

10 March 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister visits North East and North West

Training and Enterprise Councils launched in North East

International Environment Conference, The Hague

STATISTICS

BSC/BISPA: Usable steel production (Feb)

CSO: UK Balance of payments (4th qtr)

DOE: Construction output (4th qtr)

HO: Crime statistics for the Metropolitan Police District by Ethnic Group
1987: Victims, suspects and those arrested

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS MOTIONS
Mr Graham Riddick - Lawlessness
Audrey Wise - Proposed Abolition of Wages Councils
Mr Neil Thorne - GEC/SIEMENS Bid for Plessey

Adjournment Debates: Rate Support Grant and Derbyshire County Council (Mr
D Skinner)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

You make clear Budget's top priority will be fight against inflation.

Mail says a neutral Budget is on the way; strong evidence from retail trade tough interest rates are working.

Telegraph says you carefully avoided raising expectation of tax cuts in your speech last night.

Sarah Hogg says that none of the Chancellor's Budgets was devised against so bleak a background. The Budget must be judged on the discretion of his short-term decisions and coherence of medium-term strategy (Independent).

Express City writer says you share blame for rise in inflation.

You also make clear there will be no public money for Chunnel Link - travellers will pay for project and environmental protection.

Companies bidding to finance and built the Channel Tunnel rail link say BR has substantially under-estimated the cost of the project, by as much as £4billion (FT).

FT leader, headed "A railway muddle", argues that Government has not yet come to terms with the domestic infrastructure consequences of its decision to co-operate with France on a fixed Channel link. The Government should take an overall view of the costs and benefits of such projects and make a firm decision about whether to proceed.

Nine Iranian Embassy workers considered to be a security threat have been told to leave Britain voluntarily or face deportation.

Reports that an Iranian death squad is in Britain to kill Rushdie.

Two big drugs hauls - and two gangs smashed - by Customs officers and police; 15 arrests, £70million haul.

Today says SAS has been sent into Northern Ireland bandit country to wipe out IRA.

Newspapers print poem left by 24 year old soldier, one of two killed in latest IRA attack.

4 dead and 12 injured in two crashes which blocked the M6 in Cheshire.

PRESS DIGEST

British Medical Journal accuses Government of trying to steam through NHS Review like gang demanding money at knifepoint.

Kenneth Clarke tells GPs: "I wish the more suspicious our GPs would stop feeling nervously for their wallets every time I mention reforms".

Independent profile of GP who has threatened to resign because she says the new NHS plans are too rigid and won't work. Kenneth Clarke says that unexpected progress has been made with doctors' leaders over a new contract.

Mail says Ministers must cultivate a less abrasive bedside manner.

Meanwhile the D/Health Ministerial team wear red noses for Comic Relief Day.

Prescription charges go up 7% (20p) to £2.80.

House of Lords report attacks scandal of fraud in EC and lack of political will to correct it.

Independent says you and Delors are set for a head on clash in Madrid over EC fraud; Delors does not want it to go to summit on grounds it would be too technical and not of sufficient political importance.

Sir Leon Brittan, in speech today, will threaten to cut subsidies to EC companies (FT).

Extra £500million pledged for campaign in inner cities.

Express says you honoured a promise yesterday to Teesside with more of 600 MOD quality controllers from Woolwich.

FT previews your visit to UDC projects on Tyneside, but ignores your speech last night.

Families of Lockerbie passengers offered £58,000 compensation by Pan Am's insurers.

Nicholas Ridley will shortly give his response to BNFL's request to investigate suitability of Sallafield as site of a nuclear waste dump (FT).

West German aerospace giant has been added to the final list of bidders for Short Bros.

PRESS DIGEST

British Coal Pension Fund to sell property in USA worth £580million, including Watergate building.

Politics

Trevor Kavanagh, in Sun, says you are ready to move Chancellor, Foreign Secretary and Home Secretary. You are determined to promote new faces.

