

9 May 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The President of Nigeria, Mr Babangida and Mrs Babangida make a State Visit to UK (to May 12)

Europe day

Review of DTI statistics announcement

STATISTICS

OPCS: Summary of births, deaths and population

PUBLICATIONS

DEN: Energy Policy Implications of the Greenhouse Effect - oral evidence

DES: HMI report on Lancashire Polytechnic, aspects of electrical and electronic engineering provision

NAO: Services manpower report

MAFF: Response to Agriculture Committee on Salmonella

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Defence; Employment; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Burglar Alarms (Control) (Mr Hugo Summerson)
Finance Bill: Consideration in Committee

Adjournment Debates: The preservation of the Rose Theatre (Mr Simon Hughes)

Select Committees: COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL
Birmingham City Council No 2

Lords: Starred Questions
Water Bill: Committee (4th Day)
Licensing (Amendment) Bill (HL): Second Reading

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Labour Party's defence policy shambles, disaster etc dominates front pages.

Some portray Kinnock as riding roughshod over Left.

Qualities tend to be kinder to Labour than pops but Telegraph foresees a tense battle over nuclear policy.

Norman Tebbit accuses Kinnock of cannibalising Tory policies. "It's like seeing cannibals singing hymns as they cook the missionary", he says. "They know the words but they don't know the meaning".

Ken Livingstone calls new defence policy "a joke"; Left promise a five month war against it to party conference.

John Cartwright describes the policy as "an absolute mess".

Fears of inflation grow because of rise in industrial input prices.

Dollar rises above DM1.90 after central banks decide to step aside (FT).

West Germany's trade surplus rose by 44% to equivalent of £11.3billion in first quarter (FT).

Lord Young rethinking MMC proposal to force six big brewers to sell 22,000 pubs.

Express political writer says Messrs Young, Wakeham, Howe, Walker and Fowler have been put on trial for two months to prove they are worthy of the Cabinet places.

War of pamphlets breaks out among free presbyterians over Lord Mackay's attendance at Roman Catholic Requiem Masses (Independent).

BAA airport prices could be referred to Monopolies Commission as they threaten to raise coach operator charges from £106 a year to £31,000 and hotelier charges from £16,000 to £180,000.

MORI poll, according to Express, shows huge public support for immediate Government action to get rid of Sunday shopping restraints.

PRESS DIGEST

Times says it is almost certain that 100% of capital of the 10 water authorities will be sold in November despite the unpopularity of water privatisation.

DOE publishes consultative document containing controversial proposals to allow farmers to start new businesses without having to apply for planning permission (FT).

Associated British Ports seeking injunction to prevent TGWU dock strike ballot going ahead.

Strike at Jaguar by 140 storemen which lost £50million production is settled.

Rail chaos on B/Rail Southern Region and Tube fails to materialise; BR imposes 7% pay settlement and rail unions predict more in favour of strike as a result.

BBC radio and TV hit by journalists' strike today and tomorrow.

Marmaduke Hussey blamed by NUJ official at BBC for scuppering pay peace talks (Times).

Water and sewage workers vote to accept 8.5%.

Electricity supply industry agrees to new talks on Thursday in face of threatened action over 7% pay offer.

Threat of new exam dispute as pay talks at polytechnics and colleges break down (Times).

Prison Officers at Risley threatening to strike because prisoners who took part in riot are being sent back there.

Decision to retain Prestwick airport greeted with anger by Scottish business leaders (FT).

Government is likely to choose between the bidders for Shorts within a few weeks - possibly by the Paris air show in early June (FT).

Shelter warns that private landlords will profit most from community charge (Independent).

Mirror claims that the advertising and leaflet campaign on the community charge is the worst example of using public funds for party political purposes.

PRESS DIGEST

Conservative group of lawyers propose independent commission to monitor the legal profession and administration of the courts (Times).

Building Societies welcome proposals for competitive conveyancing (Independent).

MPs expect autumn start for televising of Commons (Times).

Only 81,000 have bought satellite dishes three months after launch of Sky TV.

Three newspapers - Independent, Sunday Times and defunct News on Sunday - fined £50,000 each for contempt over Spycatcher. Independent and Sunday Times to appeal.

Education select committee in danger of splitting down the middle on how to resolve problems over teacher supply (Times).

National Association of Health Authorities claim health authorities have been underfunded by £3billion over past 9 years and are likely to face a further round of ward closures this year (Times).

Kenneth Baker advocates earlier (8.30am) start and earlier finish for schools in guidance.

