

2 May 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

EC/ASEAN Council of Ministers, Troika

EC: Political Committee, Madrid (to 3 May)

STATISTICS

BOE: London sterling certificates of deposit (Mar)

BOE: Bill turnover statistics (Mar)

BOE: UK banks' assets and liabilities and the money stock (Mar)

BOE: Sterling commercial paper (Mar)

HO: The operation of certain police powers under the Police and Criminal Evidence Acts, England and Wales 1988

PUBLICATIONS

DES: HMI report on higher education in the USA

MOD: Defence Estimates 1988/1989: White Paper

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Education and Science; Defence; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Aircraft (Freedom from Smoking)
Opposition Day (9th allotted day)
Until about 7.00 pm
Debate on Doctors' Opposition to the NHS Reforms on an
Opposition Motion
Afterwards,
Debate on Teacher Shortages on an Opposition Motion
Official Secrets Bill: Supplemental Timetable Motion and
Consideration of Lords Amendments

Adjournment Debates: The fight against drugs (Sir F Montgomery)

Lords: Starred Questions
Water Bill: Committee (1st Day)
Prayer to Annul the Education (National Curriculum)(Attainment
Targets and Programmes of Study in Science) Order 1989

PRESS DIGESTMain News

More trouble at Risley Remand centre as prisoners, some said to be high on drugs secured from medical room, go on rampage. Riot police move in.

Prison officers smash their way into a cell with sledgehammers to rescue two colleagues trapped there.

Prison officers criticise provision by Home Office and Labour says riot is symptomatic of overcrowded prisons. POA asked for Army help to quell riot.

Young Civil Servant arrested and charged with murder after man goes mad with shotgun on Tyneside and kills one person and injures 14, two critically.

Home Secretary likely to make Commons Statement on Monkseaton shootings. Hattersley says new legislation may have to be considered to tighten firearms security and certification (FT).

Sun prints picture of man whose back is punctured with 50 pellets.

Calls for action against gun licensing - Today wants all licensed guns under police protection and issued only to certified owners at specific times for specific uses.

Mail says Home Secretary must reconsider shotgun regulations and listen to the police. But the fact that the new Firearms Act will not be fully in force until July is an argument against a rush into new legislation. Telegraph predictably says the interests of thousands of law-abiding sports shooters should be considered.

Guardian says the only reason the response to Hungerford was not tougher was the gun lobby. Home Secretary needs to take another look depending surely on all party support.

Times - Douglas Hogg rejects Hattersley's call for tougher shotgun laws after Whitley Bay shooting saying the 1988 Firearms Act is comprehensive; leader says no legislation can prevent one person taking another's licensed shotgun just as no legislation can provide against sudden flights of insanity. The hope is that tighter legislation will make shotguns less easily available in future - and so make the irresponsible use of them less likely.

Independent leader calls for further changes which would make it more difficult for the bad or the mad to gain access to guns including taking more account of unusual personality traits.

PRESS DIGEST

Police investigating discovery of bodies of two children in house at Mitcham.

Peter Walker to announce today important investment in the infrastructure of Wales as he tries to keep alive Conservative hopes of retaining Vale of Glamorgan (Times).

Government's lead over Labour in Euro MPs could be cut from 13 to 3 (Times).

As Government prepares for one of the most traumatic weeks of industrial unrest for 10 years, Norman Willis says there are signs that workers are becoming restive and resentful at having been given one kick on the shins too many (Times).

Senior Ministers believe that a date in the second half of 1991 has been pencilled in for Britain to join EMS with Chancellor and Foreign Secretary being more enthusiastic than you (Times).

Telegraph leader says that like ideal democracy, complete EMU is a paradise mercifully postponed. But it says that now that peaceful co-existence has broken out with the East it would be possible and politic to extend the concept Westwards.

FT leader calls for community law to be made by its directly elected parliament, not by ministers delegated from national governments. Neither freedom nor democracy, it argues, can be equated with national sovereignty.

John Nott and Lord Pym criticise you in BBC TV's Newsnight programme on your 10 years. Nott says you won't reverse a situation of public squalor and private affluence; Pym says you have turned consensus into a dirty word.

