

22 February 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Governor of Hong Kong and Polish Speaker

The Queen attends 150th anniversary meeting and presentation of awards for the Shipwrecked Fishermen and Mariners' Royal Benevolent Society, Fishmongers' Hall, London; later attends a reception at St James's Palace to celebrate the centenary of the birth of Olive Baden-Powell

Prince of Wales visits Venezuela

Lord Chancellor addresses Solicitors All Party Parliamentary Group on Legal Green Papers

TUC General Council, London

World Bank meeting on replenishment of International Development Association, Washington (to February 23)

NUPE, COHSE and NALGO lobby House of Commons re NHS ancillary workers' pay

STATISTICS

DOE: Construction - new orders (Dec)

WO: Index of production and construction - for Wales (3rd Qtr)

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Metropolitan Police Fund Account 1987-88

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Environment; Scotland; Foreign and Commonwealth

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Employment Age Discrimination
Official Secrets Bill: Remaining Stages

Motion on the London Regional Transport (Levy) Order

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

Select Committees:

WELSH AFFAIRS

Subject: The Channel Tunnel:
Implications for Wales

Witness: Mr Michael Portillo, MP
Minister of State, Department of Transport
Minister for Public Transport

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Select Cttees (Cont'd)

DEFENCE

Subject: Appointment and Objectives of
Head of the Defence Export Services
Organisation

Witnesses: Ministry of Defence officials

ENERGY

Subject: The Structure, Regulations and Economic
Consequences of Electricity Supply in the Private
Sector: Report Follow-up

Witness: Mr Malcolm Rifkind, MP
Secretary of State for Scotland

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Higher Police Training and the
Police Staff College

Witness: Police Federation

EUROPEAN LEGISLATION

Subject: Developments in Europe

Witness: Mr Stanley Clinton Davis

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: The Government's Purchasing Initiative;
Northern Ireland Housing Executive Public Liability
Claims; Financial Assistance to Industry; The Efficiency
Criterion

Witnesses: J L Semple, Permanent Secretary,
Department of Finance and Personnel, Northern
Ireland; J Murray, Permanent Secretary, Department of
the Environment, Northern Ireland and W V Blease,
Chief Executive, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Mr A S Hopkins, Chief Executive of Industrial
Development Board for Northern Ireland

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: The Future of the NHS

Witness: Mr David Mellor, MP Minister of State,
Department of Health

TRANSPORT

Subject: Roads for the Future

Witness: British Tourist Authority at
4.15 pm; Somerset County Council at 5.00 pm

Lords: Starred Questions
Debate on the Government White Paper 'Working for Patients'

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Iran orders its envoys home in response to Euro action. Several papers say British Government acted for fear of another hostage crisis.

President Bush joins in condemnation of Iran's threat to Rushdie. Sweden also recalls Ambassador.

Australia, Norway, Brazil and Canada join in show of West's support.

Times says Bush is expected to discuss economic sanctions against Iran when he meets Euro leaders at Hirohito's funeral.

Conservative Euro MPs threaten Lange's lamb exports to EC over his failure to offer support in Rushdie affair (Times).

Foreign Secretary's action in withdrawing our diplomats gets mixed reviews.

Frankfurt goes very quietly in pops; most of quality coverage focusses on failure - as if any resolution was expected - to settle SNF modernisation.

Little coverage of East Midlands memorial service in Belfast.

Army changes rules after Shrewsbury bombing - sentries will now carry loaded rifles (Mail). Independent reports growing pressure for this.

Semtex used in raid - said to come from IRA's Battersea store.

Times leader says that events at camp raise serious questions about security. The Army is rightly conscious of public sensitivities about loaded firearms but the issue of loaded rifles at camps will have to be re-examined. Those who might now deride the practice of carrying unloaded weapons would no doubt complain with equal vigour if an innocent private citizen was shot. The IRA likes to see itself as being at war with the forces of the Crown. Those same forces must be able to respond in kind.

USA to sell \$13million worth of military parts to Argentina - first sales since 1977 - FCO reacts with amazement.

SDP emerges as clear challenger to Conservatives in Richmond.

PRESS DIGEST

British Rail admits it was responsible for the Clapham rail crash and lists a string of errors which contributed to it. Express finds BR's candour commendable and wishes there were more of it among State-run monopolies. Now its duty is to take its criticism of itself to heart.

Greenspan rejects calls to easier monetary policy, despite Federal projection of 4.5-5% inflation which is lower than markets expected.

John Banham will today call for CBI action to fight hostile foreign takeovers.

Long-term unemployed falling rapidly - 513,000 over past 2 years. Mail says it is a real success for Government's strenuous efforts to train the jobless.

600 British Airways airline staff to leave TGWU because they say it does not look after their interests. TGWU takes legal advice over break-away.

NatWest returns record profit of £1,407million.

The average rate rise so far has been 8%. Tory controlled Norfolk shows the highest rise - 14% - and Labour Lancashire the lowest - 4.8%.

Mortgage arrears and evictions fell last year in spite of rise in interest rates.

OFTEL urging British Telecom to pay compensation to parents whose children ran up big chatline bills.

