

17 January 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Princess of Wales attends gala performance of Romeo and Juliet, Royal Opera House, London

DH: International conference and exhibition on Control of Substances Hazardous to Health

DTI: First anniversary of Enterprise Initiative/ Launch of Export Initiative

PUBLICATIONS

CO/CSO: Social Trends embargoed press conference

DOE: Football Spectators Bill

LCD: Council on Tribunals annual report 1987/88

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Employment; Health; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Fuel and Energy Provision (Mr John Hughes)
Security Service Bill: Conclusion and Consideration in Committee
Motions on the Housing Support Grant (Scotland) Order

Adjournment Debates: NHS funding of private hospitals: The case of Leighton Hospital (Mrs G Dunwoody)

Select Committees: Select Committee press conference on their report on Independent Oil Producers

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: The Supply of Teachers for the 1990s

Witnesses: Officials from the Department of Education and Science

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS

Associated British Ports (No.2) Bill

North Killingholme Cargo Terminal Bill

Lords: Children Bill (HL)
Petroleum Royalties (Relief) and Continental Shelf Bill: Second Reading

MINISTERS — See attached

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Five Boeing 757s found to have faulty wiring to cargo hold extinguishers.

Express says special police divisions are set to take complete control of security at Britain's airports - a move it welcomes.

Both engines of the plane which crashed on M1 were in perfect working order when it took off - French makers believe, according to the Mail.

Sun says William Waldegrave has a rocket from you for calling Shamir, a reformed terrorist; you worked fast to heal rift.

Express says he faces a rebuke from Foreign Secretary. Growing concern his lack of diplomacy may have wrecked our role in Middle East.

Today says you were desperately trying to repair relations with Israel last night. Message from No 10 was "calm it down".

Mail - Israel row Minister in trouble with No 10. You ask him to make amends to Israelis; But Gordon Greig doubts whether he has dished himself completely.

Independent reports you as being happy with the approach now being adopted but watching progress closely.

As William Waldegrave arrives back from Tunis you seek to cool Israeli anger over his controversial handling of Britain's Middle East peace initiative (Times).

Telegraph says you are to reassure Israelis.

Further signs, in retail sales figures, that higher interest rate policy is working. Ease prospect of higher interest rates. Telegraph says it may also help Chancellor to cut taxes.

FT Lex column believes consumer spending is turning at last; but warns that if earnings figures on Thursday show any rise from the present 9% then higher interest rates could be in prospect.

Mail leads with plight of "teenagers hooked on credit cards". 20% said to have had difficulties with repayment.

PRESS DIGEST

Kinnock joins fight against national membership card for soccer; Bill to be published today. Today says that in opposing the scheme without offering an alternative lines him up with hooligans.

Mail sports lead is that the management consultants report commissioned by the FL and exploited by them as a basis for scaremongering in fact advises the game to welcome and activate the Government's proposals.

Sir Christopher Booth, president, Royal Society of Medicine, wins media praise for investigating for himself the "scandal" of the long hours worked by junior doctors.

Independent says that a draft Government proposal seeks to extend junior doctors' hours despite assurances from Kenneth Clarke to reduce long hours of duty.

Ford to move production of Sierra to Belgium with loss of 500 jobs over 5 years.

1,000 Social Security jobs switched from London to Wigan, Glasgow and Belfast. Mail welcomes this as a move in the right direction.

GEC may raise offer for BREL (FT).

High Court judges express concern that Al Fayeds' acquisition of House of Fraser was not referred to MMC. Case is expected to go to Court of Appeal tomorrow with a view to getting a final judicial ruling before Sunday, when the statutory period for a monopolies reference expires (FT).

Science & Engineering Research Council launches plan to keep Britain a world leader in astronomy well into the next century amid fears of talent shortage (Independent).

Big companies reduced their cash donations to charity last year (Independent).

Government hopes to increase public support for privatised electricity supplies this week by outlining a range of measures that will benefit consumers (Times).

TSB to allow 5 years paternity as well as maternity leave to look after their children, though without pay.

PRESS DIGEST

Jimmy Reid, in Sun, commenting on Scargill's securing a new NUM rule that any candidate for a national post must secure nomination from areas representing at least 20% of the membership, says if this consolidation of his power continues the NUM is finished.

Big row over jailing of a mother who was jailed for 30 months for pouring boiling water over genitals of 19 year old youth who raped her 5 year old daughter.

Douglas Hurd seeks help of community in combatting lager louts. Police chiefs blame it on a lack of discipline - and the means of administering it - in society.

New research by Arts Council reveals that retired people go to the theatre, concerts and other arts events far less than they used to because they are afraid of being attacked en route (Independent).

Dick Douglas, Labour MP, tells House magazine that only a "super optimist" would think his party would win the next election; you dominate the political scene and Labour Party lacks cohesion.

Labour Party's union block vote expected to be reformed after T&GWU agree to change system at the party's annual conference (Times).

Among the 20 local councils in England and Wales which have levied the sharpest rate rises during the 1980s, there are as many Conservative as Labour-controlled, thus exposing myth of high-rate Labour councils (Independent).

Kenneth Baker hints at sharp increases in higher education tuition fees in 1990 (FT).

Government to announce cash incentive scheme for universities and colleges to recruit extra students, without incurring significant increases in public spending (Independent).

David Steel challenges refusal of Paddy Ashdown to consider any sort of electoral deal with David Owen's SDP (Times).

