

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh attend the premiere performance of "Aspects of Love", Prince of Wales Theatre, Piccadilly, London

EC: European Parliament Plenary, Strasbourg (to 14 April)

EC: Consumer Affairs Council, Luxembourg

EC: Informal Fisheries' Ministers meeting, Galicia (to 11 April)

National Association of Licensed House Managers annual conference, Blackpool (to 13 April)

Visit of Mr Vasily Zakharov, Soviet Minister of Culture to Britain (to 17 April)

Social Security benefits up-rated

Housing Benefit replaces Board and Lodge Payments

STATISTICS

DTI: Producer price index numbers (Mar)

HO: Time taken to process criminal cases in Magistrates' Courts (Oct 88)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Energy; Social Security; Transport

Business: Electricity Bill (3rd Day): Conclusion of Remaining Stages
Motion on the Lord Chancellor's Salary Order
Motion on the Medicines (Fixing of Fees Relating to Medical Products for Human Use)

Adjournment Debates: The operation of Section 46 of the Housing and Planning Act 1986 (Mr P Thurnham)

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees:

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Commonwealth Development Corporation
Witness: J Caines, CB, Permanent Secretary, Overseas
Development Administration

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE

Subject: 1989 Budget
Witness: The Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP, Chancellor of
the Exchequer

ENVIRONMENT

Subject: Department of the Environment's Main
Estimates, 1989-90
Witnesses: Department of the Environment Officials

Lords:

Starred Questions
Football Spectators Bill (HL): Report
Lord Chancellor's Salary Order 1989: Motion for Approval

MINISTERS - See attached

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Gorbachev goes home to trouble - loss of nuclear submarine and 42 sailors; and bloody riots in Tbilisi in which 16 die.

Bush signals USA will hold to a steady course in approach and policy towards USSR. He is considering visit to Poland.

Cecil Parkinson will underline Britain's determination to achieve a 40% increase in Anglo-Soviet trade during his visit to Russia this week (Times).

Poland about to acquire a considerable measure of Western style democracy courtesy Gorbachev (Telegraph) - Walesa can properly be labelled a father of his people.

Scottish Church leaders call on you to stop perpetuating "balance of terror" and scrap Trident - Gorbachev's visit reinforces their view that you are wrong in believing nuclear weapons have kept the peace.

Wilfried Martens says NATO should begin negotiations with Warsaw Pact to reduce short range tactical nuclear weapons in Europe. He does not spell out whether he is in favour of modernisation, but the latest development underlines the difficulty you may face in winning support before the NATO summit (Times).

You make clear in TV-AM interview (Telegraph) that you intend to maintain your campaign to modernise nuclear defences.

You will stress need to update nuclear weapons when you see Chancellor Kohl later this month (FT).

FT leader argues that nuclear deterrence may not be dependent on land-based tactical missiles. Some experts believe that air and sea-launched missiles could fill the gap between strategic nuclear and conventional forces.

Tass claims there is no risk of contamination from sunken nuclear submarine North of Norway.

Georgi Samoilovich, Jewish scientist, arrives in London for cancer treatment.

You want a Royal visit to Moscow in 1991 - after Mr Gorbachev's commitment to disarmament has been tested in renewed negotiations (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Deal for the withdrawal of SWAPO guerrillas from Namibia agreed.

Nelson Mandela thanks you for statement in his support and British aid for townships.

High interest rates, high inflation and a large trade deficit will be main characteristics of UK economy this year, with little improvement in 1990, according to FT survey of forecasts by 23 groups (FT).

Catholics furious with Kinnock for referring to you as the "immaculate conception" at launch of his 10 week campaign. Chris Patten MP says their campaign comes down to blasphemy. Meeting described by opponents as Second Hand Rose Rally.

Mail describes Kinnock's speech as carefully scripted waffle wrapped up in razzle dazzle.

Edwina Currie says women are deserting the Conservative Party because of its failure to promote its work on women's issues.

West Germans alleged to have sold high level missile technology to Argentina according to Panorama tonight.

Serious Fraud Office in change of mind on Fayed probe. Inspectors originally decided not to prosecute but were overruled by one of SFO's five assistant directors. Scotland Yard inquiry underway in Egypt (FT).

Lonrho threatens to sue Government Ministers (Independent).

2 out of 3 companies are experiencing serious recruitment problems, according to survey by Blue Arrow (FT).