Lord Ackner, senior judge, says Government is deluded with dogma and in a state of hopeless confusion over its proposed legal system reform.

Manchester professor to conduct inquiry into food poisoning.

Animal rights protestors claim they have poisoned supermarket eggs.

Today claims more than 1,000 are dying needlessly each week of heart disease - we spend £500million a year on treatment but only £10million on prevention.

College of Health claims that hospital waiting lists are rising rather than falling, in spite of Government action.

PRESS DIGEST

220 of Britain's holiday beaches fall below EC standards - but proportion passing test has risen from 55 to 67% over 12 months. Telegraph says cleaning up will lead to higher water charges.

A little known organism cryptosporidia has caused over a hundred cases of diarrhoea in the Oxford and Swindon area probably because of contaminated water supply (Independent).

Guardian claims Chunnel could be used to pipe French water to Britain.

The Government has been slow to respond to the danger of heart disease and its policy is inadequate says the National Audit Office in its latest report on the NHS (Independent).

Judge sentences two black Tube muggers who kicked a policeman unconscious to 3 years' imprisonment.

Mail claims police drive against Underground crime cut robbery by 33% in last quarter of 1988.

Number of rapes reported to police has doubled in 6 years - now averaging 50 a week.

Today says thousands of so-called rape alarms would not scare a mouse. But John Patten warns rapists that their chances of getting caught are going to increase rapidly.

Mail describes it as a welcome statement of intent.

A friend of Dr Marietta Higgs admits writing letter, signed by 11 consultants, to win back Dr Higgs' job for her. But there are now signs of a break in ranks of consultants.

David Mellor dismisses claim that Drs Higgs and Wyatt had been 90% correct in their diagnoses as baseless.

Cleveland parents condemn doctors for refusing to meet them.

Sun wants Government to give permanent red card to peers who have wrecked the Football Membership Bill.

Broadcasting Standards Council says broadcasters must avoid use of gratuitous violence on TV.

Max Hastings, Telegraph, named Editor of the Year in Granada awards.

PRESS DIGEST

Sir Alec Merrison dies, aged 64.

New Sadler's Wells goes into voluntary liquidation with debts of over £750,000.

Unpaid rate demands by Embassies in London exceed £1million, with Libya leading debtors with £395,000.

American polls put you ahead of Reagan and Bush in popularity - voted top in USA, Spain and South Africa and second in Japan.

Spain preparing to boot out nine British villains from luxury havens - expected they will escape justice by going to Morocco.

Two members of Winnie Mandela's bodyguard accused of murder of 14 year old boy.

Heroin worth £547million seized in New York's biggest drugs raid.

Bush denies that US has lost Middle East initiative to Soviets. He says he will not be stampeded into producing his own peace proposals (FT).

Telegraph suggests Zheo, general secretary of Chinese communist party, is in trouble over economic reforms.

Czech playwright, Vaclav Havel, jailed for 9 months for incitement and obstructing a public official.

You are due to meet the Hong Kong governor today. Although it is described as "routine", Independent says it was arranged at very short notice and follows the Commons Foreign Affairs Select Committee's decision to investigate whether Britain was honouring its commitment to Hong Kong.

Governor of Hong Kong will seek your backing today for the forcible repatriation of Vietnamese boat people who have fled to colony. He will urge you to give a lead to persuading public opinion in Britain and abroad to accept the principle of compulsion (Times).

Prince Edward to visit Moscow on April 15.

IRAN

Star says "good riddance" to Iran's diplomats' withdrawal from Europe.

PRESS DIGEST

Sun leader headed "Weak and mild" says Foreign Secretary yesterday gave a lesson in appeasement that Chamberlain would have applauded. Britain ought to have led our Euro partners in breaking off diplomatic relations and isolating Iran. This weakness can only encourage the Ayatollah and his assassins.

Today says fears of a new hostage crisis led to the closure of our Tehran mission. FCO warns Britons against travelling to Iran. Leader says that by breaking off diplomatic relations with Iran the Government has done all it can for now. But there ought to be action by the DPP against those in this country who back the Ayatollah's threat.

Express cartoon has you holding up Ayatollah with a gun labelled the Foreign Office, captioned "Another unloaded gun".

Mail says fears of confrontation between Britain and Iran could escalate into a new hostage crisis prompted Government's decision to pull out.

Telegraph - Iran recalls 12 envoys from EC.

Guardian - West closes ranks against Ayatollah.

Independent - Sir Geoffrey Howe demanded a full retraction of the death threat against Salman Rushdie. Kinnock supported the Government in condemning the death threat. You are quoted from West Germany as saying you were grateful to EC foreign ministers for the "strong stand" they had taken by withdrawing their ambassadors from Iran. Such action "shows the value of belonging to a community". Independent adds that the decision to withdraw Britain's charge d'affaires from Iran was taken by Geoffrey Howe after you had told him what to do. He had been caught unawares by the sudden decision by EC foreign ministers to withdraw ambassadors. West Germany was probably hoping to avoid economic sanctions. Leader says the Home Secretary must remind everyone that incitement to commit murder is a crime and warn those committing the offence they will face prosecution.

