

1 March 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister hosts lunch for President Vassiliou (photocall)

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh give reception, on board HMS Britannia in the Pool of London, for the winners of the Queens Awards for Export and Technology (and 2 March)

The Duchess of York attends premiere of "Return from the River Kwai", Odeon Cinema, London

STATISTICS

BoE: London sterling certificates of deposit (Jan)

BoE: Bill turnover statistics (Jan)

BoE: UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (Jan)

BoE: Sterling commercial paper (Jan)

DEn: Advance energy statistics (Jan)

DTI/CSO: Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (Jan)

PUBLICATIONS

House of Commons Agriculture Committee report on Salmonella in Eggs

House of Commons Defence Committee report on the future of the Gurkhas

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Scotland; Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Trade and Industry

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Scotland (Mr John McAllion)
Debate on Welsh Affairs on a Motion for the Adjournment

Adjournment Debates: Competition Policy (Mr N Winterton)

Select Committees: FOREIGN AFFAIRS
Subject: Funding for Overseas Students
Witness: Officials from the FCO and the ODA

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees:PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR
ADMINISTRATION

Subject: Health Service Commissioner's Report
Witnesses: Walsall Health Authority; (at 11.15 am)
Forth Valley Health Board

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Privatisation of Girobank
Witnesses: Sir Bryan Nicholson, Chairman, Mr K M
Young, Vice-Chairman, and Mr P E Sellers, The Post
Office; Mr G M Williamson, Girobank

DEFENCE

Subject: Appointment and Objectives of Head of the
Defence Export Services
Witnesses: (at 10.50 am) Sir Colin Chandler, Head of
Defence Export Services; (at about 11.30 am) Mr Alan
Thomas, Head of Defence Export Services Designate

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Higher Police Training and the Police Staff
College
Witnesses: Mr Roger Birch, CBE, QPM, Chief Constable
of Sussex Police and Mr Dennis Williams, Police
Extended Interviews, Home Office

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Sports Council
Witness: Sir Terence Heiser, KCB
Permanent Secretary, Department of the Environment

TRANSPORT

Subject: Roads for the Future
Witnesses: (at 4.15 pm) Mr C Buckmaster; (at 5.00 pm)
BACMI (British Aggregate Construction Materials
Industries)

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE BILLS

British Rail (Penalty Fares) [Lords] London Regional
Transport (Penalty Fares [Lords])
Wesleyan Assurance Society

Lords: Starred Questions

Debate to call attention to the need for a coherent policy for food
production which will give assurance to consumers about quality and
safety and allow them more say in determining food policy

UQ to ask HMG whether it is their considered view that they
"profoundly disagree" with the Report of Lord Windlesham and Mr
Richard Rampton QC on the Thames Television programme "Death on
the Rock"

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Fear of a further rise in interest rates today after trade figures are disclosed.

Times says trade figures are unlikely to provide the trigger for a rise in interest rates.

Sterling had a slightly more confident tone on the foreign exchange yesterday (FT).

Sun leader blames Ted Heath (for taking us into the EC) for £1billion a month trade deficit.

You foreshadow a tough Budget in Commons exchanges.

Labour Party has launched detailed attack on the Government's tax policy. Gordon Brown is writing to the Chancellor to demand the closure of tax 'loopholes' (FT).

Roy Hattersley rejects Owen's overtures for a general election pact - "Tories", he says, "are not going to be beaten by arrangements, contrivances, accommodations, half-hearted alliances and partnerships which are based on nothing more than a desire for power".

David Owen likely to trump Paddy Ashdown's offer of by-election pact by allowing the Democrats a free run in the Vale of Glamorgan by-election.

Tony Bevin, in Independent, on the growing belief that the elective dictatorship has arrived.

Russian offer to help in problem with Iran over Rushdie welcomed by Government who remain unmoved by Iran's 7-day ultimatum.

You attack listeria hysteria in letter to Robert Adley.

Sir John Hoskyns attacks EC "fraud, corruption and bureaucratic dishonesty" and suggests 1992 is shaping up for a complete fiasco.

Lord Young says he is puzzled by the speech and regards it as a publicity gimmick.

