

Jan 13  
13 February 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Japanese Foreign Minister Sasuke Uno (photocall)  
and opens new Springview House for the Elderly in Enfield (photocall)

Mr Waldegrave meets Arafat in Tunis

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STATISTICS

BSC/BISPA: Usable steel production (Dec)

DTI: Finished steel consumption and stock changes (3rd Qtr Final)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: Debate on Aids on a Motion for the Adjournment

Adjournment Debates: Homelessness in London (Mr T Banks)

Select Committees:

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Chancellor warns that inflation will go above 7% making it clear that home-buyers facing sharply increased mortgage repayments could not expect sympathy or early relief.

You condemn speculation about cause of Kegworth crash but it continues with Boeing engineers saying they are as certain as they can be that the fire warning system on crashed jet could not have been wired the wrong way round.

Air hostess says the "no smoking - fasten seat belts" warning signs had failed to light up on earlier flight that day (Mirror).

M1 crash team still baffled by riddle of shut down engine (Times).

Nottingham Health Authority gives cash to surgeons treating victims of air crash to study rear facing seats (Times).

Today leads on how officials ignored report for nearly a year after both engines on similar 737 holiday jet stopped at 8,000 feet above Greece.

French engine manufacturers' verdict on its own investigations not expected for two weeks (Telegraph).

US ignores British jet safety plea. Up to 500 aircraft around the world will miss checks on suspect engines (Guardian).

Express reveals alarming hole in security at Heathrow three weeks after Lockerbie. Posing as an aircraft cleaner a reporter gained access to luggage containers and flight decks of trans-Atlantic jets where at times he was alone. Leader says that high-tech baggage scanners and armed intervention squads are of no great use if any Johnny-come-Lately can equip himself in a matter of hours with a tarmac pass. This is an astonishing loophole which must be closed.

Prince Charles to visit Lockerbie but local townsfolk say it is too late.

50p insult to soldiers who worked 16-hour day over Christmas week at Lockerbie. Star leader describes the 50p as a grievous insult saying how can it be right to demean our soldiers with such a disgraceful payment. Far better to have given them nothing at all.

PRESS DIGEST

You refuse to promise new tax incentives to boost use of lead-free petrol only hours after chairing top level meeting on pollution (Express). Leader says your recent conversion to the "green" cause has given considerable encouragement to a generation now aware that they face no single greater challenge to their own survival but you tartly reject cutting tax on unleaded petrol.

You underline your commitment to tackling global climatic changes by chairing meeting of Ministers on the issue (Times).

Britain is to seek further world cuts in harmful ozone gases, following meeting of Ministers (Telegraph).

Six Armenian earthquake victims rescued after being buried for 35 days. The men were pulled from a ruined food cellar in Leninakan.

Douglas Hurd blasts Gaddafi, the IRA's friend, saying he is without doubt their most dangerous supporter supplying them with tons of sophisticated weapons and large quantities of Semtex explosives.

Star leader asks why we haven't bombed hell out of Gaddafi.

Sun leader asks what the Government intends to do to stop Gaddafi exporting death. It has ruled out fresh US raids on Libya. Which leaves what? Pious speeches at the UN.

Today leader calls for changes in takeover rules saying the existing rulebook is a mess and political power-plays are allowed far too much influence. It says the latest casualty of Government ham-handedness is the GEC/Siemens bid for Plessey suggesting that the new rules could allow mergers to go ahead provided the new merged company's share of the British market was no more than 25%.

Bertie Bassett, the liquorice allsorts, fighting to remain British in face of £63million Swedish takeover bid.

Lonrho tells High Court it is convinced DTI report on Al Fayed's takeover of Harrods is a "bombshell". Lonrho is challenging decision not to refer matter to MMC (FT).

Treasury Solicitor writes to Channel Four to get it to drop programme on Bank of Credit and Commerce International, two of whose employees are subject of court action (Guardian).

Latest figures show that Britain has safest roads in Europe - and road deaths are falling.

PRESS DIGEST

Publicans claim that the Christmas breathalyser blitz cut takings by half.

Report says working mothers struggling to cope with a career and a family, have the most explosive tempers.

Today leader criticises Paul Channon for telling select committee there is nothing he can do to stop another summer of airport chaos saying that after 10 years in power some Government Ministers seem to have forgotten what it is like out here in the real world.

British Rail choose King's Cross as site for London's second Channel Tunnel terminal.

Hundreds of jobs may be axed in 1992 if Ford goes ahead with plan to switch production of its best-selling Sierra from Britain to foreign plant.

UDM members who helped mount Scargill's coal strike to lose 6,000 jobs as they will lose 6 pits when electricity is privatised and cheap foreign coal is brought in (Mirror).

Supermarkets furious as TV professor brands cooked meat a killer. Mirror asks who is telling the truth and Julia Langdon describes how she and her new born baby suffered from listeria monocytogenes.

Times - Consumers Association says evidence to the agriculture select committee adds to eggs worries. Leader says the astonishing thing about the eggs saga is that at no time has a Minister stood up and said precisely what the Government is proposing to do. The machinery of official advice has been found wanting; the quality of Ministerial performance less than impressive. We need to be reassured about the soundness of British eggs.

