

5 May 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Prince Edward visits Malta (to 7 May)

National Union of Scalemakers annual conference, Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool (to 6 May)

EC: Informal Environment Ministers meeting, Cacares (to 7 May)

40th anniversary of Council of Europe

---

STATISTICS

DOE: Housing starts and completions (Mar)

---

PUBLICATIONS

DES: HMI report on physical education

---

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

Protection of Privacy Bill: Remaining Stages (Mr John Browne)  
International Parliamentary Organisations (Registration) Bill:  
Committee Stage (Mr Michael Marshall)  
Right of Silence Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr Kenneth Hind)  
Abortion (Amendment of Grounds) Bill: 2nd Reading (Sir  
Bernard Braine)

Adjournment Debates: Safeguarding the site of the Palace of Julius Agricola  
(Mr T Banks)

---

PRESS DIGESTMain News

You pledge there will be no slowing down as you celebrate your 10th anniversary.

Gallup poll puts Tories at 40.5% and Labour at 37.5%.

Looking forward to the next decade. Thatcher gets ready for 1999. Picture of you and DT in Downing Street carried on inside page (Times).

Picture of you outside No 10 with Crawfie (Independent).

You celebrate 10 years as Premier with Tory victories in county council elections as shattered parties of the old Alliance lose their grip on power across England and Wales.

Labour expected to take victory in the Vale of Glamorgan marginal seat - only their second such win in 10 years. BBC exit poll gives Labour victory.

FT - Kinnock takes aim at the smile of a tigress. Your 800th appearance at the despatch box had been going swimmingly until he reminded you of your doorstep prayer of 10 years ago.

Guardian - Thatcher hails 'restored faith'. You celebrate your 10th anniversary by saying you had brought harmony to the nation at home and restored faith in it abroad. Some senior ministers are convinced you will retire within a year or two of winning the next election, but they are those whose age makes that the most favourable date for leadership bids of their own.

Express leader says the idea that Thatcherism is no longer relevant as we move towards the 1990s is wishful thinking by those who are opposed to her but have no way of unseating her.

Today - You want to stay in power another 10 years so that you can tidy up the environment.

Mirror leader under the heading "Here's to you, Denis", says if there is a hero in the Thatcher years, it's your other half. If the Conservative Party owes a debt to you, so it also owes one to Denis.

Most pops carry story by Princess Anne's maid saying she did not steal Royal letters.

Government may have to urgently re-think national screening

PRESS DIGEST

programme for breast cancer to take in younger women as link with Pill is revealed.

Family doctors reach agreement on contracts after 10 hours of talks (Express).

Social Services Select Committee will recommend that the NHS changes should be delayed and reduced to pilot schemes (Independent).

Express - Multi-billion pound road building programme to be announced later this month to beat traffic jams.

Private firms will be given green light today to go ahead with private toll roads (Mail).

Public spending rules linking private investment in Britain's road system are to be relaxed as part of a strategy aimed at promoting increased spending on the country's transport infrastructure (FT).

High Court judge blocks Tube strike but BR drivers threaten unofficial action and engineering unions call strike ballots as pay talks break down. Strikes again next week at BBC, and firemen fuming over pay.

Parking restrictions will be lifted in London next week if rail strike goes ahead (FT).

Today leader says that there have been innumerable studies about how to improve commuting and ease road congestion in London but nothing has been done. It calls on you to slice through this paralysis. You did not struggle to put the unions in their place only to let them throttle the capital by their ability to put their thumbs on London's undernourished transport arteries.

BR to spend £1.4billion over next 5 years to increase capacity of South East rail network by 30% (Telegraph).

Guardian says Britain is heading for the most serious outbreak of industrial strife since the miners' strike 4 years ago.

Which? magazine says many of Britain's holiday jets may not be airworthy.

Express - Peter Walker tells CBI conference he believes a single European currency is inevitable.

Mail - Government to speed up passage of Docks Bill.

PRESS DIGEST

Guardian leader on legal reform argues need for a Ministry of Justice to take charge of "law" and an interior ministry to take charge of "order". An independent judicial commission would be an equally important change.

