

27 January 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Sir Geoffrey Howe visits West Germany

Lord Young to World Economic Forum (to January 30)

STATISTICS

CLSB: Quarterly house purchase finance statistics (4th Qtr)

CSO: Cyclical Indicators for the UK Economy (Dec)

DOE: Housing and construction statistics (Sept Qtr 1988)

DTI/

CSO: Balance of Payments current account and overseas trade figures (Dec)

DTI: Engineering sales and orders at current and constant prices (Nov)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

Protection of Privacy Bill: 2nd Reading. (Mr John Browne)

Road Traffic Regulation (Parking) Bill: 2nd Reading. (Mr Timothy Kirkhope)

International Parliamentary Organisations (Registration) Bill: (Mr Michael Marshall)
and other measures

Adjournment Debates: The proposal for a open cast coal mine and creation of a STOL airport at Tinsley Park in South Yorkshire (Mr K Barron)

MINISTERS — See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

You savage Windlesham report on "Death on the Rock". Sun, Express, and Mail attack the report; Telegraph, Guardian and Independent attack Government.

Thames TV says it is considering legal action against some newspapers over their coverage of Death on the Rock affair (FT).

Group of journalists write letter to the Times saying that they will publish regardless of any new Official Secrets Act if, in their judgment, the public interest demands it.

UK growth will drop below 3% this yer, according to Treasury survey of independent forecasts (FT).

Consumer spending is set to grow faster this year in regions outside the South East, according to economic analysis Business Strategies (FT).

Proposed £3.5million investment in railway in London will mean higher fares.

FT leader on Central London Rail Study concludes that action is clearly necessary but regrets study's narrow terms of reference. It does not make sense to analyse rail congestion in isolation. Ideally, Mr Channon should have commissioned a study of London's overall transport needs, looking at cars and buses as well.

Independent leader says your 10 years of government have failed to overcome national sluttishness and a temperamental inability to think ahead - where London transport is concerned. Paul Channon's suggestion that investment should be financed by fares and contributions from developers carries ideology too far. London's prosperity and efficiency benefits the whole country - with the Chancellor heading for a £20billion budget surplus there is no reason why public funds should not make a substantial contribution.

British Steel is among several companies talking to Deutsche Bank about buying all or part of Klockner trading group which has steel interests rescued by the bank last year (FT).

Government welcome Toyota to set up £600million plant in UK; Britain favourite.

UK trade deficit expected to be £15billion in 1988.

PRESS DIGEST

National Consumer Council finds 60% want Sunday shopping for six hours - MORI poll.

British industry accused of waiting for orders to drop into its lap in Far East while Germans and Italians get trade (Mail).

Confidential draft guidelines indicate Training and Enterprise Councils will have a wide role in economic development as well as training (FT).

Today says Edwina Currie's rare talent for putting her foot in it could mark the beginnings of a revolution in consumer protection. But we need an independent agency to do the job.

Eggs from Parliament's kitchens poisoned 120 peers (Independent).

Independent says Conservative Party's strategy for last election was leaked to Labour Party by a Saatchi & Saatchi employee and a journalist.

Joe Rogaly, in FT column, warns of dangers of BOGs (Boards of Governors) as an instrument of social policy in your third term.

You were angry when Paddy Ashdown provoked uproar at Question Time by alleging Lord Chalfont, the new deputy chairman of IBA, was director of a private intelligence firm with "extremely grubby connections" (Independent).

You pledge that health Ministers will consider the need for urgent action over funding of hospices after the Government was accused of breaking a promise to give hospices an extra £4.5million to cover higher pay for nurses.

Today described Lord Hailsham as "stark staring bonkers" for attacking his successor's plans for reforming the legal profession.

BMA tells MMC that patients' lives would be put at risk if restrictions on the freedom of doctors to advertise were lifted (Times).

Syria's Information Minister blames you for rift in Anglo-Syria relations because of your pro-Israeli sympathies and challenges Western critics to provide one shred of proof to support claims that Damascus or Syrian-backed Palestinian groups were behind Lockerbie disaster.