NUT says it is false economy to suggest standards will be raised by getting teachers to spend more time in class.

Today says bright schoolchildren are being headhunted by City firms before they leave school; and Mail says we are losing talent to European firms.

Experiment in electronic tagging starts this summer.

Two students at Royal Holloway College, Egham, arrested after waving imitation sub-machine gun and pistol while Princess Anne was there. One of them described as a Tony Benn disciple.

George Foulkes MP believes loss of fishing vessels, costing 55 lives, in Irish sea is linked with submarines.

MPs win promise from Royal Navy to test new sonar devices that could warn submarines of danger of hitting fishing vessels (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Businessmen in Grantham want to build a museum to Sir Isaac Newton and yourself.

Britain takes lead at UN in international effort to combat greenhouse effect by calling for an international convention on global warming (Times).

White House accused of cover up after scientist's report on greenhouse effect is censored (Express).

FCO warns Britons to leave Iran. Sun says Foreign Secretary warned last night of possibility of military action if threat to kill Britons is carried out.

Telegraph says EC is to consider banning flights by Iran.

West German magazine claims Khomeini ordered and paid for Lockerbie massacre.

President Bush to visit UK for 24 hours after NATO summit.

Times says Moscow keeps up pressure to widen division in NATO over modernisation of SNF. Leader says three weeks before NATO summit, the signals from Washington are still mixed. One of James Baker's tasks in Moscow this week should be to advise the Soviet leadership of the inappropriateness of trying to divide the Alliance. But without a clear message from President Bush about how the Alliance should recover its sense of mission, Mr Baker's advice to his hosts may ring distinctly hollow.

President Bush to announce grand design for a new political order in Europe as a result of American foreign policy review. White House hints that the buzz word for its new policy toward the Soviet Union will be "reintegration". (Independent).

Genscher flying to London on Thursday for SNF talks with Foreign Secretary.

Express says US is deliberately raising spectre of a pull out from Europe to stop West Germans from flirting with Gorbachev.

Britain and America considering immigration checks on transatlantic passengers before passengers board their planes (Independent).

Kadar eased out of last remaining post in Hungarian Communist Party.

PRESS DIGEST

WHO to vote tomorrow on PLO admission (Independent).

Independent leader looks at the Argentinian Presidential election and says that the decisive lead of the Peronist candidate is an indication of the instability and political immaturity of the country.

Poland's first independent opposition daily newspaper went on sale yesterday (FT).

LABOUR POLICY

Times - Kinnock secures backing for making changes to the economic and industrial policies on which Labour Party has fought recent General Elections in the face of charges from the Left that he was abandoning socialism. Main decision: 50% top rate tax and 20% bottom rate; British Telecom and water to be brought back into public sector; tight rein on Government spending; rejection of nationalisation of banks and other financial institutions; abandonment of exchange controls; no imposition of wealth tax; cuts in defence spending rejected. Labour today discusses nuclear policy which George Younger says destroys the credibility of the nuclear deterrent, because there is no point in having the weapon without the resolve to use it.

Morning Star page 1 lead - Capitalism with a Kinnock face: Labour leader signals retreat from Socialism.

Daily Star page 2 - Benn crushed as Kinnock wins on new deal. Rode roughshod over "naive, shopping list socialism" of Left.

Sun page 2 - Kinnock blasts Leftie dreamers; leader headed "Dishonest" says nuclear surrender was one of the main causes of Labour's defeat in 1987. They now lay claim their policy is different but they pledge that under no circumstances would they ever use missiles. The truth is that the so-called new policy is the old policy by a different name. It will reduce the Kremlin to fits of laughter.

Mirror page 2 - Kinnock lays down law on way ahead.

Today page 4 - Kinnock's £100 a week penalty for highfliers.

Express leads with "We won't press the button". Kinnock's nuclear defence policy in shambles as Gould says: "Labour doesn't want deterrent".

PRESS DIGEST

Mail leads with "Labour's nuclear disaster - shambles over Kinnock's defence policy". Casts a long shadow over the credibility of almost every aspect of his new policy programme. Last night it was under fire on every front. Leader says as the blandest product launch since the puppy first played with toilet tissue gathers momentum there are a couple of fruity interruptions from those cheekie chappies of the Left, Skinner and Livingstone. Would Kinnock ever press the button? And having ruled out major increases in taxation and large cuts in defence, how would Labour pay for increased spending? Clear answers are there none. Hard choices are being ducked.

