

4 April 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visit Reading and Maidenhead, Berkshire
House of Commons reassembles

Spycatcher Case - Independent, Evening Standard, the former London
Daily News in High Court contempt hearings

40th Anniversary of NATO

Trial opens of men accused of murder of 2 soldiers at Belfast funeral

STATISTICS

BOE: Capital issues and redemptions (Mar)

HMT: UK official reserves (Mar)

PUBLICATIONS

DEM: White Paper on the 74th Maritime Session of the International
Labour Conference

DES: HMI Report on improving urban primary schools: A report on an
Education Support Grant

DES: HMI Report on a survey of sandwich experience in polytechnic
engineering and NND courses

DES: HMI Report on a survey of aspects of engineering research and
consultancy in selected polytechnics

DSS: National Insurance Fund Account

DSS: Social Fund Account 87/88

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Education and Science; Defence; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Re-enfranchisement of the People. (Mr
Harry Barnes)

Water Bill: (Third allotted day)

Supplementary Money and Ways and Means Resolutions relating
to the Electricity Bill

PARLIAMENT (cont'd)

Adjournment Debates: Government policy towards the role of friendly societies encouraging saving (Mr A Coombs)

Select Committees: Not available at time of diary completion

Lords: Starred Questions
Official Secrets Bill: Committee (2nd Day)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

NATO's 40th anniversary today.

Fears that interest rates could go higher after Chancellor speaks in Washington and retail sales show there is still some power in the boom.

IMF warns that without strong action to cut US domestic demand, the world could face a drop in the dollar's value and a sharp rise in US interest rates (FT).

Foreign Secretary warns West to keep its guard up against Russians as Gorbachev visits Cuba.

400,000 Jews seeking to leave Soviet Union as anti-semitism grows (Independent).

FCO trying to secure Gordievsky's wife's freedom to come to West with children.

Running battles in Namibia, as UN confirms incursion by SWAPO, though apparently without offensive intent.

Telegraph leader says a major responsibility for the incident must rest on the UN force.

Guardian suggests crisis arose from SWAPO misinterpretation of peace agreement.

Almost 5,000 men are now engaged in an elusive, senseless battle which has become an unrelenting slaughter in northern Namibia says the Times.

Independent leader says UN cannot be expected to fight major engagements. It is in Namibia to oversee and police agreement. If Mr Njoma, SWAPO's President, were not himself little more than a figurehead he should be bringing SWAPO's local commanders to book, not engaging in an implausible hunt for scapegoats.

Independent - UN blamed for fighting in Namibia. Serious weaknesses have been revealed in their deployment and their ability to act quickly and decisively. Nearly 150 killed, mostly SWAPO.

PRESS DIGEST

Lord Young flatly rejects demands to publish Harrods report.

FT leader headed "Flustered by Lonrho", claims that failure to publish the DTI report points to a remarkable failure of political judgment by both you and Lord Young. The Government, it argues, has got its priorities wrong: the public interest would be better served by early publication.

Rowland and Du Cann could be brought before courts over leak.

Edward Du Cann says he does not need to be told his duty by a comparatively junior appointee and Bryan Gould says the argument that publication would impede a fair trial is bogus.

Guardian leader thinks it ludicrous that Lord Young, facing humiliation by a thousand leaks, should now embark on a grotesque exercise in pretending people should not be told what they already know.

USA announces new world wide security precautions in wake of Lockerbie disaster after President Bush meets relatives of victims.

Bush will consider relatives' request for a single unified inquiry into disaster.

Objections by Boeing Helicopters to a review board report into the crash of a Chinook in the North Sea in 1986 have led D/Transport to defer publication of the report pending legal advice on Boeing's complaint (Independent).

Channel Tunnel completion date put back a month to June 15, 1993.

Rolls-Royce wins £1billion order for 20 Airbuses for Cathay Pacific.

Mail sees the Airbus project taking off and says our engineers, designers and craftsmen are in the superleague.

Cargo levels on Thames at highest for 12 years (Independent).

Two more petrol companies - Esso and BP - put up price of 4-star by 6.8p. Mail leader says it is utterly incredible that the oil giants all put up their prices by the same amount.

Threat of strike on Underground tomorrow to support demand for extra pay for drivers without guards; LRT threatens in turn to go to court.

PRESS DIGEST

CBI says significant operational changes to the TEC scheme are needed or it will fail to attract senior businessmen (Times).

Four leading pressure groups join forces to condemn electricity privatisation saying the Bill fails to do anything about the industry being the biggest polluter in Britain (Times).

Sealink names 4 ferries which D/Transport says do not comply with new stability standards.

33-mile traffic jam on Western side of M25 after change in layout.

Express says M25 is an example of our besetting sin - thinking small. Ministers must start thinking big and develop a grand strategic transport plan.

Mirror claims British Rail has banned the words "signal failure" from public announcements.

British Telecom threatens to send in bailiffs over unpaid chatline bills.

Peter Morgan, director of IBM, becomes Director General of Institute of Directors in succession to John Hoskyns.

EOC have accused government of failing to meet the growing need for pre-school child care (Independent).

Kinnock pledges top tax rate of 50% and lowest below 20%. But he says earnings limit on NI contributions will go and Today says this will wipe out tax gains for middle income earners.

FT leader on Scottish devolution argues that the Scots should be given another opportunity to decide upon their preferred form of government.

John Prescott tells Jean Rook in Express he can't help being a bully boy.

