

26 April 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Global climate seminar

TUC General Council

England v. Albania World Cup qualifier

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STATISTICS

DOE: Construction and new orders (Feb)

DTI: Trade figures (March)

DTI/CSO: Balance of payments current account and overseas figures (March)

HO: Deaths reported to Coroners in England and Wales 1988

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PUBLICATIONS

DES: HMI report on Local Education Authority training grant 1987/88

HO: Independent Police Complaints Authority annual report 1988

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Environment; Scotland; Foreign and Commonwealth

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Waste Recycling (Papers) (Mr Keith Mans)  
Social Security Bill: Conclusion of Remaining Stages

Adjournment Debates: Conditions for planning consent in Wales  
(Mr T Janman)

Select Committees:

**AGRICULTURE**

Subject: Land-Use and Forestry

Witnesses: School of Agricultural and Forestry Sciences, University of North Wales; Department of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford; Department of Forestry and Natural Resources, University of Edinburgh; Department of Forestry, University of Aberdeen

**SOCIAL SERVICES**

Subject: Resourcing the NHS: The Government White Paper; Working for Patients

Witnesses: Professor Brian Jarman, St Mary's Hospital, Department of General Practice; Dr Eric Sklar, Dr Judith Langfield and Dr Kevork Hopayian



PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees:  
(cont'd)**EMPLOYMENT**

Subject: Part-time Employment  
 Witness: Low Pay Unit

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**

Subject: Support for Defence Exports  
 Witness: Peter Levene, KBE, Chief of Defence  
 Procurement

**TRANSPORT**

Subject: Roads for the Future  
 Witnesses: Institute for Transport Studies, University of  
 Leeds

**TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

Subject: Information Technology  
 Witness: Rt Hon Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of  
 State for Trade and Industry

Lords:

## Starred Questions

Debate to call attention to the "The Press and the People", the 35th  
 Annual Report of the Press Council 1988

Debate to call attention to the size of Britain's manufacturing base  
 in the light of the balance of payment situation

UQ to ask HMG whether they will consider, as a matter of urgency,  
 the index-linking of pensions of retired British citizens living in  
 Canada

MINISTERS - See Annex



PRESS DIGESTMain News

110 of the old guard in the Kremlin go, including Gromyko; as perestroika gets a boost with younger blood. Gorbachev strengthens his hold. Mail: Gorbachev axe falls on yesterday's men.

You warn Kohl of risks to NATO in West Germany's SNF stand and will appeal to Germans on TV.

Express says Kohl is due some sympathy, but not much because he refuses to fight for what he believes in.

Genscher claims US is prepared to reach compromise over NATO's future short-range nuclear missile policy, adding that he was optimistic that understanding would be possible in time for NATO summit. US, however, says rift over short-range missile talks might drag on for some time and again reject West German proposal for speeding East-West negotiations to curb the weapons (Times).

John Keegan, in Telegraph, says Gorbachev is likely to try to win further favour in Western Europe by announcing even larger unilateral withdrawals. NATO should forestall him and demand he dismantle military installations in East Germany and Czechoslovakia.

Guardian says senior NATO officials claim UK and US will have to give ground.

Bonn officials go on the offensive, hitting out at "excitability" and "ignorance" in Britain over West Germany's nuclear disarmament move. You show the House you are ready to do battle with Kohl (FT).

FT says US is preparing to shift its policy towards the Soviet Union from an almost exclusive concentration on arms control to a broader approach focused on regional conflicts and reforms in Eastern Europe.

Electricity bills to soar as a result of £2billion power station clean up - one of the preview stories of the global climate conference.

Gang spiking baby food strikes again in Portsmouth, Shoreham and Isle of Wight against Heinz and Cow & Gate.

More evidence Government's economic measures are beginning to work from CBI and Building Societies Association.



PRESS DIGEST

All out Tube strike called for May 8; NUR threaten strike ballot over 7% pay offer. Sun attacks Tube workers' refusal to allow talent to be promoted and their insistence on Buggins' turn. Meanwhile ACAS says merit rises are rapidly replacing national pay increases.

BBC union planning further inaction after Monday's 24 hour strike over pay.

Claims that Kilroy-Silk crossed BBC picket line to negotiate a much more lucrative deal.

Mirror leader claims Government is heading for a Summer of Strife. The pendulum against unions has swung too far. In these circumstances Labour must find the right balance but so far Meacher hasn't.

Express leader says the difference from 10 years ago is that companies have been given the legal means to fight back against strikes on behalf of their customers and they have a duty to do so.

Queen makes known, so Express says, her deep dismay over controversy about Royal Family's representation at Hillsborough Memorial Service.

