

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Hungarian State Minister, Mr Imre Pozsgay (photocall) and attends reception for "Britain salutes Hungary" sponsors

TUC Conference on Information Technology, Congress House, London (to April 27)

EC: ECO-SOC Committee Plenary Session, Brussels (to 27 April)

DES: Announcement of increase in higher education fees from 1990

STATISTICS

BSA: Building Societies monthly figures (Mar)

CBI: Industrial trends survey (2nd Qtr)

OPCS: Electoral registration statistics 1989

PUBLICATIONS

DEM: Development of the Oil & Gas Resources of the UK, the "Brown Book"

DEM: ACAS annual report

DES: HMI report on the education of physically disabled pupils

HO: Metropolitan Police Fund Estimates 1989-90 White Paper

NAO: Housing Association Grant

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Health; Education and Science; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Unique Personal Identity Number. (Mr Jacques Arnold)
Finance Bill: 2nd Reading
Motion relating to the Mines (Safety of Exit) Regulations

Adjournment Debates: The impact of the standard Community Charge on the Isle of Cumbrae (Mr B Wilson)

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Select Committees: EUROPEAN LEGISLATION
Subject: Developments in the European Community
Witness: Rt Hon Lord Cockfield

MEMBERS INTERESTS
Subject: Parliamentary Lobbying
Witnesses: 1. Mr Ian Findlay, Director and Chief
Executive, Bophuthatswana International Affairs
2. Mr Peter Fry MP

Lords: Starred Questions
Electricity Bill: Second Reading
UQ to ask HMG what action is being taken on the Report of the
Animal Procedure Committee for 1987, the Statistics of Scientific
Procedures on Living Animals for Great Britain of 1987, and the
Code of Practice of the Housing and Care of Animals used in
Scientific Procedures 1988. (L. Houghton of Sowerby)

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Japanese Prime Minister announces his resignation over the Recruit scandal.

Qualities, Express, Mail give extensive coverage to US/UK efforts to deal with German engineered crisis in NATO and their search for negotiations on SNF.

You are heading for showdown with Kohl.

Prince Philip, at NATO celebrations, says we are seeing a remarkable shift in strategy and policy but it remains to be seen whether there is any change in ideology.

You reprimand du Plessis over South African efforts to get their hands on Blowpipe technology.

Liverpool gives vent to disappointment that no senior member of Royal Family is to go to Saturday's memorial service; Duke and Duchess of Kent to go there - he is president of FA.

Jimmy Reid, in Sun, commenting on response to tragedy, says Liverpool AFC are now in danger of becoming an object of unbridled, unhealthy worship. Exaggerated emotions must be curbed now.

Home Office confirms that three ambulancemen were assaulted at Hillsborough disaster (Times).

House prices still buoyant in North but are falling in many parts of the South.

Clive Soley MP claims sharp rises in mortgages and rents are making more families homeless and was now reaching major crisis proportions. The 118,000 homeless families going to councils is gross under-estimate as it does not include between perhaps 100,000 and 300,000 who are living in parks or on streets (Times).

Scottish Law Society says unscrupulous estate agents are passing on to sellers only the names of people who have taken out financial packages with them.

Express, interpreting Treasury Progress Report, says Britain's workers have turned into world beaters because the Government has smashed the unions.

PRESS DIGEST

Reconsideration of full membership of the EMS is taking place within Whitehall. With discussion on the Delors Report imminent, you might come to see the EMS as a useful economic discipline without loss of sovereignty (INdependent).

Lord Plumb says Government should stop interfering with European monetary union; praises Delors and Cockfield.

Britain to lead drive to stamp out £6billion EC fraud.

Sir John Hoskyns calls for "real debate" on EC monetary union at Madrid summit in June; but accuses Delors of suffering from political equivalent of merger mania (FT).

Scottish Tories acknowledge need for stronger campaign to defend the union (Guardian).

Threat of all out Tube strike for next Monday.

Left in AEU scuppers proposed merger with EETPU; voted down by 3 vote majority.

Now Bill Jordan says he is considering calling a ballot of all AEU members.

TUC calls on Norman Fowler to support ACAS move for a settlement to the docks dispute (FT).

TUC promises full support to dockers as they prepare for showdown with port employers (Times).

Telegraph says if University teachers dispute leads to end of national pay bargaining it would be an uncovenanted gain. It would also confirm impression AUT members who voted to continue dispute are not only insensitive to public opinion but lacking tactical intelligence.

Mirror says miners will be offered shares in their pits before they are privatised.

Sun, commenting on Meacher's plan to restore sympathy strikes and secondary picketing, says a vote for Labour is a vote for industrial anarchy.

BBC union leaders meet today to consider further 24 hour strikes and blackouts of live sports programmes.

PRESS DIGEST

Charles Wheeler, veteran broadcaster, tries to persuade Kilroy-Silk not to cross BBC picket line to attend social function at BBC. News reader Nicholas Witchell attracts abuse for continuing to read news without pay.

80% of viewers thought cartoons better than Breakfast Time (Today).

