

24 February 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen visits the 6th Queen Elizabeth's own Gurkha Rifles, Church Crookham, Hampshire

The Duke of Edinburgh represents The Queen at funeral of late Emperor Hirohito of Japan, Tokyo

The Princess Royal visits Tasmania, Australia (to February 28)

Home Secretary visits Birmingham Mosque

HMS Campbeltown accepted into service

NATO exercise Wintex begins (to March 9)

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STATISTICS

BSA: Building Society monthly figures (Jan)

CSO: Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (Jan '89)

DTI: Finished steel consumption and stock changes (4th Qtr - prov)

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

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business:

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

Control of Pollution (Amendment) Bill: 2nd Reading. (Ms Joan Ruddock)

Road Safety (Breath Tests) Bill: 2nd Reading. (Mr Home Robertson)

Fire Safety Information Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr Andrew Smith)

Adjournment Debates: The redevelopment of reservoirs (Ms D Abbott)

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

BBC poll of polls puts Conservatives 2 points ahead of Labour - 41/39.

Labour Party wins Pontypridd with reduced majority.

New found confidence in Labour's ability to win the next election has begun to filter from the Shadow Cabinet writes Anthony Bevins in Independent. The higher reaches of the Party believe that Mr Kinnock has done a far better job than his post-war predecessors. It is also possible that on your 10th anniversary Bernard Ingham and the party will go over the top. Frank Dobson jokes that Labour should issue a piece of Labour propaganda - "Not the Coronation".

Joe Rogaly, in FT, is not impressed with the argument that the Government is in trouble.

Chancellor makes clear high mortgage rates will remain until inflation has been turned. Sterling stages recovery.

Hirohito funeral sparks off more wartime reminiscences of Japanese brutality.

Home Secretary will today warn British Muslims to obey the law or face jail in speech in Birmingham's Central Mosque. He will tell Asians to respect our customs. Express says he will tell Asians to behave like British or don't live here.

Sun feature says life in Khomeini's hell hole is a fate worse than death.

Rushdie tells Observer he is holding up well in hiding.

Cabinet seeks international support for Government's diplomatic action against Iran.

Shevardnadze to meet Ayatollah tomorrow and you have asked him to intervene in Rushdie affair, according to Mail.

Guardian says Foreign Secretary's life has been threatened; security tightened in Tokyo.

Times leader on Hirohito's funeral thinks that your absence (in the light of George Bush's presence) might have sent the wrong signals about how seriously the UK takes Japan.

PRESS DIGEST

Group holding Western hostages in Beirut threaten revenge against institutions and organisations accused of insulting Islam. More tough statements by Iranian Ministers suggest that row over Rushdie's book has not yet reached its peak (Times).

Animal Rights extremists who bombed Bristol University Senate House warn they could kill someone next. Mail says Special Branch are hunting 20 extremists.

West Mercia Police begin inquiry into nurse's claim that she phoned them about Tern Hill blast 20 minutes before army (Times).

Up to 1 in 3 of the 6,000 farming and food scientists face unemployment and many food safety research projects could be closed because of cuts in Government funding, claims Farmers Weekly (Times).

Chairman of Northern Regional Health Authority attacks irresponsible behaviour of 11 paediatricians in claiming perhaps 90% of Cleveland sex case children had been abused.

Mail leader describes consultants' letter as a blinkered abuse of medical authority.

Kenneth Clarke says the 11 child care specialists were extremely unwise and irresponsible with their comments about child sex abuse cases in Cleveland (Times). Times leader says the paediatricians' intervention was not only misguided, it was less than wholly frank. It doubts whether they have done much to help Dr Higgs. If there is new evidence to back up the claims, it has not been produced. What is certain is that it has caused still more distress for the parents and children involved in the Cleveland affair.

FT leader on Chatlines argues that Oftel needs to stand firm against public pressure to intervene in the role of censor. Its interpretation of the public interest should be based firmly on the economic and technical issues involved, not on subjective judgements about the social value of chatlines.

Relatives of Lockerbie victims have received evidence from the West Germans and Americans to support their attack on the Department of Transport.

Crew of British Midland aircraft at Kegworth disaster to blame, according to Today, reporting Air Accident's branch report. But Guardian says the report is delayed because of disagreements.

PRESS DIGEST

CBI, fighting absenteeism, suggests pay should be linked to attendance at work.

Valuation of water industry could be reduced by £500million when it is privatised in November because of moves to change accounting procedures, according to stockbrokers Hoare Govett (FT).

Express says pressure for Sunday shopping is growing.

Bosch company of West Germany considers South Wales site for £100million automotive components factory (FT).