Chris Buckland, in Today, urges you to get rid of Nicholas Ridley and Michael Howard and promote Michael Forsyth, Michael Fallon and Michael Portillo.

Joe Haines, in Mirror, thinks you are beginning to make mistakes; George Gale, in Mail, says lately you have been stumbling far too much for your own and the country's good.

Joe Rogaly, in FT, writes about the environment and concludes that you proclaim a noble vision of the need to protect the future at the same time as obeying a narrow politician's sense of how little it would be prudent to do about it.

Independent says Conservative MPs have taken you at your word that water privatisation has not been handled well. Many are now convinced that the Government is in a pit of its own digging. The Bill has however returned to the floor wholly unscathed by the turmoil.

Legislative Programme

Telegraph says Lord Mackay secured only a provisional place for reform of legal profession.

Times says quality of life will be emphasised in the programme; Ministers want to switch the emphasis from setting the people free to quality of life.

FT says Cabinet agreed, among other things, legislation to implement NHS reforms and deregulate broadcasting forming the centrepiece.

Head of BR Civil Engineering Department in Scotland one of ten employees reported in connection with bribery and corruption.

Magistrates' Assn produces a guide to sentencing to try to secure more uniform decisions.

PRESS DIGEST

You are expected to seek ways of stopping the lecturers' exam boycott when you meet Vice-Chancellors on Monday.

British scientists on the verge of discovering the gene responsible for cystic fibrosis.

Blackburn is the third council to halt payments on money market deals because of doubts about legality.

Old soldier ends his fast in Wales in protest against Duke of Edinburgh going to Hirohito's funeral.

Senate refuses to confirm John Tower as Defence Secretary; he retires to private life. Blow for Bush.

Your dislike of creepy crawly things picked up from interview with police magazine.

Solidarity says Poland is embarking on the road to democracy: Government and opposition agree on major political changes.

P W Botha to resume office on March 15.

The Head of the Broederbond met Soviet officials this week at a discreet British-sponsored conference to discuss the future of Southern Africa.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr Baker visits the DES stand at the Ideal Home Exhibition
- DH: Mr Clarke visits Asthma Society Training Centre, Stratford upon Avon
- DSS: Mr Moore addresses Westminster and City Programmes conference on "Pensions", Grosvenor Square, London
- DTp: Mr Channon visits Leeds
- DEM: Mr Cope addresses National Council for Vocational Qualifications national conference, QEII Conference Centre, London; later visits Women's Enterprise Centre in Bristol and addresses Busiline Club (small business organisation), Bristol
- DH: Mr Freeman visits Resource Management Pilot Site, Huddersfield
- DOE: Mr Gummer receives delegation re rating of stud farms
- DOE: Mr Chope performs opening ceremony of the "New Homes in Docklands" exhibition
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley launches Tyne and Wear lead free petrol week
- DOE: Lord Hesketh visits Southampton Ordnance Survey
- DTI: Mr Clark meets Mr Paulo Tasso Fleeha de Lima, Secretary General of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brazil
- DTp: Mr Bottomley opens Association of County Councils' Development Finance seminar, London
- DTp: Lord Brabazon attends Institute of Marine Engineers' annual dinner, Grosvenor House, London
- HO: Mr Hogg visits HM Prison Ranby, near Radford, Notts
- MAFF: Mr Thompson attends 1992 Club conference, Yorkshire
- SO: Lord Sanderson addresses Scottish National Farmers Union, Skean Dhu Dyce Hotel, Aberdeen
- WO: Mr Roberts attends promotional event for employment training, Swansea
- WO: Mr Grist performs opening ceremony at new BUPA hospital, Cardiff

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- ODA: Mr Patten visits Japan (to 14 March)
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TV AND RADIO

'Analysis': Radio 4 (11.00) What does new climate in USSR offer other countries in Eastern Europe?

'Any Questions?': BBC Radio 4 (20.05) With Geoffrey Robertson, Lord Prior, Frances Morrell, John Elliott

'The London Programme Special' LWT (22.40) London is being strangled by congestion
