

24 April 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Duke of Edinburgh attends European-Atlantic Group dinner to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the formation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, Guildhall, London

The Prince of Wales visits Derbyshire

EC: Foreign Affairs Council, Luxembourg (to 25 April)

House of Commons Defence Committee visit USA (including King's Bay) (to 28 April)

Turkish Under Secretary for Defence visits UK (to 28 April)

Hearing of the Jens Saering Extradition Case at the European Court

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STATISTICS

HO: The time taken to process criminal cases in the Magistrates' Courts (October 1988)

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PUBLICATIONS

HMT: Economic Progress report

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Transport; Wales; Energy

Business: Social Security Bill: Progress on Remaining Stages  
Motion on the Food (Northern Ireland) Order which is a Consolidation Measure

Adjournment Debates: Tenant farmers (Mr R Alexander)

Select Committees: EMPLOYMENT  
Subject: Legionnaire's Disease  
Witnesses: Imperial College; The Science Museum; Jones, Laing, Wotton; The Meridian Hotel; Nottingham Health Authority

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: British Nuclear Fuels  
Witnesses: Sir Peter Gregson, KCB, Permanent Secretary, Department of Energy

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Lords

## Starred Questions

Official Secrets Bill: Third Reading

Police Officers (Central Service) Bill: Third Reading

Disabled Persons (Northern Ireland) Bill: Second Reading

Parking Bill (L. Teviot): Second Reading

UQ to ask HMG whether, before proceeding with the Dock Work Bill they will refer to the Monopolies and Merger Commission the allegedly restrictive labour practices in docks covered by the Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1946

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Observer poll puts you 3 points ahead 42/39.

Newspapers heralding "bad" trade figures on Wednesday to hype up story about Chancellor fighting to keep interest rates down.

You and President Bush to make a determined effort this week to avoid worst split in NATO for 40 years over SNF modernisation. Genscher and Stoltenberg in Washington today. You urge Bush to resist German pressure for negotiations on a cut in short range nuclear weapons.

FT says you are awaiting results of today's Washington exchanges before deciding how firm an approach to take with Kohl next weekend. Leader says it would indeed be fatal for NATO to agree the elimination of short-range nuclear forces while leaving Soviet conventional superiority intact; but argues for linkage in arms reduction talks.

Independent says Kohl prompts fear of NATO split. You are expected to take a hard line with him next weekend. Ministers fear that Gorbachev and Kohl between them are presenting you with an uncomfortable domestic political dilemma; leader says Kohl's U-turn is a panic measure and a bad decision. It could lead to the destruction of NATO, Western Europe's security and the arms control process.

With West German opinion polls showing strong opposition to modernisation, your chances of success in changing Kohl's mind next weekend are not considered good (Times).

Mail says you have told the Cabinet to take a tough stand on the economy, industrial unrest and with disgruntled professions.

Ministers confident Chancellor can face next crucial week of pressure to hold interest rates but he faces further complications with return of Alan Walters next week as your economic adviser (Times).

BBC journalists go on strike for 24 hours in support of pay claim for 16%; offered 7%; Today programme off the air. Sun notes BBC staff created a terrible fuss when they were banned from broadcasting IRA propaganda; but now they threaten to halt the entire network. What a bunch of hypocrites.

Leaders of Underground workers to decide today whether to stage all-out strike.

PRESS DIGEST

And British Rail union leaders threaten trouble over 7% offer.

University vice-chancellors likely to ask Government this week to finance local pay deals with lecturers to divide union and lift threat to degree exams (Independent).

British productivity, hour for hour, is 50% above that of Japan but 5% lower than West Germany and 32% lower than US, according to Treasury's Economic Progress Report (FT).

Economy will grow by less than 3% a year until at least 1992, according to Treasury survey of independent forecasts (FT).

Mail leads with alarmist methods being used by GPs to fight proposed NHS reforms; Leader attacks propaganda embellished with skull and crossbones. It says it is utterly unimpressed with the tut-tutting of the BMA over such campaigning excesses. Surgeries should remain politically sterile.