Lord Plumb resigns from Institute of Directors because of this attack.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail leader says few will disagree with Hoskyns for condemning CAP as a massive fraud but he is misguided to urge that until blemishes are removed progress to 1992 should be halted.

Tesco managing director says 1992 will bring dearer, lower quality food with less choice because of EC "compromise culture".

Today suggests Hammersmith Council could lose £120million and face two-fold increase in rates because of financial deals which have gone wrong.

Council says it cannot meet its debts because NAO and Nicholas Ridley won't let it; Environment Secretary refuses to sanction repayments while there is the possibility of court action.

Independent says that some authorities feel strapped for cash provides no moral justification for speculation with money provided by ratepayers or central Government.

Airlines face up to £500million bill to make 1,300 ageing jets safer; British Airways says it has no old jets.

NUM to get 7.5% pay rise backdated to November in 2 year pay and conditions package - imposed for third time in succession.

Nightworkers at Jaguar have voted for a management pay offer. 9,000 manual workers will vote today.

Guardian says EC have worked out a tactic to force 44-tonne juggernauts on to British roads - Ministers will argue our ban is a hindrance to free trade.

British Rail to launch conter-attack against Government plans to split up BR's network - claiming it will leave rail travellers and the taxpayer worse off (Independent).

Times leader discusses the sale of Short Brothers saying to the extent that the problems of Northern Ireland reflect an outdated industrial structure, inefficient state-industry and high unemployment they will best be tackled with the same policies which have been successfully applied in Great Britain. It adds the point of privatisation is to expose productive capability more completely to market forces. That has to include a possible restructuring.

You warn price of water will go up, privatised or not, to improve quality - you are apparently prepared to take the lead in persuading voters a sell-off has merits.

PRESS DIGEST

West Kent water authority is raising its charges by 42% and blaming privatisation.

Alastair Morton, co-chairman of Eurotunnel, warns Government that privatisation could not provide the answer to the country's infrastructure problems (Times).

The co-chairman of Eurotunnel has called for a revision of 'ossified Treasury attitudes to investment' and urges involvement in infrastructure funding at the IOD conference (FT).

HMI says school system faces collapse unless enough high quality teachers are employed. Kenneth Baker denies there is a crisis.

Teachers marked generally satisfactory.

NUT says report is a "damning indictment of the Government's inaction and complacency".

Telegraph leader finds the HMI report gloomy and says that it would be pointless to shower teachers with money because far too many - whether through shallow ideology or lack of ability - would not begin to provide value in return.

Guardian leader says the report puts Kenneth Baker near the bottom of the class.

Government eases benefit trap for 20,000 widows following test case.

Drug smuggler ordered to pay back £1.7million of his ill gotten gains or face another 10 years in prison. Sun applauds Judge's touch approach.

Britain's environment is in safe hands will be Nicholas Ridley's message this morning when he launches a series of pamphlets celebrating the Government's "green" record (Independent).

Friends of the Earth want a Cabinet Minister for the Environment.

Leading Greenpeace official quits to form his own organisation, Greenwave, to concentrate on British environmental problems.

Greenpeace claims Britain is leading exporter of CFCs.

PRESS DIGEST

Friends of the Earth say Government's environment record is very poor and publish 55 instances of it failing to protect its best interests from dumping sewage sludge into North Sea to allowing hundreds of wildlife sites to be damaged or destroyed (Times).

90% of rivers in England and Wales are classified good or fair. Government believes some EC directives on drinking water make little sense and would cost £4billion to accommodate (Independent).

But leaked extracts from the first annual report of Pollution Inspectorate show that under-investment and under-manning in sewage works are a major cause of river pollution (Independent). Claims report has been suppressed and altered.

National Steering Committee for Nuclear Free local authorities says Britain's nuclear disaster plans are among the worst in the world.

High Court has held that chatlines should remain suspended in the public interest (Independent).

BBC conducting inquiry into how it came to pay £3,500 fee to prisoner on run.

Express says BBC must have one simple rule: No cash for crooks.

Advertisers complain that ITV are not making programmes to attract younger and wealthier viewers (Times).

Sunday Correspondent raises £16.5million launch money and plans autumn publication.

Plans by Hereford Cathedral to sell Mappa Mundi dropped.