Joe Haines, in the Mirror, warns that caution is needed over nuclear disarmament as the defence policies of the West cannot be dependent upon one man's (Gorbachev) heartbeat in the East. He says the Germans are snatching at Gorbachev's promises too eagerly, adding we should not put our trust in men, only in measures. The more powerful the threat of retribution the less likely it is for aggression to take place.

Kinnock faces new crisis as Militant gets a stranglehold on moderate Frank Field's constituency (Mail).

Furious left-wingers preparing for major row with Kinnock as the Labour Party is about to abandon its Ban-the-Bomb policy.

Labour plans to allow secondary union action (Independent).

Mail - Britain coming under strong pressure from Europe to withdraw opposition to major EC plan to boost foreign language learning; leader says we are short of good foreign language teachers. Even if we cannot yet express our wish to co-operate in French and German, for once, let's at least show some willing.

Guardian leader on language training calls for better arrangements in Britain after decision to veto EC's Lingua programme.

You chaired a Cabinet committee yesterday which is believed to have decided to force the issue of EC competence by sending Kenneth Clarke and Kenneth Baker to Brussels on May 16 and 22 (Guardian).

Battle lines are being drawn between European Commission and EC governments over future of telecommunications services industry (FT).

Britain could be heading for a row with the EC over its proposed ministerial powers to exempt privatised water companies from controls at sewerage pollution (Independent).

Conservative MEPs, in a private poll, reveal fears that your anti-EC campaign will lead to significant losses in June's European elections (Guardian).

PRESS DIGEST

Pro-European Tory MPs becoming disturbed by apparent new phase of anti-Market rhetoric from Downing Street (Times).

You warn that we will be on our guard against the EC seeking greater powers over member countries (Independent).

Joe Haines, in Mirror, says the EC's proposal for a new VAT imposition on charities is an outrage.

Greek Association of Car Importers has protested to the EC against a new tax regime for cars which gives locally assembled Japanese cars a price advantage over vehicles imported from the EC (FT).

FT leader believes G7 is at an impasse with too little having been done to reduce US protectionism.

Sir Richard Attenborough calls for greater Government support for co-operative European TV and film initiatives and for a single cabinet minister to have responsibility for films and broadcasting (Times).

Francis Maude rejects Labour allegations that secret links between the Al-Fayed brothers and the Tory Party may be behind the Government's refusal to publish the 1985 report on the House of Fraser takeover (Independent).

Plessey is seeking a deal with GEC in an attempt to ward off a renewed takeover bid from GEC/Siemens (FT).

Trusthouse Forte faces £2.9billion takeover bid (Guardian).

Royal Town Planning Institute and Town and Country Planning Association warn that South will seize up within next 5-10 years unless urgent action is taken to spread prosperity in the North (Guardian).

Chairman of Building Societies Association calls for regulation of the mortgage market (FT).

Today - Estate agents across the South report glut of cut-price homes as sellers knock up to £50,000 off asking price since mortgage rates began to soar.

ILEA becomes first local education authority to identify its worst-performance schools. Teachers enraged (Telegraph).

Kenneth Baker offers university lecturers £100million inducement to call off exam ban (Telegraph).

PRESS DIGEST

The Mad Mullah LSE student who honoured cop killer Silcott is receiving hefty grant from the Loonie Lefties on Harringey Council despite the fact his dad is a top Harley Street surgeon (Star).

Sheffield headmistress loses her job after a group of 7 and 8 year olds caused weeks of disruption; Star leader says the new headmistress should start by giving the spoiled brats a good hiding.

West Midlands police authority are seeking an urgent meeting with the Home Secretary on how the bill for the Hillsborough inquiry which it is conducting - at a cost of £2.3million a month - is to be paid for (Independent).

Home Secretary insisted yesterday that Britain would continue to fight EC proposals to abolish frontier controls within Europe to strengthen attempts to combat drug trafficking, terrorism and organised crime (Independent).

Four policemen sentenced to between 3 and 4 years for framing two students on a demo.

Yugoslav secret police officer jailed for 15 years in Scotland for attempted murder of the president of Croation nationalist organisation (Times).

Two civilians die in IRA bomb attacks in South Armagh. IRA violence to increase to mark 20th anniversary of the deployment of British troops in the province (Times).

