

23 January 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Princess of Wales visits Hampshire

The Princess Royal attends Duke Ellington Concert, Royal Festival Hall, London

EC: Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels (to 24 January)

EC: Agriculture Council, Brussels

PUBLICATIONS

DES: Circular on religious education and collective worship

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Wales; Energy; Social Security

Business: Timetable Motion on the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill
Security Service Bill: 3rd Reading
Motion on the Housing Support Grant (Scotland) Order
Motion on the Housing Revenue Account General Fund Contribution Limits (Scotland) Order

Adjournment Debates: The A1 in Northumberland (Mr A Beith)

Lords: Starred Questions
Debate on EEC Report on a European Financial Area (21st Report, 1987-88, HL Paper 109)

Children Bill (HL): Committee (5th Day)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

After a 10 point lead in a Harris poll yesterday, Gallup in Telegraph today puts you 8.5 points ahead. But Chancellor finds himself unpopular, though 90% say interest charges are no problem.

Freedom Association challenges cricket authorities over restrictions on cricketers playing in South Africa - a restraint of trade.

This puts cat among the pigeons at today's meeting of the International Cricket conference, called to resolve issue.

Telegraph says if a compromise can be reached it should be endorsed by Governments. There can only be despair if a compromise is not possible.

Department of Health orders investigation into claims that Turks have sold their kidneys for transplants at London's Humana Wellington Hospital.

Today claims drug firms spend a total of £180million a year to persuade doctors to prescribe their products.

Concern over the death of six babies within 24 hours within a 20 mile radius in Surrey.

You overruled the Chancellor and Kenneth Clarke over tax concessions for the elderly for private health insurance (Independent).

Labour Party launches campaign against NHS reforms and concept of US-style health care.

MAFF holding up action to prevent sale of infected eggs despite request from Department of Health to stop the sale of eggs from farms which have been identified with 2 or more outbreaks of salmonella. Independent has also obtained copies of a "secret" communicable disease report from the Public Health Laboratory which shows salmonella enteritidis has been identified in a number of foods and in dogs.

Mirror claims one in 11 infants is not getting expert treatment it needs to survive.

BIM says two-thirds of managers polled want Chancellor to concentrate on getting inflation down.

PRESS DIGEST

Building societies, according to Express, want mortgage tax relief doubled to £60,000.

Today says you are urging Chancellor to raise it from £30 to £35,000. Leader is against it and says tax concessions have had their day.

NatWest Bank says base rates are likely to fall to 10% by end of the year, beginning with a cut at about the time of the Budget (Times).

Labour is considering making reintroduction of credit controls a key plank of its economic strategy, according to confidential paper by Bryan Gould (FT).

Local authorities in Chester, King's Lynn and Worcester fail to get an injunction to stop DIY stores opening on Sunday. Mail says this will lead to legislation permitting afternoon opening.

Chairman of Bar Council Committee, in advance of Green Papers on legal profession, advocates no-win no-fee legal system. Today says lawyers must be made to share the risks with the people who need help.

Barristers however expected to oppose generality of Green Paper ideas (Times).

More than 1,000 court clerks to get 7% pay rise.

British Gas agrees to change in its licence which will give Government-appointed regulator power to oversee its pricing policy in industrial markets. Change is likely to be approved by Lord Young and Cecil Parkinson early next week and announced soon after (FT).

Government to unveil a £3billion solution to London's transport crises on Thursday.

Mail leader calls on you to invest money in environmental protection of a Channel Tunnel rail route through Kent.

Guardian says Michael Dobbs, of Saatchis, has been engaged by British Rail to "sell" a route through Kent to public.

More than 6,000 march through Maidstone in protest over BR's plans.

PRESS DIGEST

Express suggests MMC report will call for end of pubs tied to one brewer.

First detailed study of trainees views shows widespread dissatisfaction with Employment Training programmes (Independent).

Water authorities are drawing up financial plans which point to a need for much higher increases in water charges after privatisation (Independent).

Government survey shows more than a million people are supplied with tap water with too much aluminium (Times).

British space scientists to join \$3billion US project to build space plane capable of flying anywhere in the world in less than 2 hours (Times).

Independent survey says pay rises of more than 15% will be needed to attract enough heads to run schools into 21st century (Times).

University professors to set up own national body because of concern that relations within universities are being damaged by present pay dispute (Times).

Robert McCrindle wants you to set up a Ministry of Consumer Affairs.

Express says threat from drug "crack" in inner cities is far greater than the police originally feared.

Most Scottish local authorities are setting community charge levels which far exceed Government guidelines (FT).

Home Office to launch blitz against illegal immigrants.

Home Secretary warns them they should not expect to gain immunity from the law by taking refuge in churches or mosques where a Pakistani family has now sought sanctuary.

12 London churches are standing by to offer sanctuary to people facing deportation should the Home Office seek to act swiftly against illegal immigrants following the deportation of Viraj Mendis (Independent).

Today claims cost of package holidays could increase by up to £100 to pay for increased security measures.