NUPE conference resolution says you are "a bigger menace to our people than Hitler was".

Cambridge don claims universities are clogged by hundreds, if not thousands, of lecturers who do less work than they might or who are not very able (Times).

Rebellion by dons at Oxford threatening proposals to introduce merit pay for professors (Times).

Far from having destroyed science you have presided over a doubling in the number of university researchers, says lecturer in clinical biology at Cambridge (Telegraph).

PRESS DIGEST

Report from Centre for Policy Studies demolishes idea that science is sick (FT).

A plan by an East Sussex school to charge pupils for the lease of lockers is probably unlawful according to Jack Straw (Independent).

Guardian leader sees this period as a test for Kinnock as he produces policy statements.

Sales of lead free petrol have doubled since Budget and now represent 14% of all sales.

Government has defused row with the EC over water quality, according to Telegraph, by agreeing to avoid granting virtual exclusion from prosecution of water companies which fail to meet purity standards.

Water shares will yield 8% after privatisation barring a big change in market conditions (Times).

Express says it would be a scandalous betrayal by any Government - and above all this one in view of its ringing commitments to extend choice - if it did nothing to liberalise Sunday trading laws.

UK companies increased their return on assets by 18% last year, according to Dun & Bradstreet survey (FT).

Barlow Clowes court hearing resumes today (FT).

Italy and UK reach informal deal on export of Nissan cars (FT).

DE and DES in row over arrangements for 'compacts' between schools and industry (FT).

Robin Cook calls on Government to postpone NHS reform until after the election to test the consent of the people.

Government warned by Adam Smith Institute that if it allows lawyers to charge contingency fees the result could be a hidden tax that sends company costs and council rates soaring as they are forced to insure, at increasing cost, against being sued (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Law Society criticises proposed law reforms because of dangerous accumulation of power by Lord Chancellor and effect on small firms allowing banks, building societies and estate agents to compete for conveyancing.

Law Society also attacks proposals for mixed partnerships between solicitors and other professionals (FT).

North-South Divide - Exeter, Halifax, Dundee and York top of list of 34 medium sized towns for quality of life.

Today calls for much tougher powers for anti-pollution inspectors.

Greenpeace says the sunken Soviet submarine, off North Norway, presents a major environmental pollution hazard for a thousand years.

Sir Hugh Rossi, in Telegraph, attacks rejection of Select Committee's proposal for an Environmental Protection Agency and calls for a Minister with such specific responsibilities.

Railway Inspectorate report to be published later this month will show that London Underground staff are still inadequately trained to cope with emergencies, that evacuation procedures remain unclear and that too few measures have been taken to prevent fires (Times).

The US will cut off payments to WHO and other UN agencies if they accept the PLO (Independent).

Plans, according to Today, for £75 parking fines on key roads to deal with traffic congestion.

Michael Heseltine advocates wider adoption of Minis information system and says you should sanction a progress audit of the systems adopted by departments (FT).

Express leads with revolt by TV viewers who claim there is nothing worth watching on four Channels; leader complains that the Government seems content with limited deregulation and unable to accept broadcasting can be left to the market and individual choice.

Sam Brittan says you are not consistent in your broadcasting policy; seeking at once deregulation and consumer choice while becoming more censorious about what people are allowed to see and hear (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

White House fears NATO summit shambles after your meeting with Kohl (Express).

US will stand firm against West German call for short-range nuclear arms talks, according to a senior US official (FT).

West German ministers and officials start a NATO-wide offensive today to persuade other members of the Alliance that it is in all their interests to open negotiations with Soviet Union on short-range nuclear missiles (Times).

Telegraph says your visit had little impact on German views.

Anthony Beaumont-Dark calls for Home Office inquiry after two more motorists die in police chase (Times).

Eight mortars and launching equipment found in garden in Dungannon.

Star front page report on its purchase of a 12 year-old girl in Bangkok to save her from a life of slavery and prostitution.

BBC reporter beaten up by police in Prague as he covered May Day demo arrests; UK to protest.