PRESS DIGEST

Case of man who without any knowledge of work of electrician conned himself into a job servicing aircraft (Star).

46th victim of East Midlands air crash dies, leaving 7 month old son in hospital.

French aircraft engine specialists believe main fan on one of the jet engines in the East Midlands plane crash may have been smashed by lump of ice (Times).

Guardian Angels stop two men trying to rob a youth in a train. Star tells Government to give them a chance.

Mail leads with "The Angels Get Action" - a reference to the appointment of 80 extra police to the Tube.

Police arrest 12 pupils after 200 schoolchildren rioted in Hampshire demanding an easier routine.

Teachers blamed for deaths of 4 schoolboys in Austria last April; failed to supervise them properly.

Woman jailed for revenge scalding attack on rapist of her six year old daughter to get early appeal hearing today.

Moors murderer, Myra Hindley, having tests for cancer.

Government could make big savings in legal aid expenditure by streamlining magistrates courts procedure and introducing a family court says Legal Aid Advisory Committee (Independent).

Speculation - without hard evidence to back it up - that two British hostages in Lebanon (McCarthy and Keenan) will be released within 48 hours.

Iran's interior minister says Roger Cooper will be "punished according to Islamic laws" for alleged espionage (FT).

Labour peers agree to co-operate with Government to guarantee that reform of anti-terrorism laws come into force on 22 March (Times).

Alan Coren resigns as Editor of the Listener after a year; Peter Fiddick, media editor of The Guardian, succeeds him.

Scientists from around the world have agreed to try and assess the effect of climatic changes on four areas of the world where global warming could have a drastic impact (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Italian tribunal rules that Roberto Calvi, banker, was murdered in London.

Chris Evert, tennis star, retiring this year; so is Mark Phillips as Olympic rider.

President Bush to pay a two-day visit to China next month.

America closes its Kabul Embassy.

Turkish Defence Minister indicates that Britain could play a leading role in helping Turkey to modernise its armed forces (Times).

Foreign ministers of Greece, Spain and France will meet Arafat in Madrid (FT).

GIBRALTAR FILM

Star - Maggie Gib rap.

Sun - Maggie slams Gib TV probe. Leader headed "The verdict: still guilty" says Thames TV can hold all the inquiries they wish but they cannot alter basic truths - Death on the Rock was an irresponsible, mischievous and deeply shaming episode. It should never have been made or broadcast. They set out to play prosecution, judge and jury. It gave comfort to terrorists.

Mirror - Row as TV Gib film gets ok. Tory Ministers furious.

Today - Anger as TV team cleared.

Express - Row after Death on the Rock TV station is cleared. Leader says we now know why Windlesham's report has taken so long to appear. It was being turned into a publicity event. It is a classic whitewash job. Windlesham had no trouble siding with his old TV colleagues. A silly and naive report.

Mail - Angry Maggie rejects Rock verdict. Leader headed "It was trial by television" says it is a smooth report by a smooth man and how remote, too, from the terror.

Telegraph - Death on the rock row as No 10 rejects report. Leader says Ministers were ill advised to brand those who asked sceptical questions about the Gibraltar shootings as unpatriotic or disonourable. If the Government is wise it will mute its hostile reaction. All sides have made mistakes. It is time now to let it rest.

PRESS DIGEST

Guardian page 1 lead - Row erupts at "Rock" report. Leader headed "When the umpire gets shot" pours out its bile on the Government and its praise for the programme makers.

Times - Thatcher hits at Death on the Rock as "TV documentary is cleared". Kinnock says the Windlesham report is a telling condemnation of your attitudes. The paper devotes a whole inside page to the report which includes Whitehall fury as criticisms are ignored or glossed over.

Independent page 1 lead - Prime Minister dismisses "Death on the Rock" report; Leader - It is foolish and petty of the Government to turn its campaign of denigration of "Death on the Rock" against Lord Windlesham's report as well.

PRIVACY BILL

Mirror accepts the principle of the Bill but it believes the objective can be achieved voluntarily.

David Owen in Express, says there has never been a worse time to defend the freedom of the press. The freedom of newspaper editors and proprietors is a privilege and right that has to be earned and not conferred in perpetuity. But he wants the press to put its own house in order.