The Dublin High Court has ruled that an Irish judge was wrong to refuse an application to extradite Patrick McVeigh to Britain last June (Independent).

Two children burned to death in caravan on gipsy site in Hackney after rival groups are involved in fierce fighting (Star).

Beer drinkers may have to pay a penny-a-pint "tax" to fund the big brewers' battle with Government over future of industry (Express).

Tory Backbench revolt on Water Bill heavily defeated (Times).

City analysts are suddenly starting to rally the cause of water privatisation saying it will be a safe, attractive long-term investment (Today).

PRESS DIGEST

PowerGen presses for nuclear power stations to be run as a separate company after privatisation (FT).

DOE to launch three-year study on possible links between contaminated sea water and health risks to the public (Times).

Times - World's leading expert on CFCs tells Helsinki conference that their complete elimination by the year 2000 is not yet technically possible; leader says Britain is right to oppose the establishment of a new institution to manage a global climate fund - even if it means the break-up of the Helsinki CFC conference.

Sun leader say No Sirree to a knighthood for Ronald Reagan. A great president and friend deserves much better. Let Ron ride into the sun as the "Dook" of California.

Dutch Parliament will be dissolved in early June and general election held between September 6 and 13 (FT).

Foreign Secretary to meet Yasser Arafat in London in next three months (Mail).

Times leader says it is right for you to see Yasser Arafat but only in the distant future. First he should see Sir Geoffrey Howe - but only after further progress.

US Colonel Oliver North found guilty in Irangate plot. Faces 10 years in prison and three quarters of a million dollar fine.

FT examines the first moves towards worker participation in the Soviet Union.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DOE: Mr Ridley blows up chimney; speaks on water privatisation and opens English Heritage offices, Newcastle
- DSS: Mr Moore addresses National Association of Pension Funds meeting, London
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor addresses Great British Breakfast, Weatabix Hall, London
- DTI: Mr Newton visits the North East
- HMT: Mr Lawson speaks on the Trial of the Pyx, London
- HMT: Mr Major addresses the Scottish Institute of Directors, Glasgow
- DEM: Mr Cope visits the North East
- DEM: Mr Lee opens Trusthouse Forte's 50th Travelodge, Burliegh
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses the Careers Research and Advisory Centre conference, London
- DOE: Mr Moynihan opens Sports Aid Foundation new offices, followed by lunch with Duchess of York (new president), London
- DOE: Mr Bottomley visits Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust
- DOE: Mr Gummer presents SPA UK Ltd Community Awards; later meets Forum of Private Business re the Business Rate
- DOE: Mr Chope visits Thurrock (minerals)
- DSS: Mr Lloyd visits Portsmouth South ILO
- DSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits Iiford Park Polish Home, Devon
- DTI: Mr Forth visits East Birmingham Task Force
- DTp: Mr Portillo addresses the Chartered Institute of Transport's conference on Combatting Congestion, Olympia Conference Centre, London
- MAFF: Mr Thompson attends MAFF Centenary exhibition, London
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington visits ASDA British Food and Farming Festival, London
- SO: Lord Sanderson addresses Scottish Association of Meat Wholesalers, Dunblane Hydro, Dunblane
- WO: Mr Grist addresses Cardiff Old Medical Students Association, Cardiff; later visits New Homes exhibition, Cardiff
-



MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DES: Mr Baker visits Australia (to 17 May)

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe attends 40th Anniversary of Council of Europe, Strasbourg

DOE: Lord Caithness attends informal meeting of European Environment Council, Spain (to 7 May)

---

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

WO: Mr Walker interviewed by Philip Moss of Associate Magazine

---

TV AND RADIO

"Hard News": Ch 4 (17.30) repeat

"Reid about Poland": Ch 4 (20.00) Clydeside's ex-union leader looks at the complex situation in Poland today

"Any Questions": BBC Radio 4 (20.05) with Edwina Currie, Austin Mitchell, Dafydd Wigley and one other

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

"Ten Glorious Years": BBC 1 (22.00) music, drama and comedy to celebrate the Prime Minister's anniversary. From Liverpool

---