Nicholas Ridley jostled by mob at LSE when he goes to speak to Young Conservatives.

Mail says Tory MPs concerned lest you make Lord Young Defence Secretary; they want you to keep George Younger.

Today criticises Prince of Wales for taking foolhardy risks on skiing off piste in Switzerland.

Sun leader says Viraj Mendis, now living the good life in Sri Lanka, made mugs of British clergy.

Head of Vatican Bank, Archbishop Marcinkus, removed.

PRESS DIGEST

Three months of tough negotiations face NATO officials in trying to draw up comprehensive concepts on security and arms control before heads of Governments meet in Brussels in May (Times).

Discussions on their nuclear deterrent forces suggest that Britain and France's doctrinal gulf is less than supposed (FT).

Lynda Chalker hits back at call by British Council of Churches for economic sanctions against South Africa (Times).

Winnie Mandela alleged to have beaten 14 year old black boy later found dead and to have whipped 3 other blacks at her home.

US considering asking whether we would supply tritium for its nuclear weapons (Independent).

Peter Riddell, in FT, says Bush's Asia trip cemented old friendships but achieved little more.

Shamir refuses to see William Waldegrave; prefers to deal with you.

Amnesty International claim Iraq has tortured and killed children for years (Independent).

Scores reported Killed in Venezuelan riots over price rises caused by IMF programme.

HAMMERSMITH COUNCIL

Today leader says the Council has been dabbling in deep and dangerous financial waters. Councillors should be made to repay any money they lose in swap options.

Express leader says the council seems to think it has done nothing questionable. But a council is not a commercial enterprise and should at all costs seek to minimise the risks to its captive ratepayers' money. If swaps are not illegal they should be made so.

WEDNESDAY 1 MARCH 1989 (Cont'd)
MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEN: Mr Parkinson addresses Industrialists and Businessmen's breakfast sponsored by South Wales Electricity Board, Cardiff
- DH: Mr Clarke meets RHA Chairman; later meets the TUC Health Committee, London
- DOE: Mr Ridley, Lord Caithness and Mrs Bottomley attend launch of environmental leaflets, QEII Conference Centre, London
- DTI: Lord Young, Mr Maude and Mr Luce launch Government and Business campaign, London; Lord Young later attends Queens Awards reception, HMS Britannia
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor attends Federation of Agriculture Co-operative annual luncheon, London
- WO: Mr Walker hosts and Mr Grist attends St David's Day lunch, Guydyr House; Mr Grist later attends launch of Environment in Trust leaflets, London
- DEM: Mr Lee attends launch of renovated Regency Hotel, Queens Gate, London; later visits Bury St Edmunds
- DES: Mr Jackson launches the Responsive College Programme at Stationers Hall, Ave Marie Lane, London EC4; Mr Cope (DEM) attends
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits schools in Hampshire
- DH: Mr Mellor launches "Card Care" system trial, Exeter
- DH: Mr Freeman visits York University
- DOE: Mr Trippier visits Cornwall and attends official opening of Barncosse Industrial Estate, Cornwall on housing
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley attends unleaded petrol presentation with Shell, London
- DTp: Mr Bottomley launches draft regulations for rear seat belts for children, London
- DTp: Mr Portillo attends launch of London Buses Ltd's Midibus, London
- HO: Mr Hogg visits Lowdham Grange Young Offenders Institution, Lowdham, Notts
- HO: Mr Patten visits Mid-Glamorgan Probation Service, Cardiff
- MAFF: Mr Thomas addresses Animal Health Distributors Association conference, Warwickshire
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses press launch of London Mozart Players, Croydon
- ODA: Mr Patten addresses Timber Trade Federation dinner, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

MOD: Mr Hamilton visits British Forces, Germany (to 3 March)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

MAFF: Mr Macgregor interviewed by Andrew Collier, Political Editor of the Scottish Sun; later interviewed by BBC TV "Countryfile" programme on Set Aside scheme

TV AND RADIO

'Dispatches': C4 (20.30)

'The Carers': C4 (13.00) Linked to Open College; looks at problems facing care assistants and home helpers

'QED' BBC 1 (21.30) Specialist nurses at Brompton Hospital's paediatric intensive care unit work round the clock to save a life