Today says BBC employees are underpaid because they work for an inefficient, overstaffed and outdated organisation. They will never achieve parity until BBC lives in real world.

Express says seeing the likes of Derek Jameson and Anna Ford supporting inflation busting pay claims is enough to make the Japs think we are back in the kamikaze game. Those who have a protected life at the BBC had better come to terms with reality.

Mail says if threats of industrial action seem as depressing as the sleet let no-one underestimate how much worse it could be if Kinnock were to come to office.

British Coal announces closure of two pits in Scotland - Bilston Glen and Monktonhall (FT).

Independent leader looks at the various areas of industrial disruption and concludes that there is no fear of a summer of discontent. But there are reasons for some concern, stoked mainly by the fear of inflation.

Times leader says not for the first time Michael Meacher has proved a better friend to you than to Kinnock. Just as the Government is sailing through rough political and economic waters, Mr Meacher has undermined his party on one of its most sensitive fronts.

Study of airline meals shows high incidence of salmonella. One expert says it is higher than in eggs (Independent).

Sun says doctor who issued anti-NHS propaganda under skull and crossbones emblem needs a large dose of commonsense three times a day before meals.

Government served another blow over NHS reforms as consultants in Wessex region vote to reject proposals for self-governing hospitals (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Ogwr Council in mid-Glamorgan faces default action by group of bankers over funds owed under controversial interest swap agreements (FT).

Lord Beaverbrook, in letter to FT, defends Lord Young over Lords embarrassment on Companies Bill (FT).

Teachers may boycott royal garden party as DES tells councils to invite teachers who are likely to behave properly (Times).

Conservative revolt against non-indexation of child benefit fails; 19 break ranks but Government still has majority of 100.

State school in Peterborough asks parents to contribute £200 a year per child to maintain present standard of education (Independent).

DES confidential report proposes major shake-up of research councils, including abolition of five individual councils (Independent).

Scientists will tell you this week that the worst of the greenhouse effect can be avoided if programmes to install energy-saving technology are adopted almost immediately (Times).

Transport Secretary reveals new measures to tighten up airport security.

Metropolitan Police internal report urges big shake-up of policing methods, which could be a pattern for other forces throughout England & Wales (Independent).

West Midlands police force raises recruiting age limit for both men and women from 30 to 45 to try to attract those who want a change of scene.

Home Secretary is drawing up plan to recruit 66,000 Neighbourhood Watch scheme members as Specials.

Home Office refuses to alter police entrance test which puts ethnic minorities at a disadvantage because it cannot afford the £170,000 to change it (Independent).

Wife of drugs baron who escaped police custody jailed for 7 years and ordered to forfeit £2.5million or face another 6 years in jail for cocaine dealing.

PRESS DIGEST

Legal history made in Scottish criminal court as woman accuses her husband of rape in their home (Independent).

Government expected to announce on Thursday significant changes to its plans for cable and microwave television. Ministers will confirm they have dropped proposals in the White Paper that cable operators should not also be able to retail programme services (FT).

Today says a Royal maid stole Princess Anne's letters and sent them to Sun; she is to be sacked.

David Mellor accused of telling Swedish audience that if we had all followed Sweden's example in last war we would still be living under Hitler.

Gorbachev planning a satellite pop concert for the world, according to Star from Cannes Festival.

Americans form a Denis Thatcher Society for men with wives in public life.

Chinese students call all out strike in effort to oust country's leadership.

Jordanian Prime Minister steps down after price riots (Independent).

King Hussein expected to appoint transitional Government to supervise first parliamentary elections since Arab-Israeli war of 1967 (FT).

EC foreign ministers agree to freeze trade links with Romania over its human rights record (Independent).

Political crisis in Hungary after public row between the Party leader and the Prime Minister (Independent).

SNF

Star and Sun virtually ignore issue. Mirror prints Prince Philip's cautious remarks.

Today - You are preparing for a showdown with German leaders over future of NATO.

PRESS DIGEST

Express says FDP have been instrumental in forcing Kohl into a U-turn which threatens NATO with its most damaging split for many years. This is what proportional representation brings.

Mail page 1 lead - NATO fury at Germans. Maggie heads for nuclear showdown with Kohl. Paul Johnson on the NATO split that can alter Europe's balance of peace as Russia woos her old enemy Germany.

Telegraph page 1 lead - Thatcher seeks NATO support against Germans. Bonn fails to persuade US to begin new talks over missiles.

Guardian page 1 - US resists Kohl's plea on nuclear talks. Feature says nostalgic British bullying will no longer bring Bonn into line.

FT - US and British Governments embark on a diplomatic offensive within NATO aimed at putting pressure on West Germany to abandon its call for talks with the Soviet Union on reduction of short-range nuclear weapons in Europe.

Independent - Bonn's nuclear shift hits stiff US opposition. Genscher and Stoltenberg said to be informing rather than negotiating in Washington. But the situation in Bonn is chaotic and fears remain that Germany could isolate itself within the Alliance.

