

8/5/87

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

General Federation of Trade Union's general council meeting; Queen's Hall, Bournemouth (to 9 May)

The Civil and Public Servants Association annual delegate conference, Blackpool (to 12 May)

Second anniversary of Loughall shootings when eight IRA terrorists were shot by the Security Forces

MOD: All party group of MPs visit Faslane and Holy Loch (prov)

STATISTICS

DTI: Retail sales (March final)

DTI: Credit business (March)

DTI: Producer price index numbers (April prov)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Wales; Energy; Social Security

Business: Timetable Motion on the Dock Work Bill

Motion to take note of EC Document on Smoking in Public Places. Details will be given in the Official Report

OPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS
Kings Cross Railways Bill

Adjournment Debates: The Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the brewing industry (M G Riddicar)

Lords:

Starred Questions

Water Bill: Committee (3rd Day)

Legal Aid (Functions) (No 2) Order 1989: Motion for Approval

Beef Special Premium (Protection of Payments) Order 1989: Motion for Approval

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Labour Party executive meets today and tomorrow to determine new policies.

Kinnock is thought likely to secure narrow majority for ditching instant unilateralism though he faces a fight with Left on issue.

Mirror says he is to declare war on rich tax dodgers. Today sees the next week as a big gamble for Kinnock as Ken Livingstone describes review as "a great pink blancmange". Mail reports Left as describing Labour's new consumer socialism as waffle.

SDP supporters turn on their leaders for overtures to Labour (Independent).

CND finds that 52% of those questioned would not vote for a party that supported unilateral nuclear disarmament.

Security on the alert after Rafsanjani, Iranian Speaker, calls for the execution of 5 Americans, British or French for every Palestinian killed by Israelis.

Now Rafsanjani is endorsed by predecessor as next president of Iran.

Times - Britain expected to ask EC partners to withdraw ambassadors from Tehran after latest death threats.

Yasser Arafat totally rejects Iranian call for war on Westerners (Independent).

President Ortega, looking for economic help and diplomatic recognition of Nicaragua's efforts to comply with the Central American peace process, is likely to find his conversation with you one of the stiffer ones of his European tour (Independent).

John Moore is to announce shortly radical shake-up in the social security system including introduction of wall-mounted cash dispensers to pay claimants. The DSS to be reshaped and its 90,000 staff reallocated to new agencies designed to cut its annual running cost of £1.5billion.

MEPs campaign for a single Euro Army.

You are refusing to go along with EC plans to ban smoking in public because you say EC has no right to dictate to UK on health issues.

PRESS DIGEST

Christopher Johnson, Lloyds economic adviser, says the country's economic and political interests would be damaged if we are isolated from the EC by your hostility to monetary union.

Chancellor to stay on for one more tax cutting Budget, says Mail.

City canvasses 11% mortgage rates by end of year.

Women's National Commission wants a crackdown on easy credit which is causing misery to families.

D/Environment to launch community charge leaflet nationwide and advertise its availability; Labour alleges political advertising.

Local Government Information Unit says community charge leaflet is misleading and contains factual errors (Independent).

Institute of Fiscal Studies survey shows average household is £7 a week better off under you. But richer households have benefitted more than poorer ones and some people, such as the single unemployed, have lost out (Times).

UK brokers County Natwest WoodMac predict that British oil production this month could hit its lowest level for 10 years (FT).

Power workers to announce a work to rule tomorrow in protest over 6.9% pay offer.

Threat of disruption on Southern and East Anglian regions of British Rail and Tube over pay.

BBC to be hit tomorrow and Wednesday by journalists' strike over pay - BBC considering legal action.

Some papers suggest dockers will vote against a strike over abolition of National Dock Labour Scheme.

Economists Goldman Sachs estimate that a national dock strike would only disrupt the country's exports and imports by between 20 and 30% (FT).

Times leader says the unofficial action takes place against a background of worsening labour relations in many different sectors. Falling unemployment and rising inflation must have contributed to the present and impending unrest. The trade unions have also learned to live with the Government's industrial legislation.

PRESS DIGEST

Ford pays £2million compensation to nearly 1,200 production workers suffering from noise induced deafness.

CBI says new limits on pensions proposed by Government could have damaging effects by limiting labour mobility, adding to business costs and disrupting pensions planning for many people (Times).

