

PRIME MINISTER

20 March 1989

MAIN EVENTS

EC: EC/EFTA Informal Ministerial Meeting, Brussels (to 21 March)

EC: Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels (to 21 March)

EC: Agriculture Council, Brussels (to 21 March)

DSS: Local Office Computerisation Project goes live in Kilmarnock Integrated Local Office

---

STATISTICS

BoE: Provisional estimates of monetary aggregates (Feb)

CLSB: London and Scottish banks monthly statement (Feb)

DTI/  
HMSO: Overseas trade statistics (Jan '89)

HO: Breath Tests in England and Wales (1987 and first three quarters of 1988)

MAFF: Food facts (4th Qtr)

---

PUBLICATIONS

DES: HMI Report on Personal and Social Education

---

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Wales; Energy; Social Security

Business: Conclusion of the Budget Debate  
Supplementary Money Resolution relating to the Water Bill  
Motion relating to the Education (Grants)(Grant-Maintained Schools Limited) Regulations

Adjournment Debates: Cot deaths (Miss J Lestor)

Select Committees:

ENVIRONMENT  
Subject: British Waterways Board  
Witness: Inland Waterways Association

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Lords: Starred Questions  
Companies Bill (HL): Report (1st Day)  
Civil Legal Aid (Matrimonial Proceedings) Regulations 1989 )Motions  
Legal Aid (Functions) Order 1989 ) for  
Legal Advice and Assistance (Scope) Regulations 1989 ) Approval

---

MINISTERS - See Annex

---

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Opposition parties try to pile the pressure on Paul Channon to make a further statement to Commons on Lockerbie disaster after "disclosure" that a warning letter was not sent out until after disaster. December 19 letter not sent until New Year, three weeks after Lockerbie, Express claims.

Robert McCrindle MP adds his voice to call for an inquiry. Mail feature on "perilous chaos" of air security with "an army of people taking decisions but no-one in command.

Mirror leads with "Come clean Channon", who is "fighting for his political life". MPs want him to name Government mole who wrongly claimed police had tracked down Pan Am bombers.

Mirror feature mentions "extraordinary advice" of D/Transport that suspect packages should be put in hold.

Pamella Bordes: Sun says MI5 are expected to brief you today in claims that she wined and dined with a Cabinet Minister.

Showbiz agent claiming, according to Mirror, that Bordes could command £1million to make a movie of her life. Today asks Cabinet Ministers whether they knew her.

Express claims Cabinet will back a Select Committee investigation into access to Commons.

Mail reports on the shame and suffering of Bordes' family back in India.

Kinnock to make policy speech this evening and, according to Mirror, explain how Labour would do better at running the economy.

John Biffen says you have put forward too many contentious issues too fast.

Public confidence in the Government's handling of the economy, traditionally the central plank of Conservative electoral appeal, has fallen dramatically according to MORI poll (Times).

Express leader says you have come out with the right response - fighting - to slide in opinion polls. It prints a Norman Tebbit feature who says your Scarborough speech was good news for the Government, party and country - you showed no sign of backtracking.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph leader says a real resurgence of Labour based on political amnesia on disgruntlement with Government would be a national disaster. Kinnock's vocation in life is to entertain. The idea of him or his party in Government is a very bad joke indeed.

Government to be questioned this week about allegations that big commissions were paid in setting up a £500million agreement with Jordan for purchase of 8 Tornado jet fighters (Times).

Inland Revenue inspectors examine documents from British United Industrialists funding the Tories before the 1987 election (Independent).

Withdrawals from National Savings last month exceeded new deposits by more than £231million (FT).

City economists are nervous about the outlook for inflation and pessimistic about early cut in interest rates (FT).

Business growth lifts demand for premises in the Home Counties (FT).

EC likely to back British Government's plans for £390million bridging loan to Short Brothers this week, paving the way for the aerospace group's sale (FT), probably by the end of June.

Three private sector groups want to help finance Chunnel rail link (Guardian).

Management buy out of British Coal being examined - want £3.5billion borrowing deficit written off first.

Nicholas Ridley creates further confusion over water charges by claiming that privatisation would bring prices down (Independent).

Nicholas Ridley will penalise water firms imposing excessive charges increases this year if they try it on next year.

Shire Councils' average rate increase is 7.4%.

Consumers' Association says 66% of people are against water privatisation.

DPP condemns Bar Council for unfair and inaccurate claims in advertisement which stated the increased use of the Crown Prosecution Service in jury trials means criminals stand a better chance of getting off (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Times - Traffic experts warn that traffic is beginning to strangle London and Monday morning is most likely time for superjams to develop; leader says the Times is to conduct its own survey today and whatever the study comes up with the Government at some stage will have to consider restrictions on private vehicles in central London.

London's 15,000 black-cab drivers preparing for battle with Government over proposals which could lead to licensed mini-cabs plying for business on the capital's increasingly choked streets (Times).

Sun calls University lecturers "stinking hypocrites" for imposing exam boycott.