Sun leads with Prince Charles snubbing Liverpool Memorial Service by going to Italy to take part in TV interview; he will visit Anfield next Wednesday.

Mail feature says Royal Family's image is at its lowest since abdication crisis.

Independent leader says it is unfair to blame members of the Royal Family for not attending the Liverpool Memorial Service. It is in accordance with convention. But it suggests that the convention itself needs changing. And above all there needs to be better communication of the convention with the public.

FA say Liverpool have until weekend to decide whether to complete FA Cup competition - or it goes ahead without them.

Crown Prosecution Service said to be infuriated by South Yorkshire Police decision not to take any further action because of tragic circumstances against some of the 34 arrested at Hillsborough for drunkenness and hooliganism.



PRESS DIGEST

Police investigating Hillsborough disaster receive 2,000 calls within four hours of opening hotlines.

You indicate that Government would look sympathetically at any danger of payments to Hillsborough disaster families resulting in their losing social security benefits, but general rules could not be changed (Times).

Campbell-Savours claims Tiny Rowland associate tapped two telephones belonging to Al-Fayed brothers in 1985 (Independent).

Small breweries against MMC plan to force sale of 22,000 pubs owned by giants to help smaller firms.

Head of BMA's scientific division says introduction of food irradiation would be a confidence trick (Independent).

Consumer and business groups welcome British Telecom's decision to change London telephone numbers (Times).

John Major tells MPs that 1,300 small firms are being set up every week (Times).

Manager of NHS South-East region to be chief executive of Guys Hospital if it goes self-governing in 1991, with a £100,000 salary funded by private donations (Independent).

Bexley Heath Authority sets up health screening programme for private sector in order to raise money for NHS patients (Times).

Peter Jenkins, in the Independent, says that the BMA's unscrupulous and mendacious campaign has begun to backfire. Its notorious pamphlet contains blatant misrepresentations. Kenneth Clarke will press on with his reform but the public still prefers to believe the doctors. Mr Clarke can win his battle with the BMA by steamrolling through his campaign but will he, in the process, lose the war and the General Election?

Kenneth Baker reforms higher education fees system to bring market forces to bear; Jack Straw calls it a "sinister ... incremental privatisation of our education system" (Independent).

Guardian describes the Baker plan as "thus far, a happy compromise".

FT leader welcomes proposed increase in tuition fees as an admission that committees are not necessarily the best means for allocating resources.



PRESS DIGEST

More parents sacrificing holidays, housing and new cars to pay for private education (Express).

Near-record increase in pupils at private schools, bringing the total above 7% compared to 5.8% when the Conservatives came to power (Independent).

Chairman of Head Masters Conference says Government's attempts to revolutionise state education pose no threat to booming independent schools (Times).

Express leader castigates Labour Party for failing to turn up for child benefit vote in which 19 Tories rebelled; Opposition, it says, claims to be the party of compassion and caring though it seems to be all mouth instead of all heart.

Claims that cyanide fumes from anti-graffiti paint killed at least 23 of 31 King's Cross tube fire victims.

Star advocates a national police force and is thereby critical of Home Secretary for shrinking from it. Mail says Home Secretary is right to question police efficiency and is right to seek to increase the number of Special Constables.

Government report on racial attacks due out next month watered down after intense lobbying by some departments (Independent).

Lord Cockfield says EC will have to have a single currency by the end of the century.

John Hoskyns attacks Chancellor's policy of making the pound shadow the mark as a misguided move that has lost the country two years in its battle against inflation (Times).

Press Council chairman signals his support for single law to protect people from defamation and invasion of privacy by the media (Times).

Arrested loyalist is missile unit senior NCO in Territorial Army. Kevin McNamara calls for MOD investigation into possible connections between the TA and paramilitary groups (Independent).

You hail Hungary as a trail blazer for freedom at reception - Mail gives it big coverage with picture.

Mr Thatcher joins campaign against slow golfers - picture in Telegraph.



PRESS DIGEST

Takehita quits with apology but no contrition, hoping to limit political damage. But most analysts agree that the LDP will lose its overall majority in the Upper House elections in July or August (Independent).

PLO will propose multi-national force to supervise West Bank elections at its next round of talks with US officials in Tunis - a response to Israeli proposals for Israeli-supervised municipal elections (Independent).

ENVIRONMENT/CLIMATE

Star - Government's £2billion plan to stop acid rain is welcome. But why does electricity customer have to pay. Bill should be met out of taxes.

Mail - Disaster alert for Maggie on pollution.

Telegraph leader heartily welcomes today's seminar. But it claims Messrs Parkinson and Channon are still saying the evidence is not strong enough to require action. They are out on a limb and should admit it. Measures like a crash nuclear programme, development and renewable energy sources and measures to enforce improved car economy should be held in readiness. If you are to retain credibility on green issues you and your colleagues will have to grasp the nettle.