D/Employment-commissioned report, the most damning indictment so far, on the Government's Training Agency, says Government training schemes costing more than £1.5 billion are being snubbed by many employers (Times).

House prices set to rise 10% this year.

Consultants at 5 of 6 "flagship" hospitals regarded as prime contenders for self-government say they do not wish to be considered for this new status.

Peter Walker expected to finalise deal with German firm Bosch to build 1,000 job car components factor at Mid-Glamorgan.

PRESS DIGEST

Government determined to weather and defeat a dock strike; TGWU meets today. Plans to beat any dispute well laid.

Mirror says dockers are in danger of falling into a carefully prepared Government trap just as the miners did. Going on strike won't save the scheme or help the dockers. TGWU should negotiate.

Mail says misplaced notions of tribal loyalty cost miners, printers and ferrymen dear. Dockers should learn. Paul Johnson finds dockers and lawyers have much in common.

Keith Waterhouse, in Mail, suggests we appoint a token registered docker rather on the lines of the Warden of the Cinque Ports.

FT leader on dock labour says scheme needs to be tackled but Government must ensure that dispute does not become a costly diversion. Creative destruction of the scheme should be encouraged, with a lasting settlement to promote modernisation.

Independent leader says dockers have few supporters - their isolation makes the glee with which Tory MPs welcomed last week's announcement all the more odious - but abolition is undoubtedly the right course. A point tacitly recognised by Kinncok. He must distance himself if the TGWU is unwilling or unable to contain its dock members. Best of all would be for the union to demonstrate it can bow to the realities of a changed world and show constructive restraint in the face of whatever provocation.

Port employers planning to change working practices in docks dramatically if dockers take industrial action (Times).

Disability Alliance claims living standards of 1million has fallen because of changes in social security.

Tory peers are joining the attack on privatisation of water. Ministers are considering amendments for greater safeguards on public access to land owned by water companies in an attempt to defuse hostility. A further possibility under consideration is to invest a small amount from the sale receipts in environmental clean-up schemes for reservoirs, rivers and canals (Independent).

Chairman of Waterford Glass resigns in controversy over accounting irregularities.

British Coal pay £60 a week to get a key miner to work by taxi after drunk driving conviction.

PRESS DIGEST

Express says you have set up a Ministerial task force to change the face of the countryside.

Car manufacturers may put pressure on Government to resist European exhaust emission regulations as they could increase cost of new models (Times).

Sun reporter claims to have found loophole in Pan Am security at Heathrow by turning up early for work as baggage handler and escaping security checks. Paul Channon orders inquiry; Sun says Mr Channon should be sacked.

Times MORI poll shows that public confidence in the police has declined dramatically throughout the 1980s. Only 58% are now satisfied with the way their local area is policed compared with 75% in 1981.

Pressure to reform the police is growing as MPs and senior police officers warn the police are "woefully inefficient" and unprepared for 1992 (Independent).

Sainsbury find Heinz baby food poisoned on shelves of store at Rayleigh, Essex.

Boy of 3 in hospital, seriously ill, after being set on fire by two boys aged 7 and 9 in Kennington.

Government to introduce shortly legislation to outlaw organ sales for transplant.

Demand for satellite TV dishes still slow, according to FT monitor (FT).

Sir John Pope Hennessey, writing about the V&A, castigates you in an article in the New York Review of Books for a quite extraordinary lack of comprehension about art - which must be bound up with the decision to equip the museum with a board on which no member has a vestigial knowledge of works of art (Independent).

Independent leader says Deputy Commissioner John Dellow's idea of an informal corps of civic volunteers merits investigation.

Much gossip about the Royal Equerry's letters to Princess Anne leaked to the Sun and returned to the Palace unpublished. Equerry, it is said, is to leave; others say he is due to be replaced in autumn.

PRESS DIGEST

And speculation about the state of Princess Anne's marriage - divorce forecast.

Mirror says she has visited the Equerry's home at least six times.

Tam Dalyell says Sir Leon Brittan's disclosures show that Messrs Powell and Ingham are not fit to remain in office.

Your Ten Years

Joe Haines starts series "others dare not print".

Thatcher decade - special feature looks at social change over last 10 years (Independent).