University Vice-Chancellors to discuss emergency measures for fear of legal action over the exam boycott by lecturers (Independent).

Tory MPs demanding tougher legislation to protect free speech at universities and polytechnics after report claims that existing laws are being flouted by college authorities (Times).

Kenneth Baker confirms Government plans to legislate against a closed shop by the National Union of Students (Independent).

Sun says Ron Todd could be expelled from TUC for poaching members of another union.

NUR recommending rejection of BR's 6.7% pay offer.

Select Committee to call for a big shake up of air traffic control system, including second runway at Gatwick and more night flights at Heathrow.

Guild of Air Traffic controllers say CAA's new training and recruitment policy is not attracting enough candidates and warns of another summer of air traffic chaos (Independent).

ITN has lost 2million viewers to Aussie soap programme "Neighbours".

Death on the Rock, Tumbledown and A Very British Coup win BAFTA awards.

Terry Dicks MP says those who chose these programmes for awards are "lower than a snake's belly".

PRESS DIGEST

Lord Windlesham to be principal of Brasenose College, Oxford (Times).

IBA prepared to accept friendly takeovers of ITV companies before their present franchise runs out at the end of 1992 (FT).

Government to abandon proposals preventing owners of Cable TV networks from selling programme services direct to the consumer (FT).

Sun leader attacks Douglas Hurd for being swayed by "bleeding hearts brigade" and costing taxpayer £1million with unsuccessful Carl Bridgewater murder appeal.

Sheffield gang attacks Pakistani homes and daubs them and mosque with racist slogans, apparently in support of Rushdie.

Seventh victim of police rushing to crime dies in Teesside; woman police inspector involved.

Mail says extension of Neighbourhood Watch into Community Volunteer patrols is being considered by Government.

Sun says Labour Party is planning new laws to protect homosexuals - will make discrimination against them a criminal offence; one of 200 policy proposals awaiting endorsement. Express says all this work put him under fire from all sides of his party.

Radical proposals to restructure TUC's governing general council likely to be attacked by leaders of large left-wing unions (FT).

John Moore rejects Labour's claim that Government has reduced the number of people eligible for Family Credit (FT).

Anthony Beaumont-Dark MP critical of alleged plan by British Army to replace Landrovers with Japanese jeeps.

Fears of a "Chernobyl style disaster" in Channel after loss of container holding toxic chemical Lindane - a pesticide.

Claims that the foundations of housing estates built in Northern Ireland are riddled with tunnels and hides.

Express leader says we all have a part to play in the clean up of litter.

Nicholas Ridley says tough new anti-litter legislation is being planned to force local authorities to clean up their act (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Nearly £1million raised by War on Want has not reached Ethiopia famine victims after 3 years; management to be called to account this week.

Harry Ewing MP to retire at next election.

Thousands of supporters demonstrate in Moscow in support of Yeltsin.

Three journalists killed in election violence in El Salvador won by far Right.

Bill Deedes, in Telegraph, says tabloids have it in for the Duke and Duchess of York and this is bullying by cowards who know they cannot be hit back.

BORDES AFFAIR

Sun leader calls on you to "give us the facts". Unthinkable Government could be toppled by her lurid allegations for there is not one shred of evidence so far to support her claims of dining with a Cabinet Minister, sleeping with a friend of the Queen and meeting Gaddafi. But it is time Government did something right for a change; country cannot afford to have you stay silent.

Today leads with "Pamella and the Cabinet" - demands grow for Parliamentary inquiry into identity of Cabinet Minister linked with Bordes. Frank Dobson says that if there is a Libyan connection there must be an inquiry. Leader headed "Heal scandal of Pamella" says the affair started off as being a bit of a hoot. Now she has been linked to Libyan terrorism. You should remember Profumo affair started off as a week of tittle tattle and then escalated until it threatened the whole Government. There must be no cover up.

Express records she is involved in Al Fayeds, Irangate and Khashoggi. It says Bordes denied from her hideaway that she had been a security risk. Leader on the unexpected and sinister appearance of a Libyan in the story means the laughing has to stop. Select Committee inquiry cannot come too soon.

Complete breakdown of Commons security is alleged as it is revealed that Pamella Bordes was given police clearance to work as researcher in the House. Miss Bordes is likely to emerge from hiding this week (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph says "Bordes' farce comes in for more serious treatment". Lord President will come under pressure to inquire into security implications.

Guardian leader headed "When Gossip falls short of scandal" says what has so far emerged is not in the Profumo league. The status of the story as gossip is unassailable; its claim to represent high political drama is far from established.

Mrs Gorman MP accuses Labour of deliberately blackening the character of Pamella Bordes in an attempt to embarrass Tory MPs (Times).

SCARBOROUGH CONFERENCE

Express picks up little in its editorial and Norman Tebbit welcomes determination in speech.

Mail - Maggie blasts the born again prophets.

FT - No turning back was the message at the Scarborough Conference with your reassertion of the Government's determination to press ahead with its radical programme.