Independent - The return to radicalism in Iran - as manifested in the Rushdie affair - is undermining the UN sponsored peace talks between Iran and Iraq.

FOOD DEBATE

Ignored by Star, Sun, Mirror and Today. Edward Pearce, in Express, suggests Kinnock turned the tables because of his jokey approach.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail ignores it apart from announcement of Chairman of food poisoning inquiry. Telegraph sketch writer says Kinnock never drove in the knife. His speech contained too many newspaper clippings for its own good.

Guardian - Thatcher blamed for food crisis. Kinnock unable to capitalise on your absence which ensured his speech did not puncture confidence of Government side.

Independent says Kinnock bolstered Labour confidence with a strong Commons attack on food and water safety - accusing the Government of backing producers and shareholders to the detriment of consumer interests. He taunted you for your absence from the debate and said the public had an impression of negligence, confusion and cover-up.

Times leader, discussing the food and health debate in the Commons, says the appointment of Sir Mark Richmond should go a long way to reassure those who doubted how truly independent the inquiry would be. The Richmond Committee has the opportunity to produce a fresh guide for farmers, Civil Servants, politicians and, most of all, the consumer. It should set to work for all.

Times looks at Sir Mark Richmond under the heading "Academic with a taste of criticism".

FRANKFURT

Star, Sun, Mirror and Today ignore meeting.

Express - short piece on page 2 - NATO talks on arms deal fail.

Mail page 10 - Maggie fails to heal the NATO cracks on nuclear weapons.

Telegraph page 1 - Thatcher summit fails to resolve NATO arms crisis. Ends with bland communique, papering over divisions. Another story on same page is headed "Prime Minister finds ally in Bundesbank".

FT - Thatcher talks with Kohl fail to bridge nuclear arms differences. You signal to West Germany that you expect a commitment by NATO in May to introduce new short-range European nuclear missiles in the 1990s.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent - You and Kohl were unable to overcome your profound differences about modernising short-range missiles. But you are quoted as stressing that you both believed in a "strong and sure defence". The meeting overall appeared to have been a success.

Peter Jenkins, in Independent, writes that while you are keen to obtain a firm commitment from the West Germans to replace the Lance missiles you wish to avoid entering new disarmament negotiations with the Soviets over short range missiles not covered by last year's treaty. Chancellor Kohl is torn because of recent electorate defeats.

Guardian - Kohl resists appeal to modernise arms. Britain and West Germany hide rift over nuclear strategy.

You and Chancellor Kohl formed your own "silent alliance" by refusing to answer clearly specific questions on modernisation of NATO's short-range nuclear missiles (Times).

BELFAST

Star page 2 - Maggie's sorrow.

Sun page 9 - Gun guard as Maggie mourns air crash dead.

Mirror page 7 - Maggie mourns.

Express page 2 - Thatcher tribute to M1 victims.

Mail page 2 - Maggie's comfort for M1 mourners.

Telegraph - Back page with picture of a survivor supported by his parents headed "Mrs Thatcher mourns air crash victims".

Guardian - Thatcher dash to Belfast crash service.

Times front page pictures you praying at Belfast memorial service.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler attends Training and Enterprise Councils' luncheon event, Birmingham; in the evening attends the Training and Enterprise Councils' dinner, London
- DEN: Mr Parkinson visits Milton Keynes Energy Park
- HMT: Mr Major attends Alzheimers Disease reception, New Zealand House, London
- LCD: Lord MacKay addresses solicitors all party parliamentary group, on legal professions' Green Papers
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor opens European Agricultural Outlook conference, London
- DEM: Mr Lee presents "Innkeeper of the Year" award at lunch, Guinness Brewery, London NW10
- DH: Mr Mellor visits the Brompton National Heart and Chest Hospital, London
- DH: Mr Freeman receives delegation from representatives of the Marie Curie Memorial Fund charity, London
- DOE: Mr Trippier attends BBA seminar on agreement certification for Single European Market, London
- HO: Mr Patten attends Advisory Council for Race Relations seminar, London
- HO: Mr Hogg visits standing conference on Drug Abuse, London; later visits the Institute for the Supply of Drug Dependents, London
- MAFF: Mr Thompson addresses British Agricultural Marketing Research Association symposium, Solihull
- MOD: Lord Trefgarne attends Skynet media event, Horseguards Parade, London
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses Arts Council Symposium on Ethnic Minority Arts, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe leaves for Japan to attend the funeral of Emperor Hirohito (to 26 February)
- DTI: Mr Atkins visits Hong Kong and Petrochemical Seminar and Trade Promotion, Malaysia (to 2 March)
- SO: Lord Sanderson visits Travel Trade Fair, Munich and Food from Britain Trade Fair, Nuremberg, West Germany (to 25 February)
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TV AND RADIO

"Dispatches": C4 (20.30)

"Vaclav Havel. A Czech Drama": BBC 2 (19.35). A look at the work of the Czech dramatist and his role as founder and spokesman of Charter 77

"Flying Squad": Thames (21.00). The work of the Flying Squad of the Metropolitan Police