Duty free drink prices soared at the weekend, according to Today, making some dearer than in supermarkets; leader says duty free shops are inevitably an expensive con when the BAA has a monopoly.

Government reconsidering its proposal to ban sale of unpasteurised green top milk (Times).

Civil engineering needs to attract more graduates to take advantage of the expected upturn in business in the 1990s (Times).

Satellite television is spurned by 80% of viewers, according to FT market research.

British Expansion Scheme has worsened North-South divisions, the opposite of its intention, according to Southampton University researchers (FT).

Sale of Shorts, Belfast, to Canadian Bombardier group agreed in principle.

Leading members of the Bar are preparing to accept the end of their monopoly on appearing in higher courts as part of negotiations on future of legal profession (Times).

Mail critical of water companies' refusal to reveal their spending on advertising and Government's washing its hands of the campaign. It asks what kind of information campaign is it that does not speak its purpose.

Express says a hate campaign is being waged against widow of Clapham train driver who claimed at the inquiry that a railmen's racket was endangering lives.

Consultants review attacks on NHS reform amid growing signs of opposition at Guys to making the hospital self-governing (Independent).

Times survey shows that medical profession is split on self-governing hospitals.

PRESS DIGEST

Allegation that 100 students are to be paid for testing risks of swimming in dirty seas around Britain's coasts.

Twenty scientists set sail for North Atlantic to study role of sea in global warming (Independent).

Brussels considers energy tax in effort to save rain forests. Proposal for a "CO2 levy" is contained in a discussion document likely to be debated by the European Commission later this month (FT).

Five children whose families were cleared of sexual abuse in Cleveland put back on social workers' books (Independent).

Home Secretary to announce today the awarding of contracts for first experiments with electronic tagging (Times).

9 soldiers injured in two weekend bomb blasts in Northern Ireland.

BBC to show film tomorrow devoted to the case for the withdrawal of British troops from Northern Ireland.

Majority of European immigration ministers, including Britain, expected to back uniform stand on refugees (Independent).

Jewish claims that up to 15 Britons could face prosecution for alleged Nazi war crimes as a result of current independent inquiry.

Robin Oakley in the Times looks at possible Cabinet changes saying you are being urged to appoint a new-style Party Chairman and that Norman Fowler is the favourite.

Kinnock to spearhead Euro-election as Labour Party is now hopeful of gaining more than half dozen seats from Conservatives (Times).

Newcastle soccer fan dies in hospital a week after being attacked by 50 thugs after Wimbledon match.

Boy, 15, dies and 16 year old injured when their stolen car hits a lamppost during police chase in Leeds.

Radiation consultants said to have detected increased levels of radioactivity around Rosyth.

Express says NATO rift widened yesterday when West Germany declared Cold War to be over. And Mail says US warned it would pull 320,000 troops out of Europe if SNF scrapped.

PRESS DIGEST

More artillery duels between Syrians and Lebanese Christians in and around Beirut.

Gaza strip sees bloodiest single day's fighting in 17 months since the Palestinian uprising (Independent).

Argentina's Peronists consider plans to harass Britain's Falklands garrison if they return to power.

IRAN

Star, calling on Government not to give in to terror, says our first move should be to kick out all Iranians here and ban any further Iranian nationals from visiting Britain.

Sun leader headed across a full page "Tame Tehran's Twerps" says in modern times two states have been openly dedicated to the murder of British citizens - Libya and now Iran. Gaddafi was effectively subdued by US bombers from bases in Britain. Iranian's fanatical leaders devoid of reason, compassion and every human quality cannot possibly be allowed to go on like this. We should expel all Iranians who are not proven enemies of Tehran regime. And we should tell Iran that the very first time harm is done to a single British or American the next victim would be military targets in Tehran.

Today leader headed "Isolate Iran" says the West must squeeze Iran until it hurts; expel all Iranians who are not political refugees; withdraw all diplomatic contact; cease all trade.

Express leader says if there is one nation which has now put itself beyond the pale of politicians and humanists alike it is Iran. Yet three British publishing houses choose this moment to announce participation in a Tehran book fair. Jon Akass calls Rafsanjani a "dangerous monster".

Independent leader calls on all EC countries to make a complete break in diplomatic relations with Iran.

Telegraph leader headed "An edict too far" says Rafsanjani's threat passes a new milestone in Iran's revolutionary trudge across the boundaries of depravity. Iran should be left firmly outside the bounds of international legality. The world community should consider a diplomatic, commercial and airline boycott of Iran.