Egg producers fear that evidence given to the Select Committee on salmonella enteritidis could cause another drop in consumption (Independent).

BMA calls for scheme by which victims of medical accidents could be compensated without having to prove fault in the courts (Times).

GPs will be brought under the control of a revamped management board under proposals to restructure top of the NHS (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Cornish ambulance crews to carry Japanese radio advertisement on uniforms.

Mirror features drawings of its new building in Fetter Lane under the heading "We Think You'll Like It, Charles".

Couple who turned their high-rise flat into a fortress die in an arsonist's blaze as rescuers struggle to reach them.

Police Federation concerned over increase in private security companies patrolling private estates.

John Wakeham will urge MPs to vote against an extension of time for the Commons sitting on March 3 - Anne Widdicombe is seeking the Motion to enable her private members bill on abortion to be discussed (Independent).

Gwyneth Dunwoody MP faces new cash crises as her accountant sues her for £4,000.

Women vote David Owen as Britain's sexiest politician in MORI poll but give Kinnock the thumbs down (Star).

Population in South East expected to increase by one million by end of century - compared to an increase of less than 200,000 in the past 20 years (Telegraph).

Japanese ultra-right wingers threaten to take unspecified measures against any Japanese TV station screening the BBC documentary "Hirohito behind the myth". In London, Japanese Foreign Minister insists Japanese war debts are paid (Telegraph).

Mirror carries President Reagan's farewell speech and under the heading "Not bad at all" says he has had one great achievement, one he will be remembered for: the ending of the Cold War.

Gorbachev imposes direct rule from Moscow on Nagorno-Karabakh (FT).

Times - Czech explosives experts react positively to idea of marking Semtex so that it can be more easily traced. But the Prague government claims not to have exported Semtex for years. British intelligence believes it was last exported in 1982.

CSCE facing failure as Turkey rejects compromise on mandate for arms talks (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

China agrees to talk directly to Vietnam on Kampuchea for the first time, according to Khmer resistance leader (Guardian).

ECONOMY

Mail - Chancellor warns that mortgage rates could go even higher.

Today - Chancellor tells homebuyers they have only themselves to blame if they are being crippled by rocketing mortgage rates.

Times - Chancellor wastes little sympathy on home owners feeling the pinch from higher mortgage rates, adding that the British economic renaissance is set to go on but growth will be slower than the past two years.

Sun leader says the Bank of England is usually wrong. Threadneedle Street advises Chancellor not to cut taxes in next Budget. That should be all the encouragement Nigel Lawson needs to cut, cut and cut again.

Telegraph - You strongly support strategy of using interest rates as the principle weapon against inflation.

FT - You signal that fight against inflation will take precedence over stable pound, as Treasury acknowledges that inflation will soon reach 7%.

FT - Government may merge CSO and DTI's Business Statistics Office in order to streamline collection of official statistics.

EDUCATION

Times leader looks at nursery education and admits that there has been real progress in the provision of nursery places for the under-fives. For further progress, a variety of provisions are required. No one particular way is the right one and there is no need to provide free places for everybody. The same money could be put to better use.

HEALTH

Guardian - Edwina Currie says David Mellor gave in to EC. She writes to Guardian saying that not she but the FCO was to blame for abandoning the British veto on an EC decision to put tougher health warnings on cigarette products.

PRESS DIGESTMIDDLE EAST

Times - Belgian businessman arrested and expected to be charged with breaking export regulation in connection with Rabta plant. The arrest may reveal firms aiding Libya at Rabta.

Times - Britain moves firmly into the centre of the Middle East negotiating stage as William Waldegrave has talks with Arafat today. He is due to visit Jordan and Israel in March. PLO leaders emphasise Britain's special role in the peace process. Mr Waldegrave confirms PLO requests for Arafat to meet you will be discussed "to see what is sensible".

Telegraph - Britain seeking role as mediator in Middle East. Mr Waldegrave will discuss the possibility of Arafat visiting London. A meeting with you is not ruled out.

FT - Libya re-opens high level contacts with US oil companies as part of move to establish closer working relationship with incoming Bush administration.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DH: Mr Clarke opens Shopping Mall at Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor attends Royal Norfolk Agriculture Association, Annual General Meeting and Council, Norwich
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses Association of British Orchestras' annual conference
- WO: Mr Roberts visits North Wales School, Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy, Llanrwst; and Morfa Rhianedd County Primary, Llandudno
- WO: Mr Grist unveils plaque commemorating 25th anniversary of Hanover Housing Association, Swansea
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TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Kilroy': BBC 1 (9.20)

'The Idea of Europe': Radio 4 (11.00). 'Differences': Second of four documentary features, examining how the boundaries of Europe came to be established. Does Russia really belong, and where does Germany fit in?

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

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

'Reagan on Reagan': C4 (14.00). 1. The All-American. First of three-part series charting the rise of Ronald Reagan

'Any Questions?' BBC Radio 4 (20.05) with David Blunkett MP, Rosie Barnes MP, Michael Heseltine MP and Jean Rook

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

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