Meeting of BMA junior staffs committee urges all NHS doctors not to co-operate with implementing NHS reforms until Government enters into negotiations (FT).

Some football fans - from Millwall at West Ham - ignore the minute's silence in memory of Hillsborough dead and keep up chanting at Saturday's matches; Independent speaks of "chants of hate".

Sun notes that about half the people are in favour of soccer membership cards notwithstanding the barrage of propaganda from fainthearted Tory and Labour MPs. Government should press on.

"Walker's winning ways" is headline on feature in Times on the Tories main by-election weapon in Wales. Local government officer says Peter Walker is best thing that has happened to Wales for a long time, but that some of his claims are pure packaging. Labour supporters too admit he has done well, but few consider changing vote.

Telegraph leader on Government presentation headed "Ministers must speak", says almost every key policy the Government is trying to implement has been sabotaged by poor communication. The problem is daunting. Your search for unswerving loyalty when filling senior posts will not always provide politicians equipped temperamentally to excite the public imagination. The likes of Heseltine and Walker may not always be right but their style is more in need than ever before.

PRESS DIGEST

Kinnock in trouble for providing jobs for his cronies - big row among full-time agents over appointment of close friend as South West regional organiser.

Meacher says Labour will restore secondary picketing, eliminating restrictions on number of pickets.

But Independent says Labour staged swift damage limitation exercise after Meacher indicated Labour would restore right to secondary picketing. Times says Meacher has infuriated party hierarchy.

Ashdown urges Labour to back electoral reform but Labour's policy review seems certain to bar consideration of proportional representation (Independent).

Paddy Ashdown launches joint attack accusing you of using Scotland as a vivisection laboratory and of demeaning, insulting and ignoring the views of its people; and Labour as sectarian, arrogant, resistant to change and capable only of knee-jerk reactions in the Commons (Times).

Chunnel rail link in Kent shakes Tory lead in county council elections. Meanwhile reports say that it could be last county council elections because of plans your policy unit has for abolition of county councils if you get back for fourth term (Times).

Paul Channon wins strong Cabinet backing for massive injection of public money into spending on roads (Times).

Britain attacks American proposals to impose its own security requirements on foreign airports and foreign airlines (Independent).

Lockerbie investigation uncovers international network of organised crime feeding funds to terrorist cells throughout Europe (Times).

Row over Government's plans to authorise radiation of food; Consumer's Association demands more research.

Government secures devaluation of green pound to help British farmers.

Egg sales still about 20% down on same period last year, according to British Egg Information Service (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Jaguar reports record sales in first quarter of this year.

BIM says take home pay of top company directors rose 26% last year.

National Association of Estate Agents, representing 7,000, to introduce new scheme to cut price of house purchase and eliminate gazumping (Today).

Governemnt to end compulsory membership of National Union of Students - closed shop to go.

Express says a series of superschools is to be set up across the country to cream off brightest 5%; it counsels caution because of the pace of educational reform.

Three wards at Middlesex Hospital to be closed, according to Mirror, because of a lack of cash.

About 30 Tories will tonight try to force the Government to index link child benefit.

Labour to table clause in Social Security Bill to ease benefit rules for 16 and 17 year olds unable to live at home or unemployed (Independent).

Today makes big fuss over discharge of sewage into sea in Torbay, with colour pictures.

Louis Blom-Cooper suggests Lord Jenkins to head review of press law (FT).

Claims that British Satellite Broadcasting is to screen soft porn from Paris.

Robin Day to leave BBC TV Question Time.

IBA to announce first franchise winners today for new commercial radio stations (Independent).

Conservationists want you to make energy saving centrepiece of global warming seminar.

Much is made by some papers of Lord Whitelaw's memoirs' claim that he avoided mixing with you socially. "I don't like Thatcher, says loyal Whitelaw", is Express headline.

PRESS DIGEST

3 Ulster Loyalists and American arms dealer arrested in Paris and charged with trying to sell Blowpipe parts to South African diplomat. Sun wants the truth from the South African government. Express says it looks as if Pretoria has been meddling in Britain's internal affairs.

