

11 January 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister gives interview for Thames Valley Police newspaper

Chancellor chairs NEDC

Conclusion of Paris conference on chemical weapons

Home Secretary visits Italy for talks on crime, terrorism and drugs

STATISTICS

DEM: Overseas travel and tourism (Oct)

DEN: Advance energy statistics (Nov)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: ESAC report on Education for the Under Fives

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth; Trade and Industry; Environment

Business: Employment Bill: 2nd Reading

Motions on Scottish Rate and Revenue Support Grants Orders.
Details will be given in the Official Report

Adjournment Debates: The Construction Industry Training Board's refusal of grant to Mr Brian O'Donoghue (Mr E Ross)

Select Committees:

AGRICULTURE

Subject: Salmonella in Eggs.

Witnesses: Department of Health

(including the Chief Medical Officer) and the Public Health Laboratory Service; Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

AGRICULTURE

Subject: Salmonella in Eggs.

Witnesses: British Egg Industry Council; UK Egg

Producers' Association; National Farmers' Union;

UKASTA

PARLIAMENT (cont'd)

Select Committees (cont'd)

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Higher Police Training and the Police College
Witness: Home Office

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Resourcing the NHS:
Whitley Councils.
Witness: The Department of Health

TRANSPORT

Subject: Air Traffic Control Safety.
Witness: Mr Paul Channon MP, Secretary of State for
Transport

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

The day after being hailed as a hero for averting a worse tragedy the pilot of the East Midlands 737 is now seen as being responsible for the crash by shutting down the wrong engine.

He says he is determined to fly again even though his legs and back are broken; doctors fear he will not walk again.

Princess Anne visits injured.

Other question raised; why did pilot fly to East Midlands instead of making emergency landing at other airfields?

Claims that backward facing seats might have reduced injuries.

Paul Channon reveals Pan Am bomb which caused Lockerbie crash was in the No 1 cargo and baggage hold just forward of the wing. Semtex probably the explosive used.

Czechs ban exports of Semtex after pressure from Britain; also agrees to talks on making it detectable.

Express and Mail women writers praise the caring impression you have created in going to comfort victims of disasters.

Only 786,000 hens destroyed and 130million eggs thrown away, at cost of £5million, under market clearing scheme. Teddy Taylor says that was no great catastrophe, only a minor hiccup. Express says Government was forced to admit £20million rescue package was grossly over estimated.

Now health officials warn of a meningitis bug in chicken arising from a failure to keep it at a low enough temperature.

You refuse to intervene in GEC takeover battle. Times says it remains uncertain whether any bid will be made for GEC.

FT says GEC takeover bid is less likely after STC has doubts. STC chief executive Arthur Walsh says there is less than 50-50 chance that company will be involved in consortium. General Electric also reported to believe that consortium has little chance of success.

GEC shares shed 1p to 220p. OFT delivers its report on GEC/Siemens bid for Plessey to Lord Young. Decision on possible MMC referral may come by the weekend.

PRESS DIGEST

EETPU and AEU discuss merger proposals which would allow the electricians to retain their autonomy as a separate section of the new union for an agreed period, and which could bring EETPU back into the TUC (Times).

BAe and Rolls Royce are going ahead with plans to rescue HOTOL despite concern that the Government will not declassify the technology (Independent).

Unilever seeks to take over Faberge.

Jaguar workers reject 4.5% pay deal by more than 2-1.

Range Rover reports record sales last year.

Short Brothers expected to ask the Government for a £700million cash injection to guarantee the success of its privatisation, after it announces losses of £142million (Times).

Today attacks credit card companies for their high interest rates - "it is a strange form of competition that leads to rising prices instead of cuts".

Andrew Alexander, in Mail, thinks house prices could fall this year.

Kent County Council tells British Rail to think again about the route for its high speed lines into London from Channel Tunnel.

Uneasy truce in nurses' grading war as COHSE admits that working to grade is now "very patchy" (FT).

Sellafield reprocessing plant to shut down because of strike by AEU over shifts.

Radioactive discharges unlikely to be cause of leukaemia clusters, according to head of CEGB's health and safety branch (FT).

OFT report says funeral costs are soaring above the rate of inflation and service provided by some undertakers is "grossly insensitive" (Independent).

Row over boy of 9 getting a licence for a shotgun. Today describes it as gun crazy.

Mail thinks the Home Office decision to end the £2million grant to Hackney may one day come to be seen as historic because of the way such money has been used to hire race relations advisers.

