

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Main domestic story - rise in interest rates which worries Tory MPs who, Express says, give the Chancellor an "enough is enough" warning.

Main international issue - the Lockerbie air tragedy.

Gallup in Telegraph says public looks to 1989 with increasing pessimism about the domestic situation and increasing optimism about the international scene.

Bush pledges to bring terrorists to justice, if possible - worldwide hunt underway.

Experts said to be convinced Semtex was used as the explosive.

Czechoslovakia has refused 5 British requests to make Semtex detectable by smell; demands for action against Czechs if they do not respond.

Express suggests you should invoke the assistance of Gorbachev to get this response.

Israelis use disaster to attack USA for opening talks with PLO.

Foreign Secretary calls on Mid-Eastern Governments to help West in search for bombers.

Star says USA is targetting military sites in Syria for reprisal raids. It quotes officials as saying terrorists could not have done it without help or knowledge of Syria.

Two French girls kidnapped by Palestinian radicals 13 months ago released.

British envoy allowed to see Roger Cooper, detained without trial in Iran.

Sun outraged by release for Christmas of 117 "lifers", including convicted terrorists, in Northern Ireland. Tom King should go if he knew of decision.

London hospital porter in court charged with conspiracy to make explosions after discovery of bomb makers' flat in Clapham.

Police find 400lb bomb near Belfast-Dublin railway line.

PRESS DIGEST

Government still hopes to prosecute Ryan in Ireland (Telegraph).

West German Admiral, head of Office of Studies & Exercises, proposes removing all tactical nuclear weapons from Germany, dissolving NATO and Warsaw Pact alliances and withdrawing Allied troops from West Germany.

Andrew Alexander, in Mail, thinks that, barring accidents, interest rates have reached their peak, but, on NatWest evidence, looks forward to faster growth in 1990s.

TUC claims increasing evidence British economy built on unsustainable consumer boom.

Reports that thousands of City workers face the sack in the New Year because of share dealing losses.

Alan Clark says US plan to keep out Euro goods because of Euro ban on American hormone beef is unjustified.

John MacGregor is to meet his US counterpart for talks on issue.

Express says Trade and MAFF are split on it; experts discuss hormone dangers.

Severn-Trent Water Authority threatens to stop putting fluoride into water supplies unless Government indemnifies it against legal action after privatisation.

Complaints that killer foam furniture is being sold in New Year sales.

Local authorities call for six hours of Sunday trading.

Number of filling stations selling unleaded petrol up sixfold in a year to 3,000.

Number of new cars on roads up 10% this year.

Government launches £4million publicity campaign to double number of long term unemployed adults on new training scheme.

Heart and liver transplant centres to receive an extra £4million.

Express says that, as with an alarming number of issues, the Government is misreading the public mood in threatening legal action against London Underground vigilantes.

PRESS DIGEST

Bryan Gould calls for reform of trade union block vote.

Labour Party, according to Guardian, drawing up proposals for regional assemblies and a reconstituted second chamber with regional representation.

Sun attacks David Owen's call for opposition parties to act together to defeat the Tories when he seems to agree with most of your policies. It would be crazy to ally himself with Marxists to destroy your good work. SLD rejects Owen's overture.

Today political editor says it is impossible to find a Labour MP with a good word for Kinnock.

Brompton Oratory School in ILEA votes 20-1 to opt out.

Concern over poor understanding of geography in Britain revealed in Survey.

You win BBC Today Woman of Year Award for third year running; Edwina Currie runner up.

Martin Pipe sets record for trainer's fastest century of National Hunt winners in a season.

Today says you are to snub the funeral of your step-mother.

Another Japanese Minister goes - 3 days after appointment - in corruption scandal.

Soviet Union says Armenian death toll will be half estimate of 55,000.

Names of Brezhnev and Chernenko being eliminated from place names etc in Soviet Union.

Rajiv Gandhi opens talks with Benazir Bhutto on first formal visit by Indian Prime Minister for 30 years.

LOCKERBIE

Star leader headed "Semtex - Czech excuses stink" says increased security is all very well but it is virtually impossible to detect. We should impose an immediate trade ban on Czechoslovakia until it is made detectable.

Sun - Bush to punish bombers.

PRESS DIGEST

Mirror - Pan Am warned 2 years ago that their slack security left their airliners wide open to terrorist attack.

Today - I'll punish cowardly bombers, says Bush. CIA identify eight suspect Middle East terror groups. Leader condemns Government for its silence on new measures being taken to combat terrorists.

Express leader calls for pressure on Czechoslovakia to make Semtex detectable, including seeking Gorbachev's help.

Mail says tighter airport security could cause fare rises, longer delays and extra stress for passengers; leader says the cost in money and personal convenience will be worthwhile if it makes air travel secure. Feature on "The World's biggest manhunt".

Telegraph page 1 lead - Bush promises revenge for Pan Am bomb - "we will punish, firmly, decisively". US airlines tighten security at Heathrow.

Guardian page 1 lead - Bush vows vengeance for bomb. US airlines tighten security.

Independent page 1 lead - Bush vows to punish Pan Am bombers. Leader says as the world grows more interconnected it becomes more vulnerable to disruption and manmade disaster. But violence must not be allowed to deflect the search for peace, whether in the Middle East or elsewhere.

Times page 1 lead says experts believe bomb was set off by a double detonator device. Five groups of terrorists being investigated. Bush will firmly punish saboteurs. Leader says Governments like Czechoslovakia and Libya should co-operate with the West in cutting the supply lines to terrorists or face sanctions which they will have cause to regret. Similarly countries which have played host to terrorist groups should face the consequences of their benevolence.

FT - Pan Am bombers will be tracked down, says Bush.

HOME LOANS

Star Dearer home loans misery; families hit hard - again.

Sun - Roof falls in - first time buyers face eviction as home loans soar to six year high.

PRESS DIGEST

Mirror - Home loans go up again.

Today - £24 a month on your home loan.

Express page 1 lead - Enough is enough - Tory MPs warn over 13.75%.

Mail page 1 lead - "Home loans hangover - ring in the New Year with a mortgage rise".

Telegraph page 1 - NatWest home loans up by 1%.

Guardian page 1 - Home loans rise led by NatWest.

Independent page 1 - Mortgages climb above 13%. Home owners face a bleak New Year. Spectre of homelessness revived by mortgage rise.

Times - Bank lifts mortgages to 13.75%.

FT page 1 lead - Mortgage charges up again amid fears of further base rate rise (because of growth of money supply).