

10 May 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister's talks and lunch with President Babangida
The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh attend a British Library exhibition
Scottish Conservative Party conference, Perth (to May 12)
The Fire Brigade's Union annual conference, Spa Royal Hall,
Bridlington (to May 12)
James Baker in Moscow
DTI review of economic statistics published
Lord Young addresses RUSI with Bruges Group

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Metropolitan Police Commissioner's report for 1988
WO: Welsh National Board for Nurses, Midwifery and Health Visitors (Acc 86-87)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth; Trade and Industry; Environment
Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Control of Electronic Surveillance Devices
(Mr James Cran)
Finance Bill: Consideration in Committee
Motion relating to the Personal Equity Plan Regulations

Adjournment Debates: Supervision of Housing Associations in the care of
the Metropolitan Trust Estate, Hemel Hempstead (Mr
R Jones)

Select Committees: ENERGY
Subject: UK/USSR Energy Relations
Witnesses: Dr Klans Brendow; Mr Michael Kaser; Dr David
Wilson; Mr Jonathan Stern

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Subject: Hong Kong
Witness: Lord Macle hose (former Governor of Hong Kong)

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: Aspects of the Expenditure White Paper relating to the Department of Education and Science

Witnesses: Officials from the Department of Education and Science

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: Part-time employment

Witnesses: B&Q, DIY Supercentres plc

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Drug Trafficking and Related Serious Crime

Witness: Home Office

DEFENCE

Subject: Procurement of the Tucano Trainer Aircraft

Witness: Ministry of Defence

PROCEDURE

Subject: The Scrutiny of European Legislation

Witness: Rt Hon John Biffen MP

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS

Opposed Bill:

Birmingham City Council No 2

Unopposed Bills:

1. Isle of Wight
2. International Westminster Bank
3. Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport
4. Associated British Ports (Hull)

Lords:

Starred Questions

Short Debate to call attention to the case for revision of the current rules of compensation in cases of compulsory purchase, in particular for the proposed rail link to the Channel Tunnel

Short Debate to call attention to the case for increased emphasis on the polytechnics

Schizophrenia After-Care Bill

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Community charge leaflet banned by court for being misleading. Nicholas Ridley to fight case with the utmost vigour.

Kinnock wins crucial battle over Labour's defence policy by persuading them 17-8 to accept multilateral disarmament - but few convinced.

Kaufman refuses to answer whether or not he would push nuclear button.

Second day of strike at BBC where unions are threatening to black out screens completely by lightning strikes.

Broadcasting unions claim government is behind BBC's refusal to offer more than seven per cent pay rise (Telegraph).

Power workers vote for strike in pay row means eight major disputes are now in progress or threatened (Mail).

Storm of protests as IRA terrorists, Paul Kavanagh and Martina Anderson are married in prison near York.

Re-shuffle speculation in Times says Peter Walker is unsackable - only Michael Howard has sufficient Welsh connections to be considered for the job.

Fury as Crown Court Recorder escapes drink-drive ban after magistrates accept his excuse that he had not meant to drive.

A-level exams are overloaded with facts and too specialised say university vice-chancellors (Telegraph).

One third of teachers have resigned from one of first schools to opt out (Times).

BMA considering policy of non-co-operation with Government's NHS proposals at a doctors' conference next week (Independent).

BMA critical of Government plan to retire doctors and dentists at 70, saying it will reduce flexibility (Telegraph).

Doctors preparing to unite against NHS reforms (Times).

Amendments to the Water Bill will provide for "nitrate sensitive areas" to reduce the nitrate pollution in high-risk areas (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

New post for Bishop of Liverpool likely to mean conflict with Government over future of public service broadcasting (Telegraph).

British Telecom phone charges could soon soar by 10% despite profits of £2billion last year.

Lord Young tells brewers and backbench Tories he is ready to consider modifying MMC proposals to break up the beer industry (Times).

Minorco's hopes fade over offer for ConsGold after Takeover Panel ruling (FT).