Telegraph page 1 lead - Left defeated on economic strategy. Kinnock facing tense battle on nuclear policy as Left and Conservatives mock new proposals.

Guardian page 1 lead - Kinnock exposing options to defuse row over defence. Left offering deal of bilateral talks with USSR. Leader headed "Making rather more sense on defence" says contradictions remain in that the authors of Labour policy cannot contemplate any use of weapons other than in response to a Soviet nuclear attack. But Labour's policy is at least back in the real world.

Independent - Kinnock carries first tranche of Labour's policy review with an overwhelming majority but today faces a swell of dissent against the proposed abandonment of outright nuclear unilateralism. Peter Jenkins argues that the symbolism of dumping the electoral albatrosses is more important than the policy details. Independent leader says Labour's defence proposals are a significant improvement but still remain vulnerable to Tory assault in an election campaign.

FT - Kinnock easily fends off left-wing challenge to win overwhelming approval for package of industrial and economic reform proposals.

NATO

Express leader says it is essential that the NATO crisis is contained before the worsening disagreements are trailed across the NATO stage. The key lies with the dithering Mr Kohl. He must be reminded - and forcibly - that it was a generous America and a forgiving Europe that established NATO to safeguard a vulnerable post-Nazi Germany.

PRESS DIGESTIRAN

Brian Hitchen, in Star, says if Iranians take one single British life we should bomb the holy daylights out of them.

ORTEGA

Icy Maggie meets 'Orrible Ortega' Dictator's appeal for cash snubbed. In the space of 45 minutes you wiped the grin off his face.

Times - You take hard line on Nicaragua aid and photo caption describes a "frosty Mrs Thatcher meeting Ortega".

Independent quotes extensively from Ortega press conference but completely ignores government line.

FT - You deliver a stinging attack on the policies being prused by Daniel Ortega, and indicate that Britain will continue its bar on bilateral aid to Nicaragua.

Telegraph - Thatcher rules out aid to Nicaragua.

Guardian - Thatcher attacks Ortega and refuses aid.

BABANGIDA

President Babagida, in FT feature, describes you as "a wonderful woman ... probably one of the greatest leaders we have in the world". He asserts that he shares indential views on economics. With the exception of the South African question, the stage seems set for a meeting of minds.

Times leader says arrival in London of President Babangida marks full restoration of cordial relations between Britain and Nigeria. It praises the President for what he has done for Nigeria saying his political skills have enabled him to lay the foundations for a more stable and prosperous economy.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler addresses Road Haulage Association dinner, Grosvenor House Hotel, London
- DSS: Mr Moore addresses UKASS conference, about staff suggestion schemes
- DTp: Mr Channon attends Financial Times conference on "Links to Europe;" later attends Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors annual dinner, London
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor holds press conference on Nitrate Protection Zone, London
- WO: Mr Walker launches St David's Pullman, Paddington Station, London; later unveils sculpture for Southern City Property Group, Abergavenny
- CO: Mr Luce addresses opening of Special Aids for the Disabled exhibition, London
- DEM: Mr Cope attends lunch with M J Soisson, French Minister for Labour, Lancaster House, London
- DOE: Mr Howard addresses Merseyside Chamber of Commerce, Liverpool on water privatisation
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley meets directors of Tidy Britain Group; later meets English Tourist Board
- DTI: Mr Atkins addresses Defence Manufacturers exhibition, NEC Birmingham and makes company visit to Coventry
- DTI: Mr Forth addresses CBI conference on "Technology Futures, and Investment Possibilities", London
- HO: Mr Hogg visits HM Prison, Leyhill, Gloucestershire
- SO: Lord Sanderson addresses Institute of Agriculture Engineers conference, Norton House Hotel, Edinburgh
- MAFF: Mr Ryder addresses Coastal Management conference, Bournemouth; later visits Game Conservancy Trust, Hampshire
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington attends International Chilled Food Fair and Fresh Food exhibition, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham
- ODA: Mr Patten attends meeting and hosts lunch for Mrs Kirsti Kalle Grondahl, Norwegian Minister for Development and Co-operation, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DH: Mr Clarke attends World Health Organisation conference, Geneva
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ANNEX

TV AND RADIO

"File on Four": Corruption and politics in Japan": BBC Radio 4 (19.20) David Levy looks at "money politics"

"Split Screen: Peace in Northern Ireland": BBC 2 (20.00) opposing views on whether British withdrawal would bring peace

"Taking Liberties": BBC 2 (21.45) do British immigration policies divide families needlessly?