Labour to press for Commons statement on South Africa and Ulster Loyalist arms-for-secrets deal. Diplomatic confrontation expected between Britain and South Africa. At least six people were killed in Northern Ireland last year with South African supplied weapons (Independent).

You are sending a message of good cheer to Nelson Mandela via our Ambassador (Mail).

American attempt to change naval rules of engagement so that NATO could fire first under certain circumstances shelved after European opposition (Independent).

38 injured in Gaza Strip clashes, including 24 youngsters.

Soviet troops arrest 47 demonstrators in Moscow commemorating demo dead in Georgia.

Younger members of the Royal Family call in PR firms to help with their image (Express).

Chinese wave of protest over pace of democratisation spreads to 5 cities.

Snow whites out cricket.

EC

Mirror leader says Britain is in danger of being left on the sidelines because you and Chancellor deny us our place of influence in Europe because you claim closer ties means automatic Socialist rule. You are sabotaging the EC.

Times leader discusses Europe under heading "Bruges Two" saying however Europe develops, one thing is certain: Britain will always be disagreeing with its partners. Since your Bruges speech last September, the Government has been seen as intent on revoking its commitment to the Single European Act. The Government's most serious error in dealing with Europe is to pretend that issues raised by its opponents can be ignored. The Bruges speech left several insistent questions unanswered.

PRESS DIGESTYOUR TEN YEARS

Mail feature on Thatcher's Children - 16-25 year olds - finds it is "An Age of Burning Ambition".



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler attends International Stock Exchange dinner, House of Commons
- DES: Mr Baker visits St Marylebone School, Marylebone High Street, London
- DOE: Mr Ridley and Mr Gummer meet Association of British Chambers of Commerce re the business rate
- DTI: Lord Young and Mr Clark meet US Senators Danforth and Chafee
- DTI: Mr Newton gives Manchester Business School lecture on "Urban Development and its Creation"
- DTp: Mr Channon addresses the Freight Transport Association dinner, Hilton Hotel, London
- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses Commonwealth Press Union, Stationer Hall, London
- DH: Mr Mellor attends reception for Brighton Health Authority and Pentagram Health Ltd
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley addresses Developer Funding for Archeology conference, London
- DOE: Mr Trippier attends Estate Action conference and visits gypsy sites in the North West
- DOE: Lord Hesketh lunches with Country Landowners Association
- DOE: Mr Chope visits PSA sites in Shetland (to 26 April)
- DTI: Mr Maude addresses International Securities Regulators meeting, Wilton Park, Sussex; later opens White City Exhibition, Shepherds Bush, London
- DTI: Mr Forth visits Warren Spring Laboratory
- DTp: Mr Bottomley launches National "Belt-up" Week, Charing Cross Hospital, London
- MAFF: Mr Thompson visits South West region
- ODA: Mr Patten hosts lunch for Portuguese Under-Secretary of State for Co-operation, Dr Durao Barroso, London
- SO: Mr Lang addresses Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, Glasgow
- WO: Mr Roberts attends Freight Transport Association dinner, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- MOD: Mr Younger visits Sweden (to 25 April)
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses Anglo-German Seminar on Higher Education, Cologne
- FCO: Mrs Chalker attends Foreign Affairs Council, Luxembourg (to 25 April)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- HO: Mr Hurd appears on "Open to Question" BBC 2, Glasgow (recording)
- DH: Mr Mellor interviewed for Greater London Radio "On The Tracks" programme
- DOE: Mr Gummer interviewed by BBC Radio Kent on community charge
- DOE: Mr Moynihan interviewed by Arena Magazine
- DOE: Mr Howard lunches with David Kemp (The Sun), Michael Castle (The Times), Michael Smithy (The Guardian)
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TV AND RADIO

- 'Open to Question: Roy Hattersley': BBC 2 (18.35) young people interrogate him about the Labour Party's future
- 'Trading Places': Thames (19.00) France faces the challenges of 1992
- 'World in Action': Thames (20.30) Gavin Hewitt on slow political changes in Czechoslovakia
- 'Zola Budd: The Girl Who Didn't Run': BBC 2 (21.40) Kenneth Griffiths's documentary on the banned athlete
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