Times page 1 - You and President Bush running joint effort to talk Bonn out of policy switch over SNFs as alarm grows that West Germany might be about to break ranks with NATO. Genscher in Washington says talks had been very friendly, intensive and in an atmosphere of mutual trust. He hopes the Alliance will be able to present unified front at next month's NATO summit; leader discusses the electoral vulnerability of Chancellor Kohl. The summit will provide an opportunity for the majority of NATO to explain to Germany what is at stake. It may be that forthright explanation is now more important than any single election result.

Meanwhile NATO's Secretary General says reliable deterrence and defence is as necessary today as it was yesterday (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Thomas Kielinger, editor in chief of the German national weekly Rheinischer Merkur, discusses in the Times the political problems facing Kohl and the efforts he is making to improve his popularity at home ahead of the general election. But he has chosen to risk all and lose all. For if, as it seems likely, his Cabinet Ministers return from Washington empty handed, he will only have strengthened in Germany deep seated resentments towards the alliance and the West as a whole.

TREASURY SELECT COMMITTEE

Star - Lawson warned on perils of another rise in interest rates. Last year's tax cutting, Committee says, caused present difficulties.

Sun - Chancellor rapped for underestimating scale of trade gap.

Mirror - Lawson's blunders have put Britain on economic tightrope.

Today - Chancellor has only himself to blame for spectre of higher interest rates. He blocked the Budget in 1988.

Express - Don't put up interest rates MPs plead with Lawson.

Mail - Lawson "walking finance tightrope". MPs warn of danger of new slump.

Telegraph - MPs attack tightrope economy.

Guardian - Errors leave Lawson walking on a tightrope.

TCSC warns Chancellor that he is relying on an "ambitious reversal" of import and export trends just to hold the UK trade deficit stable in 1989 (FT).

Times - Chancellor is walking dangerous tightrope with his attempts to curb inflation through high interest rates and has to accept some of the blame for the present economic problems (Times).

LIVERPOOL MEMORIAL SERVICE

Star says senior Royals must attend. There cannot be a repeat of Lockerbie. Nation would not tolerate another such snub.

PRESS DIGEST

Mirror says this is a blunder by the Palace. Who on earth is advising the Queen? And in what planet do they think they live? To blunder once is bad enough. To do it twice is careless of the nation's feelings.

SOUTH AFRICAN ARMS ROW

How refuses to expel South African diplomats over arms deal (Independent). Leader says the South African government are fools as well as knaves to have jeopardised your support. And it criticises Sir Geoffrey Howe for not condemning the principle of bad behaviour for fear of prejudicing the fair trial of the individuals involved.

Independent gives breakdown of price paid by three Ulster loyalist groups to South African agents for arms consignment delivered in January 1988.

YOUR TEN YEARS

Express serialises Andrew Thomson's book under heading "Compassion behind the iron mask".

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses Careers Service national conference, London (prov)
- DEN: Mr Parkinson addresses Foreign Press Association, London
- DOE: Mr Ridley meets delegation from Devon County Council and Robin Maxwell-Hyslop MP re low cost housing in rural areas
- DTI: Lord Young addresses Institute of Personnel Management, on 'Britain's performance - opportunities and challenges of Europe', Cafe Royal, London
- WO: Mr Walker opens Caradon Elliot new factory, Newport; later opens Bailey Homes corporate headquarters, Cardiff and opens Form and Surface Grinding Ltd extension, Pontypridd
- CO: Mr Luce addresses launch of media programme for business sponsors, Derby
- DES: Mr Butcher visits Northumberland Local Education Authority
- DOE: Mr Gummer meets delegation from Bath City Council and Chris Patten MP re capital finance arrangements
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley lunches with John Bows MP and the Lead Development Association
- DOE: Lord Caithness attends Environment Foundation Awards ceremony
- DOE: Mr Trippier lunches with Manchester branch of the Institute of Marketing, House of Commons
- DTI: Mr Forth launches Young Consumer of the Year competition, Hilton Hotel, London; later speaks on Enterprise/Industry Partnership, Romford
- DTp: Lord Brabazon attends the General Council of British Shipping lunch, London
- DTp: Mr Bottomley gives press conference on changes to the Orange Badge Scheme for the Disabled, London
- HO: Mr Patten opens British Retailers Association security conference, Institute of Directors, London
- HO: Mr Hogg addresses Release conference, Cafe Royal, London
- WO: Mr Roberts addresses Careers Service conference, London; later addresses Business in the Community
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Mr Waldegrave visits Poland (to 28 April)

MOD: Lord Trefgarne visits Munich, West Germany

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DOE: Lord Caithness lunches with Sheila Gunn of The Times

TV AND RADIO

'The Thatcher Decade: Batting for Britain': BBC Radio 4 (19.20): Last of three programmes. The PM's performance on the world stage, examined by Gordon Clough

'After Dread and Anger': BBC Radio 4 (20.30). Last of six documentaries on the State and race relations

'Taking Liberties': BBC 2 (21.45) the Privy Council and hanging in Jamaica