ConsGold abandons legal action which would have prevented Minorco takeover bid (Telegraph).

Member of Pan Am disaster families' committee writes open letter in Guardian to Paul Channon claiming he has not replied to correspondence of a month ago.

Paul Channon says Chunnel rail link will not be allowed to go ahead if it threatens the countryside (Express).

Paul Channon tells FT conference that the Channel Tunnel will help the UK economy to overcome the handicap of being peripheral to the European market.

Trafalgar House says cost of building Channel Tunnel rail link will be £2.5billion, twice as much as first envisaged (Guardian).

Foster couple win case brought by girl they fostered 23 years ago but now face £30,000 legal fees; leader asks why innocent should be confronted with such a bill and say councils should take steps to ensure foster parents do not find themselves in this position again (Mail).

Up to 500,000 old people may be at risk of physical or mental abuse, according to report from British Geriatrics Society (Guardian).

Police call on Ministers to use funds seized from drug traffickers for training senior officers to combat sophisticated crime (Independent).

Police-killer Silcott quits as honorary president of LSE.

Marks & Spencer to offer homebuyers Personal Equity Plan mortgages (Today).

PRESS DIGEST

Express - Report says the armed forces have too many officers doing too little - and employ trained soldiers in jobs that could be done by teenage girls.

Ministers considering speeding up the relocation of civil servants from London and the South East. Peter Brooke currently examining the transfer of 34,000 posts (Times).

Labour attacks plan to pump raw sewage out to sea at Blackpool (Telegraph).

UN survey of public opinion and leadership attitudes shows the environment is becoming an important political issue around the world. China, Japan, Argentina and Mexico are starting to share green concerns (Times).

Greenpeace claim that US and Soviet nuclear accidents have left at least 48 unexploded warheads and 11 reactors on ocean floor.

Radiation watchdog urges better health protection for people living under power cables (Telegraph).

Tough new food hygiene laws being cooked up by Government in bid to wipe out food poisoning.

Today - Government report backs Edwina Currie's battle against salmonella in eggs.

Government shrugs off criticism of its handling of the scare over salmonella in eggs. Professor Richard Lacey of Leeds University says the re-issue of the health warning is a vindication of Mrs Currie and she deserves a public apology from you (Guardian).

Big increase in food poisoning predicted this summer with poultry industry the main source of the infections (Times).

QEII fails fourth US sanitary inspection in five years (Times).

Britain can take the lead in selling convenience foods to Europe but only if it makes pasta the way the Italians like it. Nobody on the continent likes our food (Times).

Express - Britain tops Euro-league for divorce and debt in new survey. We also have more videos, home computers, tumble driers and microwave ovens than most other major EC countries.

PRESS DIGEST

Former Life Guards Captain Simon Hayward to be freed from Swedish jail after serving half of his five year sentence for drug smuggling.

A supermarket trolley thrown on to the railway line near Clapham Junction caused a full disaster alert last night when it was struck by the 9.37pm Victoria-Brighton train (Times).

Today - Holidaymakers will have to pay the price of swingeing BAA rises in airport charges which have soared by 18,000%; leader says BAA's record on everything has been absolutely lamentable. The sooner it is broken up the better.

Fireball above Upper Heyford last night as American F1-11 nuclear bomber jettisoned fuel and made an emergency landing (Times).

Polish navy flagship rams Greenwich pier during "goodwill" visit.

Goodwill marks Babangida visit, reinforcing the improved relations between Britain and Nigeria.

Home Office accused of dumping Kurdish refugees in Hackney amid claims that the system for dealing with political exiles had broken down.

Mounting fear among immigrants that Government plans to bar DNA evidence.

Open nature of your answer yesterday on Hong Kong passports is bound to be taken as further hint that you might be willing to consider an amendment to the Nationality Act (Independent).

Britain poised for clash with EC over heart disease campaign (Guardian).