Telegraph says Ministers are preparing a propaganda offensive to explain Government's reform programme. Inside "Thatcher tells of a triumphant decade of change".

Guardian - Prime Minister pours cold water on critics. Allegations by David Blunkett that Nicholas Ridley is passing the buck in promising tough new anti litter laws.

Ian Aitken, in Guardian, says that what the Government is now proposing is to nail local authorities on street cleaning just when they have made certain councils won't have the money to do it.

Guardian report says, you deride the Gannex conscience. No sign of jitters among representatives.

You used Conservative weekend meeting to launch a new drive to sell the benefits of water privatisation (Times).



PRESS DIGESTLOCKERBIE

Mirror leader says Paul Channon says he did not talk to journalists last Thursday about the Lockerbie bombing but he did on another day. If you refuse to sack him he should do what is right and resign.

Julia Langdon feature in Mirror says Paul Channon made a terrible mistake when he flew to Mustique at Christmas. How much longer can he hold down his job?

Today - Labour wolves after Channon's blood. Leader says Mr Channon claims he acted impeccably. But it is almost incredible that in this day and age important message should have been committed to Britain's creaky postal system.

FT leader looks at the question of aviation security and finds it is given low priority in terms of civil service responsibility. It calls for some consumer representation on the National Aviation Security Committee. On the question of railway security, it suggests that the D/Transport's Railway Inspectorate be transferred to the DTI.

Independent - Channon facing all-party calls for Commons statement as D/Transport reveals that its 19 December bomb warning was not sent until the new year.

Paul Channon determined to resist growing clamour for full Commons statement about Lockerbie and accuses Prescott of preying on the grief of bereaved people (Times).

Telegraph - Lockerbie warning posted after New Year.

Guardian - Channon denies leaking jet story. He retains support of Conservative MPs.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DH: Mr Clarke meets General Medical Services Committee at British Medical Association, London
- DSS: Mr Moore addresses Family Credit conference, Birmingham
- DTI: Lord Young launches 1st Management Action Briefing at JCB, Rochester
- DTp: Mr Channon speaks at Airline Business conference lunch, New Connaught Rooms, London
- SO: Mr Rifkind opens and Mr Lang and Mr Forsyth attend Scottish Grand Committee on Scottish Enterprise, Crown Office Buildings, Edinburgh
- DEM: Mr Nicholls hosts lunch for Alan Larrson, Director General of Swedish Labour Market Board, Lancaster House, London
- DES: Mr Butcher visits the DES stand at the Ideal Home Exhibition, London
- DH: Mr Freeman addresses Children with Severe Learning Difficulties seminar on "Challenges for Policy and Practice into the 1990s", Warwick University
- DH: Mr Mellor visits South East Staffordshire Health Authority
- DOE: Mr Howard and Mr Chope meet Association of County Councils to discuss future development plans
- DTI: Mr Forth launches Project Frontline Distance Working Scheme, Shell Centre, London
- DTI: Mr Maude speaks on FS industry and trade barriers, London
- DTp: Mr Portillo attends Express liner coach launch, Nuneaton
- HO: Mr Hogg visits Kaleidoscope, Kingston, Surrey, on drugs
- HO: Mr Patten attends Advisory Council on Race Relations meeting, with Mr Trippier (DOE), London
- SO: Mr Forsyth performs Kidney Donor launch at Western General Hospital, Glasgow and Western General Hospital, Edinburgh
- SO: Lord James Douglas-Hamilton launches Tenants Choice Booklet, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh; later opens M8 Starland Junction, Bathgate
-

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mrs Chalker attend Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels; Mrs Chalker later attends Council of Europe, Strasbourg (to 22 March)
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor and Mr Ryder attend Agricultural Council, Brussels (to 21 March)
- DOE: Lord Caithness attends UNEP Global Convention on Hazardous Wastes, Basle, Switzerland (to 21 March)
- DTI: Mr Clark attends Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels
- 

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DEM: Mr Lee lunches with journalists from Western Morning News and Western Daily Press
- DOE: Mr Howard interviewed on BBC TV's Panorama about Water Privatisation
- FCO: Mr Waldegrave interviewed by Mrs Corbin, BBC TV's Panorama (to be transmitted in early April)
- HO: Mr Renton speaks to Chris Chataway, Essex Radio about "Radio"
- 

TV AND RADIO

- 'The Story of Parliament': BBC2 (15.00) last of eight part documentary on Westminster and Parliament looks at those who work behind the scenes
- 'Watchdog': BBC1 (19.30)
- 'The Education Programme': BBC2 (19.40) asks if school trips are under threat, from April
- 'World in Action': Thames (20.30)
- 'Panorama': BBC1 (21.30) looks at what the consumer will gain, or lose from water privatisation and the future shape of the industry
- 'The Nuclear Age': Thames (22.35) asks if the world will ever be free of nuclear missiles and looks at the 'dream' of starwars
-