PRESS DIGESTLABOUR POLICIES

Mirror says this week Labour has a chance to adopt new policies which can win elections. But it will also have to ditch some personalities - eg Benn and Livingstone; unions will have to support Kinnock's leadership; and at all times there has to be unity.

Today - 7 days of damage as Kinnock gambles all. It says that while Labour seems set to shed unilateralism it is still fatally shackled to the unions. Labour, not the Government, will suffer if there is a summer of discontent. Kinnock is good at playing Rambo to the party's militants - but he must show he has the unions under control too before he can convince Britain he has the makings of a credible Prime Minister.

Express - A summer of discontent as Kinnock sets out reforms. Leader says Livingstone has warned that the new Kinnockry can only be financed by higher taxation or an incomes policy. And is there anyone who seriously believes that if Kinnock were in charge we would now be preparing ourselves for another winter of discontent.

Mail story headed "Vote catching Labour policy is waffle, says the Left". It says Labour leaders are to ponder a new programme of consumer socialism over next 2 days. But changes on defence, taxation and nationalisation are already causing uproar among traditionalists and Left-wingers.

Kinnock set to scrap unilateralism while some of your most trusted Cabinet colleagues predict a reduction in the pace of reform - Independent leader says a significant number of those of the Labour centre and centre-left are still not fully convinced that the party has really changed.

Guardian leads with "Kinnock faces test on defence". And soft Left - Blunkett and Cook - are emerging as key figures in attempt to steer away from unilateralism. They want to retain right to unilateral action if multilateral negotiations break down.

Telegraph leads with "Labour defence review drops unilateralism - Trident and Polaris up for negotiation in 'new reality'"; leader headed "Buoyant Labour says Labour's plans of renewal are being fulfilled. But Labour must neutralise its remaining internal opponents, notably on defence.

John Keegan, in Telegraph, says by rejecting NATO's doctrine of flexible response Labour's defence policy threatens to undermine the deterrent philosophy on which the alliance rests.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DH: Mr Clarke addresses the General Dental Council dinner, London
- DOE: Mr Ridley meets Tom Pendry MP and the All Party Football Committee, London
- HO: Mr Hurd visits HM Prison, Long Lartin, Evesham, Worcester
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor attends British Institute for Agriculture Consultants annual general meeting, London
- SO: Mr Rifkind addresses Scottish Young Business Group, Hospitality Inn, Glasgow
- DES: Mr Jackson visits Liverpool University
- DH: Mr Mellor attends annual Florence Nightingale Commemorative Service, Westminster Abbey; later attends press conference to launch Healthy Shopping Basket, Tesco Store, Brent Park; also meets the British Association of Social Workers re the Children's Bill
- DH: Mr Freeman meets Archie Kirkwood MP re access to medical files
- DOE: Mr Moynihan attends Variety Club/Outward Bound Trust fund raising dinner, London
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley visits Leeds and gives press conference on Community Charge leaflets
- DOE: Lord Caithness meets Fred Berthenal of US State Department of the Environment, London
- DOE: Mr Trippier visits Preston Inner Cities Task Force, Preston
- DTI: Mr Atkins addresses Newsprint Recycling Seminar, Preston and makes company visit to Runcorn
- SO: Mr Lang performs ceremony marking the sale of the 10,000th East Kilbride Development Corporation house, East Kilbride; later opens Butterworths Optical Factory, Edinburgh
- SO: Mr Forsyth opens morning session of Scottish Centrally Funded Colleges governors' conference, Dunblane Hydro, Dunblane
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DEM: Mr Lee attends informal European Community Tourism meeting, Lanzarote
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DOE: Mr Ridley and Mr Gummer give interviews for May drop of Community Charge leaflets
- DTI: Mr Newton interviewed by Channel 4/Tyne Tees TV on North East shipbuilders
- HO: Mr Hurd appears on "Open to Question", BBC2
- DOE: Mr Tripper interviewed by Judith O'Reilly, Thompson Regional Newspapers
- DOE: Mr Chope lunches with Martin Fletcher of The Times
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TV AND RADIO

"Trading Places": Thames (19.00) How is Britain facing up to 1992?

"World in Action": Thames (20.30)

"Panorama: Ten Years' Hard Labour": BBC 1 (21.30) Anthony Howard looks at record of Labour under Mrs Thatcher