Robert Cottrell, in the Independent, argues that your policies towards Europe are becoming more bloody-minded. But the instinctive chauvinism which supported you over the budget battles has now given way to more enthusiasm about Europe. And your European strategy of discrimination against its citizens in favour of companies will not be universally popular.

With Delors and Bush planning to meet twice within six weeks, expectations grow of EC-US political dialogue (FT).

A date for the resumption of strategic arms talks and possibly an agreement on a new US-Soviet summit are expected to emerge from Baker's visit to Moscow (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Sun - White House says President Bush is considering moves ranging from economic sanctions to military to break Noriega's grip on power in Panama.

White House blunders in action on global warming, as officials try to damp down and even censor scientific concern about the greenhouse effect (Guardian).

Times - PLO asked for meeting between you and Yasser Arafat during a call on William Waldegrave by Bassam Abu Shrif yesterday. Leader says Arafat is jeopardising his gains in the real world for the sake of shadow victories. It is in his interests to do as the Egyptian and some other friendly governments have been urging and withdraw from pointless confrontation with the Western governments he has been so assiduously courting. The indications that he will refuse to do so show how much the PLO still has to learn.

PLO takes seriously risk that Palestinian radicals will act on Rafsanjani "kill Westerners" call (Telegraph).

Swiss company Krebs AG pulls out of deal to build a chemical plant in Iran after fear that it could be used to make poison gas (Times).

You are criticised by Soviet dissidents who claim that you have been duped by Mr Gorbachev and ignore repression in Armenia and Georgia (Telegraph).

Speculation mounts in Hungary that party chief Grosz is to be sacked (Telegraph).

POLITICS

You launch Tory counter-attack on Labour's new policies telling Kinnock he is still unfit to govern.

Paul Johnson, in Mail, accuses Kinnock of selling his soul in the pursuit of power saying - so there we have Labour today: A party of reluctant opportunists led by a convenience politician. Doesn't sound much like a victory formula, does it?

Money Mail says thousands of modern young couples would be £50 a week worse off with Labour's policies.

PRESS DIGEST

Express leader says Labour is busily pouring its old sour wine into new bottles, 'to be offered with glitzy new labels'. But the marketing strategy to sell Labour leader to electorate has still to be discovered.

Cartoon in Express shows Kinnock trying to wear your clothes.

Neil's Nuke nonsense won't kid the voters says Star as you shoot down his "feather duster" plan.

Today - Kinnock wins crushing victory over Left but you launch savage three-pronged attack on new look Labour Party; leader tells Kinnock his policies are still too vague adding nobody in their right mind is going to sign a blank cheque made out to Kinnock on the evidence so far.

Independent - Kinnock crosses defence rubican. His personal rejection of unilateralism puts Tories on war footing. Leader says

Labour now has to sell its new policies to the party conference and to the electorate - but these are conflicting objectives. Kinnock should stress that a majority in the party has learned from the past and that there is no place in the ranks of Labour for the minority that has not.

Kinnock has persuaded Labour Party to accept multilateral disarmament and says he will never again vote for unilateralism but Ron Todd will continue unilateralist fight (Times).

FT leader says Labour's defence proposals do not read like the work of people convinced that a nuclear deterrent is either necessary or desirable. The authors seem to be trying to convince themselves that they have not really betrayed their unilateralist principles.

Mirror - Kinnock defeats Left in key policy battle; leader says he won a battle over Labour's out-and-out nuclear disarmers - but he needs to do a great deal more if it isn't to be a hollow victory.

Guardian - Kinnock wins support of Labour's national executive for a historic shift away from the unilateralist defence policy which his advisers believe contributed to the party's dismal showing at the last two general elections. His majority on the NEC was 2-1 after making a deal with Robin Cook and the soft left over bilateral nuclear disarmament talks if the multilateral process fails.

PRESS DIGEST

Times leader says: Political partners in a democracy ought to respond to public opinion when it has spoken clearly. But the conversion has to be genuine ... If voters read between the lines of the Labour policy documents, they will find that many crucial questions on domestic policy, as on defence, remain unanswered.

