

PRIME MINISTER

6 April 1989

MAIN EVENTS

President Gorbachev visits

EC: Internal Market Council, Brussels

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STATISTICS

HO: Long term trends in prison population to 1997

HO: Prison population 1988

OPCS: Mortality Statistics: Accidents and Violence 1986 (prov)

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PUBLICATIONS

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Treasury; Home Office; Prime Minister

Business: Electricity Bill: Progress on Remaining Stages. (2nd day)

Adjournment Debates: Delay in tonsillectomies in North Devon (Mr T Speller)

Select Committees: Not available at time of diary completion

Lords: Starred Questions  
Companies Bill (HL): Report (2nd Day)  
European Parliamentary Elections (Amendment) Regulations 1989:  
Motion for Approval  
Representation of the People (Variation of Limits of Candidates'  
Election Expenses) Order 1989: Motion for Approval

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Extensive coverage of Mr Gorbachev's visit and arrival with pictures - looks good. He arrives with invitation to Queen in his pocket and a Libyan order for bombers supplied.

Tass says you are the power behind the East-West thaw.

Row over sale of Russian bombers to Libya. You are said to be concerned.

Express says you should ask Gorbachev to explain himself for supplying the aircraft.

Labour call for you to make Commons statement on Leon Brittan's new remarks on Westland affair.

Nujamo refuses to withdraw SWAPO fighters from border areas of Namibia. UN prepares to airlift troops in to try to end the fighting which has claimed 200 lives. Hopes recede for ceasefire, though South Africa offers SWAPO guerrillas safe passage from Namibia back to their bases in Southern Angola (Times).

Labour Party attack you for your one-sided condemnation of SWAPO.

MORI poll commissioned by Greens shows 70% think a party's environmental policies would be an important consideration in the Euro elections.

Nuclear fusion in a test-tube has now been confirmed (Independent).

Mail feature on why private water will be so good for us all - 10 pluses for privatisation.

Large companies are reluctant to take part in Employment Training, according to an unpublished report commissioned by DE (FT).

GATT close to agreeing terms for negotiating reform of world trade in agriculture (FT).

European Commission proposes tougher limits on car exhaust pollution from January 1993 (FT).

Japan to extend for another year voluntary curbs on car exports to the EC in order to avoid trade friction (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Underground railmen to vote on all-out strike after 24 hour stoppage yesterday which caused two-thirds of trains to be cancelled.

Air traffic controllers threatening to hold flights to Europe unless demands for more staff are met.

D/Transport annual survey shows that roads are in a worse condition than in 1977 (Times).

Statistical office to be five times larger, after radical re-organisation (FT).

90% of people believe they have been ripped off by estate agents. Express says they may be a necessary evil but need they be such an expensive one.

RCN supports its leaders by resisting proposals to introduce regional pay (Times).

Thousands of family doctors say they will quit if the NHS reforms go ahead and 90% say that patients would suffer, according to GP newspaper survey.

David Mellor receives a cool response from 700 GPs when he says the debate on the future of the NHS should not deteriorate into a propaganda battle between the Government and the professions. (Times).

Telegraph leader says the Bar may close its ranks against the Lord Chancellor's proposals but its senior members know well enough that the main criticisms are valid.

Former adviser to Lord Chancellor's advisory committee on legal aid attacks Government for allowing the number of people eligible for legal aid to drop by between 10 and 13 million since it came to office (Times).

Sun says it is absurd for universities and polytechnics to be blackmailed by staff when there are 12,000 applicants for 79 staff vacancies at Birmingham Poly.

Police Complaints Authority is to call for new powers to ensure that police officers do not by-pass disciplinary action by taking early retirement on medical grounds (Independent).

Police calling for 4 day week to relieve stress.

PRESS DIGEST

Probation service must refocus its activities and develop new skills, Audit Commission says in report out today (FT).

Sun leader wants to know how Labour would finance its programme with a top rate of tax of 50%. Mail says Kinnock is trying to hide his real tax intentions but there can be no doubt his gut instinct is to substitute reaction for reform.

Man being questioned about death of two men doused with petrol and set alight in raid in amusement arcade in Soho.

Home Office reveals further measures to cut down rural lager louts.

Solidarity and Polish Government sign pact which paves way for first democratic elections since War.

Skipper of supertanker which ran aground in Alaska and has caused an ecological disaster charged with being drunk in charge of a ship, recklessness and negligence.

Home Office to call for non-governmental review of press law to counter criticism of government's failure to act against press abuse but will remain hostile to right of reply bill (Independent).

Meanwhile the International Federation of Journalists claim Government attacks on journalists have harmed Britain's standing abroad and bolstered the case for a written constitution enshrining "the right to know" (Independent).

A half page advertisement signed by a variety of people appears in the Times as an open letter about press freedom, secret police, freedom of religion, disarmament, human rights and democracy, with a PS asking if the same could appear in Pravda.

Richard Attenborough says senior broadcasters should be prepared to resign in protest against the Government's plans for de-regulating TV.

Sun receives 4 stolen letters from Princess Anne, taken from inside Buckingham Palace, but does not print contents; hands them over to Yard.

Jock Bruce-Gardyne in Telegraph says that because Lord Young does not have a political background he is in danger of being shot down by his own side.

PRESS DIGEST

Nigel Lawson firmly expected to stay as Chancellor beyond your next reshuffle (Times).

Today says a coat of arms is being prepared by the Royal College of Arms for when you become Countess of Finchley.

Swede, 42, to be charged with murder of Olof Palme.

Vietnam will withdraw all its troops from Cambodia by September (Independent).

GORBACHEV

Star - Gorby brings Siberia to Britain with him - But Thatcher gives him a warm smile.

