crash could get £1million compensation; leader says for better or worse, the Government holds the purse strings for our road and rail networks. If it has no plans for their privatisation soon it had better make sure they get all the money they need to carry us comfortably and safely into the next century. This makes political sense, too. Picture in centre page spread of your visiting man who finds his rescue pictured in a newspaper.

Mirror pages 2 & 3 feature of your visit, with picture of you reassuring girl with injured face. Leader says it looks as if the crash was avoidable. It goes on to criticise spending on painting trains instead of providing more and safer trains to ease overcrowding.

Mail devotes two inside pages to follow up, including a picture of you with injured girl.

Telegraph page 1 picture of your meeting with girl in hospital over heading "Number of dead in rail disaster cut to 33"

Signalman claims BR refused inquiry into similar signal failure at East Putney 3 months ago because they did not want "trouble" of a full investigation. BR say allegations will be looked into (Independent).

BR sources say Monday's crash was caused by the failure of the link between the new and old signalling systems (Independent).

Guardian - Thatcher and Duchess of York praise hospital staff in visit to injured.

Times devotes two inside pages to rail disaster leading with story that BR are to offer £2,000 in immediate relief to each needy bereaved family. Compensation costs expected to be between £5million and £10 million; picture of you on front page meeting rail crash girl who is to marry in June.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent leader says BR has done well to admit responsibility. Had LRT and Townsend Thoresen acted with equal honesty and swiftness after the King's Cross and Zeebrugge ferry disaster relatives and injured would have been spared much pain and delay. Nonetheless the incident is likely to be shown as merely a symptom of a wider malaise - Whatever management failings the public inquiry reveals it cannot fail to place the railway system high on the political agenda - where it belongs.

EGGS

Express - Chickens face gas chamber as MPs clash with Edwina. You declined to support Mrs Currie outright in Commons.

Mirror - Edwina softens over eggs - hard boiled Edwina had to eat her words. But she keeps her sunnyside up.

Edwina eats humble pie - reading a prepared text to the Commons setting out the Government's view on the degree of risk from eggs - as you sidestep calls for her to be sacked (Independent).

Government publicity campaign over eggs delayed because of differences between MAFF and Health over wording of advertisement (Times).

ARAFAT

Star - Arafat talks peace but immediately snubbed by Shamir.

Independent - Arafat yesterday presented UNGA with a three point peace initiative calling for an international conference under UN auspices, a UN peacekeeping force to supervise Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and a comprehensive settlement based on 242 and 338. He condemned terrorism. Speech deemed "interesting" but "insufficient" by both US and Israel.

FT - Arafat pleads for peace with Israel. Leader says that, when he came to the point, he put forward a three point "peace initiative" which can hardly be called realistic. However, it is hard to see how the US can ask him to go further. He has said that the PLO is willing to co-exist, not only with the Jewish people but with the Jewish state. The onus must now be on Israel to make an equivalent gesture to the Palestinians.

Guardian leader says Washington and Jerusalem may not like the cut of Arafat's jib but they will have to deal with him next year or stand accused of rank insincerity when they talk of peace.

PRESS DIGEST

Times leader says Arafat may well have calculated that he had gone as far as he could without risking the open repudiation of leading Palestinians which would have enabled Israel to deny that he is the PLO's authoratitive voice. But that fact in itself would be an eloquent comment on the distance which still has to be travelled. Arafat's speech disappoints Western diplomatic observers at UN by failing to repeat explicit recognition of Isreal's right to exist.

Independent leader says it is more than time that Israeli government indicated whether there are any circumstances whatsoever under which it would be prepared to talk to the PLO. Peres should outline them. It is not only Arafat who needs to clarify his position.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler launches Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations, London; later addresses Directors Network dinner
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses Canning House, for Latin American Ambassadors
- HMT Mr Lawson addresses the Stock Exchange Christmas lunch
- HMT: Mr Major addresses Principal Finance Officers conference, Fleet
- DEM: Mr Cope on regional tour of Yorkshire and Humberside
- DH: Mrs Currie addresses Institute of Directors Womens conference
- DOE: Mr Gummer visits the West Country and Somerset CC (local Government)
- DTI: Mr Maude on company visit with ICCH
- DTp: Lord Brabazon attends sod-cutting ceremony, A6 Barton-le-Clay Bypass; later attends Air Transport Users annual dinner, RAF Club, Piccadilly
- HMT: Mr Lilley addresses press conference to launch HMSO as executive agency
- HO: Mr Hogg visits Brighton (drugs)
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington addresses Seed Crushers and Oil Processors' Association Christmas lunch, London; later attends Grain and Feed Traders Association reception, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Mr Newton visits Brussels
- FCO: Mr Waldegrave visits Egypt (to 19 December)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DES: Mr Baker interviewed by Adrian Lithgow, Mail on Sunday
- OAL: Mr Luce interviewed on Channel 4's Signals programme
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TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Kilroy': BBC 1 (9.20)

'The Parliament Programme': C4 (12.00)

'You and Yours': BBC Radio 4 (12.00)

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

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

'Dispatches': C4 (20.30)

'Party Political Broadcast' - SLD. BBC 1 (21.00), ITV (22.00), BBC2 (22.30)

'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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