PRESS DIGEST

Airport fire officers threaten an Easter shutdown over pay if today's talks break down.

Irish police find IRA arms cache in Co Monaghan.

High explosive mortar bomb attacks on London targets were being planned by IRA disturbed at South London bomb factory before Christmas (Times).

"Leaks" suggesting Thames inquiry into "Death on the Rock" have cleared the programme described as premature by Lord Windlesham and based on outdated draft. Guidelines on terrorism reporting expected to be introduced.

Mail says Left have targetted 33 Labour MPs to de-selection, including John Smith, for voting for Alton's Abortion Bill.

Bush regime expected to be much more cautious in relations with USSR than Reagan's.

You intend to challenge Soviets with their claim that they have stockpiled only 50,000 tonnes of chemical weapons when it is six times larger.

Sakharov nominated as a candidate for election in Moscow after being turned down by Academy of Sciences as one of its nominees.

Express counsels caution in advocating pulling down of Berlin Wall; we are not equipped to cope with the aftermath.

Soviet economists say annual budget deficit is equivalent to £100 billion - around 11% of GNP. Inflation running at 5-7% a year (Independent).

Solidarity accepts Government terms for restoring its legal status.

Express reports the murder of a second priest-supporter of Solidarity.

Greece will protest today about the apparent emergence of an "inner grouping" of larger European Community member-states who they claim have been discussing political co-operation without informing their partners (Independent).

Der Spiegel has evidence that a West German firm helped Libya convert transport planes into tankers to refuel fighter jets in mid-air (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Syria and Egypt edge closer to healing their 10-year rift (Times).

MENDIS

Sun comments that Mendis is a cunning, lying little pest who abused British hospitality for 12 years.

Mail, reporting from Columbo, says Mendis's supporters in Manchester appear to have been misled. His family say he is in no danger.

Independent leader says Viraj Mendis did not qualify for refugee status - he is a sophisticated political activist who attempted to exploit the goodwill which exists within any decent society. In doing so, he has made things more difficult for those who merit compassion and who should be defended against arbitrary power.

PRIVACY

Paul Johnson, in Mail, says newspapers face a similar retribution to that exacted from trade unions for their abuse of power. Privacy invasion has become more blatant and he calls on Law Officers to help in drafting an effective Bill.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses British Hotels and Restaurants Association dinner, Birmingham
- DOE: Mr Ridley and Lord Caithness receive Austrian Environment Minister
- MOD: Mr Younger visits Yarrow Shipbuilders
- SO: Mr Rifkind opens Quality Street Development, Giffnock, Glasgow
- DEM: Mr Nicholls visits Newcastle
- DH: Mr Mellor addresses Family Rights Group seminar on Reform of Family and Childcare Law
- DH: Mr Freeman addresses NHS Graduate Management Trainees on the Role of Ministers
- DOE: Mr Trippier visits Hull (housing)
- DOE: Mr Chope visits Wytch Farm, Dorset (planning/minerals)
- DSS: Lord Skelmersdale meets World Veterans Federation
- DTI: Mr Newton addresses Save the Children Fund on Inner Cities
- DTp: Mr Bottomley attends Halford's Lead-Free Campaign launch, QEII Centre, London; later attends presentation on traffic regulations in urban areas - The Public View, London
- FCO: Mr Eggar addresses Drugs - Whose Problem? conference, Wilton Park
- MAFF: Mr Ryder attends Velcourt Technical Group, Wansford
- MAFF: Mr Thompson visit Warnham Park Deer Farm, Horsham
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses arts publicists, Barbican Centre, London
- SO: Mr Lang opens Goodwill Incorporated (Glasgow) Ltd Disabled Training Centre, Easterhouse, Glasgow

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe attends FAC, Brussels (prov)
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor attends Agriculture Council, Brussels
- FCO: Mrs Chalker attends FAC, Brussels

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DES: Mrs Rumbold launches Yorkshire TV's Business Education series of education programmes for schools
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TV AND RADIO

"Today": BBC Radio 4 (6.30)

"Kilroy": BBC 1 (9.20)

"The Time, the Place": HTV (10.00)

"Business Daily": C4 (12.30)

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

"Watchdog": BBC 1 (19.30). A look at holidays

"The Education Programme": BBC 2 (19.40). New lamps for Old. Examines the newest and oldest forms of storytelling. Martin Young asks whether princesses and dragons are relevant to children in the sophisticated 1990's

"Horizon": BBC 2 (20.10). Perils of the Deep. Against the background of the Piper Alpha tragedy, a look at the human price to be paid for oil and gas. Despite fears of losing their jobs divers are now speaking out

"World in Action": Thames (20.30)

"Panorama": BBC 1 (21.30). Children in Need. Examines social security rules targetting resources at the worst off, while giving parents more responsibility for their own affairs. Critics say the reforms have forced social workers to appeal to charities and telethons to meet basic needs. Against the background of the payment of child benefit, an analysis of the controversy over how best to help children in need

"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). Europe Goes Nuclear. Fourth in a series of 12 spotlights the build up of American nuclear weapons in Europe after the war
