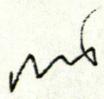


28 April 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Mr De Mita (photocall) 

Prince Edward visits Manchester (to 29 April)

Judgement likely in Heysel Trial of Liverpool football supporters

DSS: LOP (Income Support) goes live in pilot offices

Preliminary hearing of Lord Justice Taylor's inquiry into the Hillsborough disaster

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STATISTICS

DTI: Engineering sales and orders and current and constant prices (Feb)

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

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business:

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

Hearing Aid Council (Amendment) Bill: Remaining States (Mr Ieuan Wyn Jones)

Animal Protection Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr Greg Knight)

Abortion (Right of Conscience)(Amendment) Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr David Amees)

Adjournment Debates: Government aid for India and Nepal (Mr N Thorne)

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Spiked baby food dominates the pops as 220 cases are now reported and copycats begin wave of terror. They spotlight individual cases.

Detectives confirm blackmailers are same gang which tried to extort money from Leicestershire pet food plant last year.

Star "undercover" reporter walks into Heinz factory unchallenged and was able to loiter alone near a vat of food; leader attacks company for lack of security.

Heinz slam TV-AM for showing millions how baby food jars can be opened, tampered with and resealed.

Kohl's major policy speech ensures a showdown this weekend when you try to change his mind over short-range missiles.

You signal you are ready to take on the oil giants who are squeezing motorists with the high petrol prices.

London Underground agrees to meet rail union leaders next Tuesday for talks aimed to head off strike (FT).

Brewers' Society attacks MMC report on brewing industry (FT).

Mail - Prince Charles delivers unprecedented attack on Communists in Rumania in one of his most outspoken speeches accusing them of wholesale destruction of its towns and heritage.

Mail - You are coming under increasing pressure to link pound with EMS. Heavy campaigning by Chancellor and Foreign Secretary has produced new converts to European cause, leaving you more and more isolated.

Robert Cottrell discusses EMU in the Mail under the heading "A golden egg we shun at our peril". He says that by announcing a policy of obstinate isolation you and the Chancellor threaten to manoeuvre Britain into a situation from which it could only emerge with its reputation or prosperity severely diminished.

You step up attack on EC monetary union; and Foreign Secretary opens a new offensive against impending plan to impose worker participation on company boards (Times).

Canada dashes your hopes of landing a £4billion contract for nuclear submarines as their budget is leaked.

PRESS DIGEST

Express - Government makes first move to bring peace in NHS row with Kenneth Clarke hinting he is ready to compromise with GPs; leader warns doctors that wild accusations can damage their case and acting like militant and irresponsible trade unionists will be bad medicine for them.

Today - Rebel doctors vote to work-to-rule if Government forces through its NHS shake-up; leader says that 40 years ago doctors wanted to take action to scupper the setting up of the NHS. Now they say they must act to preserve it. Government has made a bold bid to improve NHS and if doctors take industrial action their patients will suffer.

Teachers to get pay rises of between 6 and 15%.

Labour accuse Kenneth Baker of misleading the Speaker. They say his office did not reveal a plan for a press conference before a Parliamentary announcement on university fees (Guardian).

Ballot papers will be sent to 9,400 registered dockers tomorrow. Bill Morris of TGWU says strike seems inevitable (Times).

Engineering Employers' Federation report warns that output from engineering industries will come to a virtual halt during the second half of this year (FT).

Gas plant closure may hit oil output, as BP's Magnus field is unlikely to be able to continue present production unless gas processing is quickly restored at St Fergus (FT).

DTI announces steps to break British Gas's monopoly in industrial gas market by insisting that 10% of gas from new fields should be sold through other suppliers (FT).

ILO says government's trade union legislation has flouted international employment conventions and should be amended (Independent).

National Consumer Council backs Government's legal reform proposals.

Government drops study into possible sixth TV channel.

Media Institute study attacks bias in Murdoch's papers' coverage of satellite TV. Study financed by rival satellite group BSB (Guardian).

PRESS DIGEST

Two workers at Short Bros, who are shortly to emigrate to South Africa, given 15 minute notice to leave the plant. Company say it is common security practice (Independent).

Treasury advising civil service personnel managers to be more flexible about family leave entitlement in order to increase public sector appeal for older workers (FT).

European Commission warns that EC governments have no right to regulate air fares between countries; and that practice will be considered illegal after 1992 (Times).

Labour discloses leaked document showing Britain fell from 2nd to 6th place in the European poverty league during your term of office (Independent).

Birmingham University report shows mortgage default is fastest growing cause of homelessness.