Under the heading "From Despair to hope ... the catalyst of Change" the Times has two pages in the first of its five-day series looking at your 10 years as Prime Minister. Today's feature looks at attempts to regenerate areas of the country blighted by the withering of old industries, asking if you were justified in your belief that small businesses provide the answers.

Death of 2 horses in Grand National brings new calls to make race safer.

60 football supporters arrested at yesterday's Littlewoods Cup Final at Wembley.

Nick Faldo wins US Masters Golf tournament.

Takeshita is defiantly resisting pressure to resign over the Recruit affair (Independent).

Islamic leaders in Britain fail to convince young Pakistani girls that they should shun British society (Times9).

GORBACHEV

Express leader says troubles in Georgia are a reminder to Westerners who are too ready to confuse promises with facts. Dissent is still being met by brutal repression.

PRESS DIGESTLABOUR PARTY

Express leader says we have seen the campaign before. Kinnock presents a picture of Britain most voters would not recognise.

Mail - Kinnock's Labour is going for a song. Left set for showdown over latest "new look". Bob Cryer says new approach is "tactically inept".

Telegraph - Confident Kinnock on offensive.

Times - Kinnock at "Red Rose Rally" launches one of Labour's most critical campaigns with the confident assertion that the party has reformed itself. If Labour cannot establish a clear lead at the mid-term stage its chances of ending a series of General Election defeats would appear remote.

Guardian - Labour aims to sour Prime Minister's anniversary.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr Baker receives courtesy call from Professor Ruberiti, Indian Science Minister, London
- MOD: Mr Younger meets Mr Coeme, Belgian Defence Minister, London
- WO: Mr Walker and Mr Grist attend memorial service for Sir Raymond Gower, London
- DEM: Mr Lee launches report on Management Development needs of the voluntary sector, London
- DEM: Mr Cope attends Greater Harrow Chamber of Commerce annual lunch; later addresses Blackwater Valley Enterprise Trust annual general meeting, Camberley
- DEM: Mr Nicholls launches British Telecom leaflet "Alcohol in the Workplace", London
- DH: Mr Mellor addresses Institute of Health Service Management conference on the NHS Review, London; later meets the Society of FPC's, London
- DH: Mr Freeman visits Resource Management Pilot Scheme, Winchester and launches Wessex Drugs Misuse Campaign
- DOE: Lord Caithness visits National Home Improvement Council, London; later receives William Wilkinson from Nature Conservancy Council with delegation, on Green Issues
- DOE: Mr Gummer visits Islington Council (community charge)
- DOE: Mr Howard visits South West Water in Plymouth
- DOE: Mr Trippier visits urban regeneration projects in South Tyneside and lunches with Tyne and Wear Development Corporation
- DOE: Mr Chope meets Chief Executive from Somerset County Council on planning
- DOE: Mr Moynihan meets Jim Lector MP and delegation from Water Supply Industry Group; later meets Foreign Press Association re Football National Membership Scheme, London
- DTI: Mr Maude visits Manchester
- DTp: Lord Brabazon attends AMA conference on Channel Tunnel, Festival Hall, London; later addresses the Aberdeen Harbour Board dinner, Aberdeen
- DTp: Mr Bottomley opens Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors "Optimum Resources: Planning for Major Road Works" conference, London
- HO: Lord Ferrers opens International Fire and Security exhibition, Olympia, London
- HO: Mr Renton addresses the Royal Society of Arts seminar on "The future of UK radio for better or for worse", House of Commons
- ODA: Mr Patten attends Commonwealth Development Corporation dinner, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DEN: Mr Parkinson visit Moscow (to 14 April)
DH: Mr Clarke visits Poland (to 12 April)
DTI: Mr Forth meets Lord Plumb in Strasbourg
MAFF: Mr Thompson attends Informal Fisheries Council, Vigo, Spain (to 11 April)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DES: Mr Butcher on BBC1's "Daytime Live" programme, about Croydon CCTA

TV AND RADIO

"Trading Places: Denmark": Thames (19.00) Paul Heiney on how Denmark may be threatened by the 1992 Single Market

"The Education Programme": BBC 2 (19.40) looks at the marketing of schools and colleges to potential customers

"Horizon": BBC 2 (20.10) examines the threat to the Panama Canal of disappearing rain forests

"World in Action": Thames (20.30) Current Affairs

"Panorama": BBC 1 (21.30) Gavin Hewitt reports on the failure to bring about political change in Czechoslovakia