Telegraph - Kinnock wins crucial battle on defence, but has anxious summer ahead as key unions decide whether to support him; leader says Kinnock has blurred the defence issue "with sub-Wilsonian pragmatism in search of votes. Honest unilateralism would be more deserving of respect."

Mirror - Labour leaders reject Benn's idea of swamping House of Lords with 1,000 new peers.

Tories struggle to regain lost ground will be the underlying theme of the Scottish conference (Independent).

COMMUNITY CHARGE

Times - High Court has issued a temporary injunction stopping the distribution of DOE's community charge leaflet to 21 million homes after Greenwich Council claimed it was "potentially misleading". Injunction was granted 30 minutes before you staunchly defended the campaign at Question Time.

Mail - Community charge chaos as court halts leaflets after Greenwich council claimed it was misleading and unfair to ratepayers.

Guardian leader says community charge leaflet is not as bad as some of the Opposition polemic has suggested. But the longer one reads the more biased it becomes, with some inexcusable omissions.

Telegraph - Government plans for community charge in confusion as judge halts distribution of leaflet. You are caught "totally off guard" as you defend the campaign in the House.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DOE: Mr Ridley addresses Agricultural Forum, London; later opens RSPB Centenary Reserve, Kent
- DTI: Lord Young addresses Royal United Services Institute, London with Bruges Group; later launches Business and Environment Programme, Warren Spring Laboratory, Stevenage
- DTI: Mr Newton addresses Associated British Chambers of Commerce, Urban Regeneration conference, Birmingham
- DTp: Mr Channon attends BEM Presentations, Admiralty House, London
- WO: Mr Walker visits Bluebird Toys, Merthyr Tydfil; later opens British Telecom Systems X Exchange, Cardiff and opens new BBC Studios, Broadcasting House, Llandaff
- DEM: Mr Cope speaks at training conference for British Paper and Board Education and Training Council in London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls addresses the Food Manufacturers training conference, London
- DH: Mr Mellor attends Look after your Heart campaign, Industry signing ceremony, London
- DH: Mr Freeman attends launch of Self Help Alliance video, Kings Fund Centre; later meets Michael Jack MP re proposed closure of St Anne's War Memorial Hospital
- DOE: Mr Howard meets Country Landowners Association re planning
- DOE: Mr Moynihan gives opening address at Association of Chief Technical Officers Water Privatization conference, Burton on Trent; later meets All Party Rugby League Group
- DOE: Mr Gummer visits Croydon (local government "listening" visit)
- DOE: Lord Caithness attends Regional Controllers Housing conference, London
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley meets the Worldwide Fund for Nature, London
- DSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits Dudley South ILO and Lye Resettlement Unit
- DTI: Mr Forth hosts reception for Japanese Electronics Industry, London; later visits Cronfield Business School, Bedford

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC) (Cont'd)

- DTp: Mr Bottomley attends the launch of Bikefax, Guildhall, London
- HMT: Mr Lamont addresses the Employee Share Ownership Plans conference, Centrepont, London
- HO: Mr Hogg visits HM Young Offenders Institution, Hollesley Bay, Suffolk
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington addresses Farmers' Union of Wales annual general meeting, Aberystwyth
- MAFF: Mr Thompson attends Beef '89, Stoneleigh
- ODA: Mr Patten addresses Action on Disability and Development, Frome, Somerset; later hosts dinner for Dr Chidzero, Zimbabwean Minister for Finance, London (prov)
- SO: Lord Sanderson opens Scotland Travel Fair, Aberdeen
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- OAL: Mr Luce makes arts visit to Poland (to 13 May)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DEM: Mr Nicholls interviewed by Roland Rudd of The Times and Shellie Karrebell about womens issues
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TV AND RADIO

- "Dispatches": Ch 4 (20.30)
- "Inside Story: Animals in War": BBC 1 (21.30) exploitations of animals in military laboratories
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