Joe Haines, in the Mirror, under heading of "Thatcher's disaster decade" admits that some of the bodies you privatised deserved it; some of the unions needed their wings clipping; and some of the changes you made were necessary but says you can't stop doing things and demanding your own way.

George Gale in the Mail says your record already establishes you as the best peace time Prime Minister this century. If you beat inflation, preserve the advance in our prosperity and keep the Western alliance on an even keel, you will rank with Gladstone - with whom, among all our Prime Ministers, you are most fit to be compared.

Serialisation of Andrew Thomson's book on you continues in the Express looking at the 1983 General Election.

Confidential memorandum from Home Office lawyers shows hundreds of people illegally deported since immigration rules changed nine months ago (Independent).

Labour protests that Government has refused to allow Commons time to debate regulations which implement poll tax (Independent).

Tories fear a dose of mid-term blues in Glamorgan with MORI poll giving Labour 8% lead.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail says extraordinary attack by Lord Crickhowell on Peter Walker looks like destroying Tory chances in Vale of Glamorgan by-election. In a speech in Cardiff tonight he will say that Peter Walker's contribution to the principality is about as "durable as the morning mist".

Scotland may seek own diplomatic representation at EC if Labour win next election (Guardian).

Michael Heseltine and Norman Tebbit are among 129 Tory backbenchers who want fines imposed on universities and colleges that do not maintain free speech on campus (Times).

London School of Economics' decision to elect PC Blakelock's killer as honorary president of student union described as "sick joke". Union says it is a vote in favour of justice.

Sun leader says even sewer rats will find it distasteful to go near LSE today.

Star headline describes it as "Sick"; leader asks when will they learn sense?

Labour frontbencher Stuart Holland quits as MP to take job with European University Institute in Florence.

World Health Organisation claims more than a million cases of salmonella food poisoning and several hundred deaths occur in Europe each year (Times).

MAFF announces plans to ban sale of cracked eggs (Times).

Poll shows mothers are losing battle to control their children's sweet-eating habits.

Today - Government turns down demands for a national police force to clamp down on pollution.

Times leader says most important conclusion to emerge from the Downing Street seminar is that exceptional measures will be needed to deal with global warming; but formulation of national and international strategies cannot wait until all the evidence is in. You have been convinced that we already know enough to foresee potential catastrophe. Government's domestic policies will be scrutinised as the litmus test of its international commitment.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph leader does not share the scepticism over your conversion to green policies. But it says you have a difficult decision over whether to go for more nuclear power which is still politically unpopular in this country.

Letter in Guardian says it is heartening to see Government rising to challenge of the greenhouse effect - but conservation is left too much to individuals and companies.

Joe Rogaly, in FT, looks at where greenery in politics is leading, and asserts that the world's poor must either grow richer through the use of clean energy or they must not grow rich. At the next election you may discover that you cannot have global leadership and Thatcherism too.

New explosives detector to be installed at Gatwick this summer (Independent).

Belfast Court told that Gerry Adams was refused compensation after a Loyalist gas attack in 1984 because he had been a member of the IRA (Telegraph).

Guinness case opens at Southwark Crown Court.

Law sentences and acquittals expected in Heysel verdicts today (Times).

Fennel dismisses Times allegations of cyanide cause of deaths at King's Cross as "pure speculation". But he admits that some of the primary evidence about the causes of the deaths was inevitably lost during the fire-fighting process.

You back sale of £450 million hi-tech equipment to USSR despite US objections that it could have military use (Guardian).

Express diary says President Bush will be visiting Messing in Essex in search for his roots.

Guardian has full-page feature on Sultan of Brunei, including his close ties with members of the British establishment.

Pope threatens serious deterioration in relations with the Anglican Church if it decides to ordain women (Independent).

Students win battle of Peking in triumphant display of defiance and political will. At least 150,000 students, teachers and ordinary citizens took part in march - the most resounding popular rebuke to the leadership in 40 years (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Death toll from Bangladesh tornado feared to be 1,000, with 30,000 left homeless (Times).

Syria backs call by Arab League for immediate ceasefire in Beirut (FT).

Field Marshall Zeid bin Shaker sworn in as Jordanian Prime Minister (FT).

CHANCELLOR KOHL

Mail - Foreign Secretary warns that West Germany's stance on nuclear weapons is a recipe for disaster and makes it clear that Kohl should brace himself for head-on clash with you this weekend; leader says in their present frame of mind the Germans are more ready to be seduced by Gorbachev than they are to trust Bush or you, concluding that the rogue ally is unlikely to take kindly to lectures from the maverick European.