Ferdy Mount, in Telegraph, says the Bill is the wrong way to deal with the issue. Something needs to be done, but this is not it. Leader says newspapers are in the last chance saloon for self-regulation.

Guardian leader wants the Government to give the chairman of the Press Council time to clear up the press's act and to realise that they can either do so or have it cleaned up for them.

CHANCELLOR/BUDGET

Times leader discusses chancellor's Chatham House speech saying predictably the EC did not see it as the useful piece of clarification that he did. A less combative analysis would probably have been no better received. Much of Lawson's analysis is difficult to contest, and as with your "notorious" Bruges speech there will be many in the other EC countries who will quietly applaud the Chancellor's sentiments.

FT - EC rebukes Lawson for attack on economic unity plans. Leader says his remarks may placate you but they cannot obscure the absurdity of UK policy on EMS.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler attends opening of Wakefield Chamber of Commerce; later opens new Astley Training Centre, Huddersfield
- DES: Mr Baker addresses conference of the Society of Education Officers at the Royal Overseas League
- DH: Mr Clarke visits Bealeys Hospital, Bury
- DTI: Mr Newton addresses Leeds Chamber of Commerce annual dinner
- HO: Mr Hurd visits Oxford Fire Service and HM Prison Grendon Underwood; later addresses public meeting on Rural Violence at Tring
- SO: Mr Rifkind opens New Apollo Computer (UK) Ltd Factory, Kirkton Campus, Livingston
- DEM: Mr Cope attends Topping Out ceremony at the Aztec Centre, Bristol
- DEM: Mr Nicholls addresses Plymouth and District Constituencies Group Training Association annual dinner, Yelverton
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses Association of Principals of Sixth Form Colleges at Barclays Halls
- DH: Mr Mellor opens Closereach House, Plymouth
- DSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits headquarters building
- DTI: Mr Maude attends CBI Initiative breakfast, Maidenhead
- HO: Mr Hogg visits Park Lane and Moss Side Special Hospitals
- MOD: Lord Trefgarne opens Royal Ordnance Small Arms Facility, Nottingham
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses launch of Jorvik Viking Festival, York
- SO: Lord James Douglas Hamilton opens Institute of Housing Offices, Edinburgh
- WO: Mr Grist addresses Health debate on Promotion and Prevention of Heart Disease, Cardiff
- WO: Mr Roberts attends promotional lunch for Training and Enterprise Council, Llantrisant.
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Lord Young departs for World Economic Forum, Davos (to 30 January)
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe attends Bilateral with Herr Genscher, German Foreign Minister, Wupertal, Federal Republic of Germany
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DES: Mr Baker appears on BBC2's Forum Programme
- LCD: Lord Chancellor interviewed for Channel 4 series of three programmes on the law - 1st programme broadcast today; later interviewed for profile for Telegraph magazine, by John Mortimer
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TV AND RADIO

- 'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)
- 'Kilroy': BBC1 (9.20)
- 'The Time, The Place': Thames (10.00)
- 'The Idea of Europe': Radio 4 (11.00). 'Unity'. Last of four documentary features examining how the boundaries of Europe came to be established. In 1992 the barriers between the member states of the European Community will come down. But has the early idealism of the founders of the Community dwindled, and how do other parts of the world view West European unity
- 'The Parliament Programme': C4 (12.00)
- 'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)
- 'The World at One': BBC Radio 4 (13.00)
- 'Reagan on Reagan': C4 (14.00). 3. 'Legacy'. Last of 3 part series charting the rise of Ronald Reagan
- 'On Trial': C4 (20.00). 'The Law Business'. First of 3 programmes about the law. The consumer revolution in legal practice, how are lawyers responding to the challenge?
- 'Any Questions?' BBC Radio 4 (20.05) with Jennie Bland, school governor, Gerald Kaufman MP, William Waldegrave MP, Baroness Sear
- 'The World Tonight': BBC Radio 4 (22.30) followed by 'The Financial World Tonight' and 'Today in Parliament'
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