Guardian says you will be told today that 24 nuclear power stations could be built over the next 30 years to combat the greenhouse effect.

FT feature on greenhouse effect claims that today's paper from the Energy Technology Support Unit will say that emissions of carbon dioxide might be halved by the year 2020 if abatement measures are taken - but it can only be achieved at the expense of major investment and innovation.

Independent - Ministers consider next step in fight against global warming. You would like to bid for international leadership in this field, but if Britain is to set an example, it would go strongly against the grain of rigorous free-market energy policies spearheaded by Cecil Parkinson (Independent).

Times - New programme to combat pollution in atmosphere has been agreed by ministers as you launch a Downing Street summit today on the greenhouse effect.



PRESS DIGESTYOUR TEN YEARS

Today story headed "Maggie may be immortal" says Lord Whitelaw, on TV tonight, says you could have superhuman powers.

Express continues its serialisation of Andrew Thomson's book with the spotlight on your family.

FT diary reveals that, in conversation with Joe Rogaly at Airey Neave Trust, you recalled your debt to him for his organisation in the Tory leadership campaign.

POLITICS

Times leader discusses the political situation. Although Government remains well placed in opinion polls the immediate difficulties are serious; notably water and electricity privatisation, community charge and NHS reform all of which are seriously influencing public opinion. You still, however, dominate British politics. If you evoke little warmth, you have no rival or even close to comparable stature. Many of the Cabinet Ministers are competent managers but since demise of Mr Tebbit it is hard to think of any who has shown the particular political skill needed to point a way forward or convince public opinion. It is not too soon for you to start thinking about how you will re-cast your Cabinet. You probably have a difficult summer ahead. You should use it well to relaunch your Government this autumn to a fresh and more effective second half.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses Small Business Bureau conference lunch, Surrey
- DOE: Mr Ridley and Mrs Bottomley attend Climate Change seminar, London
- DEM: Mr Lee visits Stoke on Trent (tourism)
- DEM: Mr Nicholls addresses Offshore Contractors seminar on "training", Aberdeen
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses IPM Conference on Improving Performances: Education/Industry Initiatives, Cafe Royal, London; later visits Kingsthorpe Grove Lower School and The Early Childhood Centre, Northants
- DH: Mr Mellor visits Mendip District Council re health promotion
- DH: Mr Freeman addresses the Crossroads Care Week organised by the Association of Crossroad Care Attendance Schemes Ltd, Royal Horseguards Hotel, London
- DOE: Mr Moynihan attends launch of Horse Trials Committees' new ambulance; later attends DOE conference of sportsmen and women with disabilities
- DOE: Mr Gummer meets Peter Bottomley and Greenwich Council re the levels of Need Assessment and future of Community Charge
- DTI: Mr Maude attends reception for opening of Swiss Banks House, London
- DTI: Mr Forth launches "Wealth From The Oceans" Advanced Technology Programme, London
- DTI: Mr Clark addresses Electronic Engineering Association annual dinner, London; later meets M Olhaye Djibouti, permanent representative to the UN and Ambassador to the US and Canada; later addresses Management Training Course for Soviet Managers, London Business School
- FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses Small Business Bureau national conference on "1992", Surrey
- HO: Mr Hogg visits Dover, on Drugs
- HO: Mr Patten attends Business and Crime Prevention press launch, CBI, Centre Point, London
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington visits Vale of Evesham NFU



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC) (Cont'd)

ANNEX

- MAFF: Mr Thompson visits National Pig Fair, Stoneleigh
- MAFF: Mr Ryder opens Institute of Grocery Distributors Training Centre, Watford
- ODA: Mr Patten hosts lunch for Mr Barber Conable, President of the World Bank, London
- SO: Mr Lang performs launch of Scottish Financial Enterprise Year Book, London
- SO: Mr Forsyth addresses Future Care of Mentally Handicapped, Forth Valley Health Board conference, Dunblane Hydro Hotel, Dunblane
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DOE: Mrs Bottomley visits Paris to see how the French tackle litter (to 27 April)
- DSS: Lord Skelmersdale attends War Pensions Committee meeting in Dublin (to 27 April)
- MOD: Mr Hamilton visits Iceland (to 27 April)
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TV AND RADIO

- 'The Thatcher Decade: Batting for Britain': BBC Radio 4 (16.05) repeat
- 'Power Behind the Throne: A Portrait of Willie Whitelaw': BBC 2 (20.00) Lord Whitelaw speaks frankly about his life, his beliefs and Mrs Thatcher
- 'Dispatches': Ch 4 (20.30)
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