Kenneth Clarke tells RCN conference they should not be in any doubt NHS reforms will be carried through. Don't waste money on campaign against reforms, he urges.

Law Society criticises barristers for greatly exaggerating the threat posed to the Bar by law reform Green Paper (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Staff at University of East Anglia warned that if they continue their industrial action their pay will be docked by 20%.

Kenneth Baker says parents should make children finish homework before TV is switched on.

If elected Labour will abolish 'A' levels and the YTS will provide grants for 6th formers and introduce a 4-year apprentice style programme (Times).

Two amusement arcade workers burned alive by raiders in Soho; two others seriously injured. Police examining security videos for clues to attackers who stole £5-7,000. Star wants killers hanged. £100,000 reward announced.

Barclays Bank announces closure of suburban branch because of 3 armed hold ups - further evidence, Express says, Britain is becoming an increasingly violent society.

Buckingham Palace confirms Mark Phillips met Pamela Bordes at Gleneagles and that she had stayed at a house on his Gloucestershire estate. He says he had no liaison with her. Today says Palace has changed its story after 2 weeks, having previously claimed there was no connection.

Home Office refuses Channel 4 permission to screen live the House of Lords debate on Friday on law reforms as 20 year old rule stipulates that live debates cannot be interrupted by advertising breaks (Times).

Select Committee will call today for financial safety net for Channel 4 so that it can continue to provide innovative and minority interest TV after deregulation (Times).

BBC pulls out 2 journalists from Northern Ireland after death threat on eve of major murder trial.

Jimmy Reid, in Sun, hates to say it but you dance rings round everyone else in foreign affairs.

Labour peers accused government of attempting to blackmail and bully football clubs into co-operating with national ID card scheme (Independent).

Random dope tests to be imposed on athletes (Independent).

Edwina Currie back in limelight in opening Book Fair; Mail says she's wasted on Backbenches.

PRESS DIGEST

Eight of the 20 of the ugliest cities in Europe, named yesterday, are in Britain - Birmingham, Hull, Sheffield, Newcastle, Glasgow, Belfast, Sunderland, Liverpool.

Britain appears to have moved back into strong contention to supply Canada with nuclear submarines, following indications that Canada may be allowed greater access to sensitive technology (FT).

Servicemen based in Gibraltar warned to be on special alert after threatening telephone call by man with Irish accent (Times).

Mafia's £50million EC fraud is "the tip of the iceberg" (Independent).

GORBACHEV

Sun - Gorbachev hints at aid blow to Castro. Soviets cannot afford it. Leader on Haughey's meeting with Gorbachev says he was cheeky in claiming Gorbachev shares his misgivings over Birmingham Six and Guildford 4. Besides, Russia still has its "Minsk millions" of detainees.

Times - The advance guard of the Gorbachev roadshow came to London yesterday with the opening of the Soviet Press Centre and the arrival of a panel of glasnost gurus fresh from the Moscow election campaign; Leader says your decision to give chemical weapons a prime place on the agenda for your talks with Mr Gorbachev is sensible for two reasons. First, need for a ban has grown more urgent. Second, it is an area of arms control in which Britain has always played a leading role. It would thus give the talks an important East-West dimension.

FT - In talks with Shevardnadze, Sir Geoffrey Howe will call for a wider human rights forum with the Soviet Union. In his BBC Panorama interview last night the Foreign Secretary gave a chilly advance welcome to Mr Gorbachev.

NAMIBIA

Mirror claims you "boobed" by blaming SWAPO for incursion when evidence is growing they were ambushed by South African forces.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DH: Mr Clarke meets the United Kingdom Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting; later attends the Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain dinner, London
- DOE: Mr Ridley addresses Countryside Sport standing conference on "Water"
- DTI: Lord Young gives welcoming address at conference on 'US Economy: Agenda for the next few years', Lancaster House, London
- LCD: Lord Mackay swears in new QCs
- CO: Mr Luce addresses opening of Operation Raleigh exhibition, National Army Museum, London
- DEM: Mr Cope hosts launch of BBC Radio 4's 'Small Business Competition', House of Commons
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits schools in Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire
- DH: Mr Mellor visits the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work
- DOE: Mr Trippier meets Andy Coombes MP and delegation from Hereford and Worcester, about gypsy sites
- DOE: Mr Chope visits Project 1046 at MOD Main Building, London
- DTI: Mr Forth presents Design against Crime awards, London
- DTp: Mr Bottomley visits Traffex conference, Brighton
- DTp: Mr Portillo attends London Chamber of Commerce seminar on Central London Rail Study, London
- HO: Mr Patten attends conference on the Green Paper: Punishment and Custody and the Community, London School of Economics
- MAFF: Mr Thompson visits CSD, Guildford
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses opening of Operation Raleigh Exhibition, National Army Museum, London
- ODA: Mr Patten opens new premises for Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund, Glasgow
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DEM: Mr Cope attends formal Labour and Social Affairs Councils, Luxembourg (to 5 April)
- DTI: Mr Maude visits Germany (to 5 April)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DH: Mr Freeman records interview for BBC TV's special 'That's Life' programme on mental health

TV AND RADIO

"Open Space": BBC 2 (20.00) the friends of John McCarthy criticise the lack of serious effort to secure his release

"After Dread and Anger": BBC Radio 4 (20.30) one of six documentaries on the State and race relations

"Taking Liberties": BBC 2 (21.45) looks at three cases of people dying in police custody