Telegraph says you are considering making Kenneth Baker Conservative Party Chairman.

PRESS DIGEST

Ivor Stanbrook attacks Home Secretary for reopening Guildford and Woolwich bombing cases. Times says decision was as difficult as it was wise.

Star says Gaddafi, furious that his Sam missiles have not been used yet by the IRA, has told them to use them or lose their supply of weapons. Its leader says the answer is to smash Gaddafi now, once and for all.

IRA killers cheered after they shot dead in front of his girlfriend a former RUC man, 25, visiting the Republic.

Republic police questioning a man after discovery of a store of 12 Kalashnikov rifles and 1,400 rounds of ammunition.

Sun says W H Smith were wrong to give in to Muslim blackmail and withdraw Salman Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses" from sale in Bradford. Mail says it is a great encouragement to zealots.

Times leader says that in the interests of community harmony, Muslim leaders should accept that Britain is a democracy in which Parliament makes law applicable to all.

Telegraph says that if W H Smith wishes to maintain the honourable name of booksellers it has a duty to sell books which are lawful.

Sun appoints its own ombudsman to deal with readers' complaints - its own managing editor whom it describes as independent. This may be the second (Mirror was first) of a number of such appointments.

Celebrity Group Holdings pulls out of negotiations for Eddy Shah's "Post" (FT).

David Nicholas, editor of ITN, expected to be named as its chairman (Times).

You pledge to protect wildlife at launch of RSPB's centenary. Today claim you made a gaffe when you said stealing rare bird's eggs was a thing of the past.

Independent put it this way - You reinforce your efforts to win "greenie" points by launching the RSPB's "Action for Birds" campaign, wearing an appropriately coloured suit.

Picture of you meeting stewardess of East Midlands air crash in Mirror, Mail, Times, Guardian.

PRESS DIGEST

Barry Porter MP failed two breath tests after a road accident, it is claimed.

John MacGregor reveals that he and his team met farmers 37 times last year and consumers' representatives twice - fuelling the Express's campaign against MAFF. Express also attacks National Consumer Council for "sitting out" on the question of food safety.

BMA calls for responsibility for food control to be switched from MAFF to D/Health (Independent).

More criticism of Duchess of York for going off on another - this time skiing - holiday. Today says she must earn her keep.

3 members of ANC military wing jailed for up to 23 years for treason and terrorism. One of them is the most senior ANC man to be jailed since Mandela in 1964 (Independent).

First Falkland Islands ferry service since 1982 docks in Uruguay, despite Argentinian protests.

Telegraph reports that Bush is determined not to spring any surprises on Western Europe.

Setback for Gorbachev as Soviet grain harvest dropped to 195million tonnes last year.

POLITICS

Independent, following its revelations yesterday, carries editorial criticising the Conservative Party for the covert transfer of funds from commercial concerns. It says it was hypocritical to have accused the unions of buying block votes within the Labour Party when it allows industrialists the maximum of secrecy and deniability when making donations to Central Office.

MIDDLE EAST

Independent - Sir Geoffrey Howe will stand back from any personal contact with Arafat until he is confident that a face-to-face meeting is sure to produce a useful outcome. Scepticism remains in higher echelons of Government that the Israelis can be brought to talks with the PLO. Mr Waldegrave is entering a diplomatic minefield which could set back his domestic political career.

PRESS DIGESTARMS CONTROL

Leonard Sullivan, American military analyst, condemns the "posturing" role adopted by Britain and other European nations in conventional arms reduction negotiations (Times).

West Germany admits that there were "concrete indications and reports" that the Rabta plant in Libya was capable of producing poison gas (Times).

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler receives courtesy call from Israeli Ambassador
- DH: Mr Clarke, Mr Mellor and Mr Freeman attend Regional Health Authority Chairmen's dinner
- DOE: Mr Ridley and Lord Caithness attend ICI presentation on the ozone layer; Lord Caithness later addresses Association of Residential Letting Agents, London
- DTI: Lord Young launches Export Initiative and Managing into the 90's; later addresses Peat, Marwick, McLintock, re 1992
- DTI: Mr Newton visits Sunderland to launch Export Initiative and tour Silentnight Ltd
- HO: Mr Hurd addresses 30 Club re Broadcasting, London
- DEM: Mr Lee attends Trust House Forte Waiter of the Year presentation, London
- DH: Mr Mellor meets the Registered Nursing Homes Association
- DOE: Mr Moynihan meets Football League Chairmen
- DSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits HQ buildings
- HO: Mr Renton attends London Business School seminar and addresses lunch on Television as a Service
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington addresses Norfolk Institute of Agriculture Merchants
- MAFF: Mr Thompson addresses Grantham Breakfast Club
- ODA: Mr Patten addresses Tropical Africa Advisory Group, London; later hosts reception for International Catholic Development Agencies, London
- WO: Mr Grist attends lunch of Dr Raft, member of Hungarian Government, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- MOD: Mr Neubert visits BAOR (to 18 January)
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TV AND RADIO

'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

'Kilroy': BBC1 (9.20)

'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)

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

'The Open Learning Business': C4 (13.00). 2. 'The Management Business'.
Outlines the benefits which open learning offers all managers

'Moneyspinner': C4 (20.30)

'The World Tonight': R4 (22.30) followed by 'The Financial World Tonight' and
'Today in Parliament'

'Newsnight': BBC2 (22.30)

'The Bangladesh Story': C4 (23.30) First of 3 part history of Bangladesh