May Day demonstrations marred by violence or intimidation with the worst incidents in Turkey, Czechoslovakia, the Philippines, Poland, and South Korea. There were also incidents in West Berlin (Times).

Liverpool supporter acquitted at Heysel trial plans to sue Belgian authorities for £10,000 (Times).

Steve Davis retains world snooker championship.

Sir John Boyd, ex AEU, dies 71.

New secrets challenge as former MI6 agent, Desmond Bristow, plans to publish his memoirs (Independent).

Iran rebuilding its stocks of arms with help from Russia and North Korea (Express).

PRESS DIGEST

A BA Jumbo narrowly escaped being shot at by a US warship in the Gulf last year one month before the Iranian airbus was brought down by the USS Vincennes. British crew by chance picked up a warning being broadcast by the warship and, taking avoiding action, nearly crashed into a Bulgarian airliner. This and other incidents are revealed in an unpublished ICAO report. US accused of issuing warnings to aircraft which it was unclear whether they had been received (Independent).

YOUR TEN YEARS

Sun says the past decade has been a sea change in our fortunes. Most of us have never enjoyed such a high standard of living. And yet the voters want to bite the hand that has fed them. but not a hundred Heseltines or a thousand Owens or a million Kinnocks could have matched your achievements.

In the same paper, Jimmy Reid says that in the last 10 years Britain has become less caring, more callous, less loving, more loutish, less tolerant, more ignorant.

Ronald Reagan writing in the Times, to mark your tenth anniversary talks about the special relationship between the two of you and that you are a valued and trusted friend.

MORI poll says only one-third of electors think Britain is heading in the right direction after 10 years of Thatcherism (Independent).

Low paid workers have completely missed out on the economic regeneration of the Thatcher decade with nearly half of adult employees earning below the European "decency threshold" (Independent).

Independent leader says after 10 years of Thatcherism the country remains in uneasy thrall to you - you caught a powerful but limited popularist tide in the late 1970s and rode it with considerable skill. Labour votes have been lost to the centre and it will not be easy to win them back. However many of your policies are unpopular and a number of your crucial values are not shared by the mass of the electorate - but unless the tide is really turning you will continue to dominate the political scene.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DH: Mr Clarke attends meeting and luncheon with General Managers Group of British Medical Association, London
- DTI: Mr Newton speaks on Hightech 1992, London
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor opens new Chemistry II building, Schering Holding Ltd, Essex
- DES: Mr Jackson speaks to the Council for Independent and Higher Education, Unilever House, London
- DH: Mr Mellor meets British Association of Social Workers re the Childrens Bill
- DOE: Mr Howard visits Severn Trent Water Authority, Birmingham
- DOE: Mr Moynihan drops in on Cambridge University Tiddlywinks Club charity match, London; later meets World cycling tourists, London
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley meets Unleaded Petrol Group; later has dinner at Eaton College with Lord Charteris (Heritage)
- DOE: Mr Gummer visits Norfolk (local government "listening" visit)
- DOE: Mr Chope visit PSA and MOD sites in Aldershot
- DTI: Mr Atkins launches glass recycling scheme, Sutton
- DTI: Mr Forth addresses British Design Awards dinner, London
- FCO: Mr Waldegrave speaks at Chatham House on "British Foreign Policy: A Choice of Options", London
- MOD: Mr Hamilton addresses US National War College, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Mrs Chalker visits Switzerland and addresses Fribourg University, on "1992" (to 4 May)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DOE: Mr Trippier lunches with Hazel Duffey, Financial Times
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TV AND RADIO

"Analysis": Jewel in the Constitution": BBC Radio 4 (19.20) Enoch Powell, Tony Benn and Peter Hennessy discuss the Royal Prerogative

"Split Screen": Homes versus Industrial Development": BBC 2 (20.00) arguments about a planning case in Northumberland

"Taking Liberties": BBC 2 (21.50) people who find they are labelled security risks in Northern Ireland and can't find out why

"First Tuesday: Four Hours in My Lai": Thames (22.40) inside story of massacre in Vietnam