PRESS DIGEST

A crackdown on drugs led to the trouble at Northeye Prison on Monday (Independent).

Dennis Canavan MP, who refuses to register for the community charge, has his home "suitably defended" by an ex-miner and two dogs.

Independent leader says Kenneth Baker should announce he will no longer fund centralised wage bargaining. Instead, individual universities would receive relatively generous grants towards wage costs, which could be allocated as local conditions dictated.

Lord Rees-Mogg says Broadcasting Standards Council would probably not have been needed but for satellite TV - in contradiction to your reasons for setting it up (Telegraph).

The Scotsman withdraws from lobby system.

British businesses may be offered tax incentives to buy modern masterpieces which could be held by them for a year before being sent to museums and galleries (Independent).

Chancellor's visit to Washington to see Treasury Secretary Brady goes quietly. FT says it could lower chances of an early G7.

Britain to withdraw minesweepers from Gulf but Armilla patrol remains.

Britain leads way on weather research - your defence of Government policy in letter to Jeremy Bray printed by Telegraph.

Star says 98% of its readers who have phoned in don't want Prince Philip to go to Hirohito's funeral. Sun says he will represent the Palace and no-one else in Britain. Today says his going is a pretty smart move - it will signify that, while we have buried the past, we have not forgotten. Express attacks craven statesmen who send the Duke to the funeral and demand flags to be flown at half mast. Times leader welcomes the Duke of Edinburgh's and the Government's proposed attendance at the funeral of Hirohito.

Former POWs threaten to march on Palace.

A BBC film accuses Hirohito of complicity in war crimes and claims evidence was fixed so he would not be brought to trial (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Struggle to fend off failure at chemical weapons conference in Paris (Independent).

Moscow hints that it may fail to meet February deadline for withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Times - Shamir plans to visit Paris next month but rules out EC as Middle East peace mediator.

Meanwhile, Gerald Kaufman waits for a fourth day to see Arafat in Tunis.

EAST MIDLAND CRASH

Mirror says Paul Channon and his officials yesterday created confusion and chaos out of catastrophe. This incompetence over which engine had caught fire can only cause distress and fear.

Express leader headed 'Give Channon a fair chance' says that he has proved unusually imaginative as a Minister for Transport.

Mail says answers to a series of questions over shutdown of engine must be provided as a matter of urgency, including whether parts were properly inspected by manufacturers. This latest accident, coming so soon after Lockerbie, has shaken confidence.

Times - Experts in disaster medicine, while praising the rescue effort, call for better preparation of emergency services, including better training for ambulance crews and GPs, wider use of radio communication and helicopters and more specially qualified consultants.

POLITICS

In a Times commentary, Robin Oakley says that in the year 2000 No 10 would like to celebrate a less violent, better trained, kinder, cleaner Britain. It remains an open question whether this can be achieved, but in any event there seems unlikely to be any opposition capable of exploiting the results should they fail to reach the mark.

Roy Hattersley says what the Labour Party needs is a little more self-discipline and a lot more self-confidence (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Guardian leader says that whatever problems the Government have it is the Opposition that returns to Westminster in hang dog mood. At the end of the summer the Opposition will have to pause and be brutally honest. They have only a handful of months to begin to show that they can turn up the heat. If you cruise to your next party conference still inviolate, still serene among the clanks of cracking policies, 1991 will come to look a write off. And why should 1995 be better?

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DH: Mr Clarke opens Phase One Development, Hammersmith Hospital
- DSS: Mr Moore visits Andover Citizens Advice Bureau; later visits USA to receive £100,000 cheque
- HMT: Mr Lawson chairs NEDC
- DES: Mr Butcher opens Cheshire LEA Music Studio, Warrington
- DH: Mr Mellor visits Glaxo; later meets UK Co-ordinating Committee for Cancer Research re Cyclotron
- DSS: Mr Lloyd addresses RINO's conference
- DTp: Mr Portillo visits Guildford to see Briway Transit System
- WO: Mr Roberts presents Wales National Training Awards, Cardiff
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- HO: Mr Hurd visits Italy (to 16 January)
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TV AND RADIO

- 'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)
- 'Kilroy': BBC1 (9.20)
- 'You and Yours': BBC Radio 4 (12.00)
- 'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)
- 'The World at One': BBC Radio 4 (13.00)
- 'File on Four': Radio 4 (16.05). The future direction of New Right politics in the United States and its message for President-Elect Bush
- 'Dispatches': C4 (20.30)
- '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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