

PRIME MINISTER

9 January 1989

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister receives sculpture from  
Madame Tussauds (photocall)

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STATISTICS

DOE: Housing starts and completions (Nov)  
DOE: Slum clearance 1987/88 prov  
DTI: Retail sales (Nov - final)  
DTI: Credit business (Nov)  
DTI: Producer price index numbers (Dec-prov)

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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37 killed in Heathrow-Belfast air disaster when brand new British Midland Boeing 737 plane crashes on M1 after engine trouble while trying to land at the East Midlands airport.

Just misses village of Kegworth.

No-one injured on motorway.

Paul Channon at the scene early today with Peter Bottomley and Lord Brabazon.

Political storm breaking over £7billion international bid, led by Sir John Cuckney, of Westland, Sir John Nott, Lazard's, and Barclays, for GEC.

In echoes of Westland affair Michael Heseltine, joined by Bryan Gould and unions, calls for reference to MMC. Tory MPs divided.

Andrew Alexander summarises City reaction to the takeover bid: about time too, because GEC's recent management has been lamentable.

Times feature describes GEC as giant that lost its way; Dudley Fishburn MP says shareholders should decide.

Independent leader doubts whether a reference to MMC would be justified. Politicians like Heseltine will have to prove their concern means something more than "protectionism masquerading as patriotism".

CBI claims that vast majority of the 12,000 British companies with sales of more than £10million are taking little effective action to plan for Single European Market, Times.

Soviet Union announces its decision to destroy chemical weapons; welcome from UK. Work will start when special plant has been completed.

Guardian devotes a page to soccer membership cards and says that a Tory revolt looms. It says it is a really bad idea.

Little intelligence out of Chancellor's Dorneywood weekend.

Express says Chancellor laid the foundations for a radical Budget which would help the worst off and reward savers.

Mail also forecasts a radical Budget cutting taxes aimed at the lower paid.

Guardian - Chancellor still considering tax cuts.

FT - Talks produced no firm decision on whether to cut taxes.

North gains little benefit from company relocation, concludes DTI study. Main areas to benefit from fall-out from South East are parts of Midlands and the South (FT).

British Rail fares rise today by up to 21% - Star deplores them when roads are already clogged.

Labour will this week launch its campaign to highlight what it claims will be the increased cost to the consumer of electricity privatisation (FT).

Oil amounting to over 1 billion barrels was discovered last year in the North Sea, according to County NatWest report.

Corporate fraud costing companies £1.5 billion a year.

Initiative by Dillons bookshops could lead to disintegration of last retail price fixing in Britain - net book agreement - Setting off a price war (Independent).

500 members of NUCPS members in Metropolitan Police leave for EETPU.

Government plans to make share buying as easy in UK as in USA, led by Norman Lamont.

£65 million saved last year as a result of clampdown on Social Security fraud. Crackdown on black economy to be intensified.

Campaign for Work says Government employment training plans are "an utterly irresponsible leap in the dark" (Times).

Manager of Barts says NHS review could lead to chaos and closures unless backed by more money.

Today says at least 1700 consultants are cheating the NHS by treating private patients when they should be working for the NHS.

David Mellor is to be asked to withdraw £6 million grant for cyclotron, which has your personal backing, because specialists says it is unnecessary and may be promoting a potentially dangerous treatment (Independent).

Express takes lid off "scandal" of £400 million a year spate of vandalism and theft in schools.

London Underground offers £10,000 reward for two blacks who stabbed a 17 year-old to death.

Scotland Yard investigating case of Heathrow immigration official suspected of harbouring illegal immigrant.

UGC report finds demand by foreign students for British university education is booming.

Parents of disruptive children may be asked to sign a contract of good behaviour before suspended pupils are allowed to return to the classroom, following inquiry headed by Lord Elton (Times).

Exam boycott by university dons begins today.

£2.75 million redevelopment plan on Edmonton housing estate reduces fear of crime (Times).

Secret development plans which would destroy a large area of ancient woodland of Prince's Coverts, near Oxshott, are expected to test the Government's determination to keep control over Green Belt. Scheme has received endorsement of Neil Macfarlane (Times).

Meanwhile row over whether Royal Family should go to Hirohito's funeral continues. Sun says you will hold a Cabinet meeting to decide who should go.

Star urges against and a wiping clean of the slate, with a new start with Akihito.

Sun says few will shed a tear over Hirohito's death. He never accepted responsibility for his Army's bestiality and it would be an affront to memory of war dead if Prince Charles went especially when he couldn't find the time to go to Lockerbie.

Mirror says the Queen cannot ignore the death of the head of a friendly state but how can she send a member of the family half way round the world having ignored Lockerbie?

Today - It would be no consolation to relatives of Lockerbie dead if Prince Charles is stopped from going to Tokyo. But they had better go to Clapham memorial service.

Express: Had Hitler survived until now would there be any question of Britain paying him the same respect? Feature suggests Royal Family should learn commonsense response of yourself and Bob Hawke to tragedies and funerals.

Mail says a member of the Royal Family should attend the funeral and should have attended the Lockerbie memorial service. It would be illogical to offend Japan in order to compensate for the error of judgement over Lockerbie. Two wrongs would not make a right.

Independent says the unease which has developed over whether a Royal should attend the funeral is entirely understandable but a decision should not be influenced by the question of whether a Royal should have attended the Lockerbie memorial. It would not make sense to deny Hirohito appropriate recognition at the last.

Guardian - Hirohito was undoubtedly a war criminal. But if a Royal really has to go it should be Princess Anne who will be going to Tasmania at the time.

Queen may send Duchess of York to Clapham memorial service as a face saver (Today).

William Waldegrave to meet Iranian Foreign Minister in Paris in effort to secure release of British hostages in Lebanon (Sun). Normal relations with Iran impossible, they will be told (Express), until hostages are free.

You are almost certain to visit Southern Africa to coincide with the beginning of the independence process in Namibia (Independent).

Scores of foreign journalists ordered out of Libya after propaganda exercise to prove that Libya is not producing chemical weapons misfires badly (Times).

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Cope addresses Industrial Society on White Paper

MAFF: Mr Thompson addresses Farmers and District Farmers' Club

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

MOD: Mr Younger, visits Belize and Kings Bay, Georgia (to 13 January)

FCO: Mr Waldegrave attends Chemical Weapons Conference, Paris (to 10 January)

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TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

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

'Watchdog': BBC1 (19.30)

'The Education Programme': BBC 2 (19.40). The Making of Miss Green. Are science teachers maintaining their vocation, and will there be enough under the new National Curriculum?

'World in Action': Thames (20.30)

'Panorama': BBC1 (21.30). How free is Britain? Investigating whether, as some freedoms have increased, our civil liberties have diminished

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

'Newsnight': BBC 2 (22.30)

'The Nuclear Age': Thames (22.35). The Weapon of Choice. Second in a series of twelve, chronicling the history of the nuclear age

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