Sun - Gorby jets in with invite for Queen to visit Russia. It's up to Maggie. Leader says there is nothing to stop the Queen rubbing shoulders with the Bolsheviks.

Mirror - Gorby flies in to Libya jets storm. Leader says Gorbachev has a great opportunity and on one issue there should be total agreement and co-operation - trade.

Today - Queen says yes to a tour of Russia.

Express leads with Gorbachev's bombers for Libya. Feature - Enter Mr G: the greatest showman on earth.

Mail also leads with Russian super jets for Libya - Gorbachev faces clash with you over deal.

Telegraph - Russians revive plan for visit by Queen; 15 Soviet bombers for Gaddafi.

Telegraph leader says the frequency of Gorbachev's visits is a measure of the easing of East-West tension and of your success in establishing Britain in the international areas.

Guardian page 1 - Gorbachev invite for Queen. Thatcher doubts will be overcome - greatest tribute yet to perestroika. Leader, which is snide, says the ability of you and Gorbachev to influence events is constrained. The move it suggests lies with you in view of the movements made by Gorbachev.

PRESS DIGEST

FT - Gorbachev seeks stronger links with Western Europe; and is looking for your support to accelerate negotiations on conventional arms. He may come up with proposals for the creation of some kind of institutional link between East and West. You began your talks last night by underlining your concern of the need to work together on Namibia.

FT - US expresses concern at Soviet sale of fighter bombers to Libya.

Soviets end fraught Cuba trip with sigh of relief (Independent).

Britain will rebuild one of the schools flattened in the Armenian earthquake (Independent).

Whitehall is said to be waiting with "trepidation" for the Gorbachev show (Independent). No-one knows what Gorbachev will say at the Guildhall.

Independent leader says when you meet Gorbachev today you will be in the enviable position of being the first Western leader to hear from the architect of the astonishing changes in progress in the Soviet Union. Caution must be your watchword - and for the moment judicious expansion of trade, generous technical assistance and the promotion of wider cultural exchanges are the appropriate responses to Mr Gorbachev's outstretched hand.

Times page 1 - Mr Gorbachev jokes about the weather as he receives a warm welcome at Heathrow. The stage appears set for the most encouraging Anglo-Soviet summit since before the Cold War era, and there are strong hints being dropped about Queen being invited to Moscow.

Times - Moscow gives in to British pressure to free 9 of the 14 Soviet prisoners of conscience.

Times - Mikhail Shatrov, the Soviet playwright who is visiting Britain, dismisses yesterday's advertisement in the Times about human rights saying "you are whipping a dead horse. You are trying to break down an open door".

WESTLAND

Star ignore the issue.

Sun page 2 - Leon starts new Westland storm.

PRESS DIGEST

Mirror page 1 - Brittan turns traitor and reveals you didn't tell the truth. Leader headed "Time for the truth" says Brittan's allegation is of the utmost gravity and cannot be ignored. The Government has developed a habit of telling lies.

Today page 2 - Brittan stirs up Westland scandal.

Express page 2 - Leon Brittan takes his revenge over No 10 Westland affair leak.

Mail page 9 - Westland returns to haunt Maggie.

Telegraph page 1 - Brittan reopens Westland affair. Suggestions that C Powell, B Ingham and Lord Armstrong will be called before Defence Select Committee. George Jones feature on Messrs Powell and Ingham.

FT page 10 - Brittan points finger at top aides.

Independent - Sir Leon Brittan has accused No 10 of giving "express approval" for Westland leak in Channel 4 programme on your 10 years in office to be broadcast on Friday. He later claimed he went no further in the interview than he has said before.

Times - Leon Brittan claims he had express approval from Downing Street to leak the Solicitor General's confidential letter in the Westland affair.

Guardian page 1 - Brittan blames Prime Minister's men for Westland leak.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DH: Mr Clarke visits the Audit Commission
- HMT: Mr Major addresses the Top Management Programme, Fleet, Hampshire
- CO: Mr Luce addresses Arts Council 'Mass Carib' press launch, Hackney Empire, London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls opens new training unit in Coventry
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Cavendish Secondary School and Kings Langley Infants School in St Albans, Hertfordshire
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses Pickup conference, Oxford Polytechnic
- DH: Mr Mellor visits Moorfields Eye Hospital
- DH: Mr Freeman visits the Central Blood Laboratories Authorities, Elstree
- DOE: Mr Chope addresses County Planning Officers Society on "Planning", London
- HMT: Mr Lilley addresses the Finance Houses Association annual lunch, London
- MAFF: Mr Ryder addresses Careers conference, Reading
- MAFF: Mr Thompson addresses Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Aston University, Birmingham
- ODA: Mr Patten addresses London Diplomatic Group, London
- SO: Mr Lang visits Dumfries and Galloway with Prince of Wales
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Mr Newton attends informal Industry Council, Bilbao (to 9 April)
- FCO: Mr Eggar visits Nice and Paris (to 7 April)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DES: Mr Baker interviewed on Radio 4's 'Woman's Hour', about Teacher Shortage
- WO: Mr Walker interviewed by Vincent Kane of BBC Wales re the NHS in Wales
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TV AND RADIO

"The Sharp End": Ch 4 (18.30) looks at the changes in the workplace and employment issues

"Hard News": Ch 4 (20.00) Raymond Snoddy of the Financial Times examines how facts are distorted and stories sensationalised by the British press. Readers get the chance to complain

"This Week": Thames (20.30)

"Question Time": BBC 1 (22.00) with Edwina Currie, Sir Nicholas Henderson, Dennis Skinner and Ruth Wishart

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