UK motor industry's trade deficit jumped by 53% to a record £6.11billion last year, after a dramatic rise in value of car imports, according to Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders. Motor industry alone accounted for 30% of UK's total visible trade deficit last year (FT).

Jack report on banking calls on bankers to come clean with customers on charges and to do better in dealing with complaints and protecting customers from fraud.

Today leader says gimmicks are no substitute for open, honest dealing on which banks made their reputations. Express says banks should accept a new code of practice.

CPSA launches inquiry into 32% poll which rejected YTS employees in Civil Service.

Government intends to impose radical new pay deal on 32,000 GPs linked to their ability to attract patients and reach targets in preventive care. Plans will face intense opposition but Kenneth Clarke evidently prepared to take on the medical profession (Times).

Government to reduce junior doctors' hours to 72 a week (Mail).

Dons union fails to agree on course of action to end university teachers pay dispute (Times).

Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry make urgent plea to Government to close loopholes which allow faked medicines into country (Times).

Kidney transplant surgeons are calling for an expansion of the live donor transplantation programme to help meet a shortage of cadaver kidneys (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Met Office scientist says better home insulation would reduce Britain's contribution to global warming (Times).

More worries about rats invading cities.

Telegraph says an anti litter package of measures, including on the spot fines, is being drawn up by the Department of the Environment.

Teenage NatWest bank clerk fiddled £1million out of bank to fund spree.

Terry Dicks MP at centre of race row: he is reported by the Tatler as saying "if [blacks] want to go back to Africa then we can give them some ladders and they can climb up the trees if they want to".

Law Lords find Birmingham guilty of sex discrimination for failing to provide equal opportunities for girls at grammar schools - a judgement which will have far-reaching implications (Mail).

Government plans to deregulate child care for over 5s could endanger their welfare says Equal Opportunities Commission.

Ealing, Labour controlled, approves 31% rates increase; Kinnock faces £200 rise.

Hammersmith Council faces £300,000 a year bill for housing a family expelled from Belfast Divis flats by IRA.

ITN in trouble with MPs for using expletive deleted extract of Speaker's remarks.

Sun attacks Broadcasting Standards Council for being a prissy, meddling, universal nanny over its rules on sex and violence on TV.

John Whitney, Director General, IBA, resigns to run Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group.

MPs considering satellite broadcasting of Parliament.

Douglas Hurd says Government prepared to re-examine its controversial proposals for tendering for ITV franchises (Times).

New RUC Chief Constable is Dublin-born Protestant Assistant Commissioner of the Met.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail sketchwriter savours your devastation of Simon Hughes and says you saw off the new succinct Kinnock without much difficulty. Telegraph sees Simon Hughes as a sacrificial lamb.

US Senate Committee rejects John Tower as Defence Secretary.

Bangemann hints that EC might be prepared to accept introduction of spot checks at frontier posts in an attempt to win you over (Times).

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses CBI Training Survey presentation lunch, Botanical Gardens, Birmingham
- DH: Mr Clarke launches Trent nurse education personal service package
- LCD: Lord MacKay visits courts in Newcastle area; later gives Earl Grey lecture at Newcastle University
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor attends National Farmers Union "1992 Forum", Norfolk
- DOE: Mr Trippier visits Macclesfield and attends Chamber of Commerce housing partnership meeting
- DTI: Mr Maude addresses Institute of Marketing, Birmingham on "Beyond 1992"
- DTp: Lord Brabazon visits Southampton Merchant Navy Training College and Airport, Southampton
- HO: Mr Hogg visits HM Prison, Durham and Low Newton Remand Centre, Co. Durham
- HO: Mr Patten attends seminar on the Carlisle report, Oxford
- MAFF: Mr Thompson opens extension to Parkam Foods, Yorkshire
- SO: Lord James Douglas-Hamilton addresses Institute for Local Government seminar on The Future of Local Government, King James Hotel, Edinburgh
- WO: Mr Roberts visits British Steel Workshops, Cardiff; later visits Pen-Y-Waun junior school and Treochy comprehensive school
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DH: Mr Clarke interviewed on John Simon's Show, Radio Nottingham
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TV AND RADIO

"Analysis": Radio 4 (11.00). Disarming Tactics. How should NATO respond to Soviet claims of arms cuts

"Next Left": C4 (20.00). Second in a four part series on the future of European socialism

"Any Questions?": BBC Radio 4 (20.05) With Robin Cook MP, Marion Roe MP, Lady Antonia Fraser and Michael Ignatiess, philosopher and broadcaster

"Street Kids": BBC 1 (22.10). The plight of teenagers sleeping out in London with a look at the new income support laws

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