Chancellor Kohl defies his critics and makes it clear that the West German Government is determined to press for early negotiations on SNF reductions (Times).

Charles Moore, in the Express, says the message to Kohl, you and Bush is simple. Take nuclear weapons out of Germany and you do not make it a zone of peace; rather, you put it up for grabs.

Independent - Kohl calls for NATO understanding and publicly calls for early negotiations between NATO and Warsaw Pact on reducing SNF; leader blames the current NATO crisis on the second zero of the INF treaty. Kohl is being hypocritical in asserting his wish not to eliminate SNF entirely. But if a compromise is to be found you will have to show more understanding for Kohl's political difficulties.

West German Government bitterly rejects claims that it is failing to respect its NATO responsibilities (FT).

De Mita is expected to outline Italy's position as a possible compromise to NATO row over SNF modernisation when he meets you today. He believes negotiations on SNF reductions should not start until it is seen how much progress can be made on conventional arms talks; and that no decision on modernisation needs be taken before 1992 (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Kohl wins all-party support for his insistence on SNF negotiations; "We do not want ultimatums from US and Britain" he tells the Guardian.

NATO sources suggest two-thirds of members are against SNF modernation (Guardian); leader says US and Britain are now isolated in NATO. Germany is now starting to act as a truly independent state.

BABY FOOD

Times - Home Office holds crisis meeting on baby food; leader claims it is counter-productive to keep the British public in the dark about such terrorism.

Mail - Sickness in modern society underlined as police reveal hunt for blackmailers is being hampered by wave of copycat saboteurs.

Express leader calls for a separate Ministry of Food now with clear and all-embracing responsibility for the safety of our food as at the moment no department feels responsible.

Mirror says police are hunting an evil couple who have already got away with £18,000 through earlier blackmail and are now demanding £1million. Leader criticises police for not telling public earlier saying it stinks of a cover-up.

Today - Furious row breaks out as supermarkets refuse to clear shelves of baby food; leader says we are faced with an epidemic of terror and calls for all baby food to be removed from shelves so that not a single baby is harmed.

Independent - Police question scale of baby food sabotage. Manufacturers convinced widespread sabotage to their products is impossible at the factories. But consumer protection officials admit jars of British food would fail to meet US safety standards; leader criticises government and the manufacturers for not going public weeks ago on the baby food scare.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DTI: Lord Young visits Ribble Valley
- DTp: Mr Channon opens the M63/M66 Portwood to Denton Link, Manchester
- HO: Mr Hurd visits HM Prison Hull and Selby Police
- SO: Mr Rifkind and Mr Lang meet Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, St Andrew's House, Edinburgh; Mr Lang later addresses Society of Local Authority Chief Executives, Hospitality Inn, Glasgow
- DEM: Mr Cope attends press launch of Training Agency Interactive Training by Satellite project, Plymouth
- DEM: Mr Lee opens Lloyds Bank Financial Centre, Liverpool
- DH: Mr Mellor visits Merton Sutton and Wandsworth Family Practitioners Committee; later attends Mersey region's dinner for District Health Authority Chairmen
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley addresses People and Places conference, Manchester
- DOE: Mr Howard addresses Planning Inspectorate AGM, Bristol
- HMT: Mr Lilley attends the 6th Form conference, Central Hall, Westminster
- HO: Mr Hogg visits HM Young Offenders' Institution, Hatfield, Doncaster
- (HO: Lord Whitelaw opens HM Prison, Garth, Leyland)
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington meets Israeli Minister of Agriculture, London
- SO: Lord James Douglas Hamilton opens Queen's Cross Housing Association, Glasgow
- SO: Lord Sanderson addresses Scottish Tourism Co-ordinating Group, Highlands and Islands Development Board, Inverness
- WO: Mr Roberts launches "Street Sense" schools video, Carmarthen; later visits Dyfed fire brigade control room, Carmarthen
- WO: Mr Grist launches Glaxo Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Support Intercollated Degree Students, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff; later addresses Association of Crossroads Care Attendant Schemes, Brecon
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DOE: Lord Caithness attends meeting of European Environment Council, Spain
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TV AND RADIO

'Hard News': Ch 4 (17.30) repeat

'The Thatcher Factor: The Way We Live Now': Ch 4 (20.00) in final programme of series, Hugo Young looks at changes in society

'Any Questions?': BBC Radio 4 (20.05) with Teddy Taylor, Bernie Grant, Mary Holland and novelist Jennifer Johnston

'Law in Action': BBC Radio 4 (20.50) Legal issues

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