

PRIME MINISTER

11 May 1989

MAIN EVENTS

The Princess Royal visits the West Midlands

The Duchess of York visits the Netherlands (to May 13)

John Moore speaks on poverty

Association of First Division Civil Servants annual delegate conference, Royal Commonwealth Society, London

EC: Informal Interior Ministers TREVI meeting, Madrid (to 12 May)

EC: Audio-Visual conclave, Paris (to 12 May)

EC: Energy Council, Brussels

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Home Office; Northern Ireland; Prime Minister

Business: Debate on a Government Motion to approve the White Paper "Working for Patients"

Adjournment Debates: Coal mining subsidence damage (Mr F Haynes)

Select Committees: DEFENCE
Subject: The progress of the Trident programme; Capital Works at A.W.E. Aldermaston
Witness: Ministry of Defence

COURT OF REFEREES

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

Opposed Bill
Birmingham City Council No 2

Lords: Starred Questions
Electricity Bill: Committee (1st Day)
Brunei (Appeals) Bill (HL): Committee
Antarctic Minerals Bill (HL): Committee
Common Land (Rectification of Registers) Bill: Second Reading

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Labour Party looking for trouble over the community charge leaflet; accuse Government of contempt of court for allowing distribution of some leaflets to go ahead; court hearing on "potentially misleading" material on Monday

Express leader says Labour's outrage is pretty bogus.

Mail leads with Whitehall farce over "Postman Pat" - John Gummer.

Telegraph finds the episode bears all the marks of carelessness.

Ron Todd suggests TGWU will vote against new Labour policy and for unilateralism at autumn party conference. NUPE likely to back Kinnock.

Sun feature on new defence policy headed "Who do you think you're kidding, Mr Kinnock? - Glenys wouldn't ever let him use the bomb". It also highlights U-turns on other policies.

Express says Kinnock is under intense pressure to announce he is ready to press the nuclear button.

Mail says Labour would restore secondary picketing. Guardian - Meacher emerges victor.

Peter Jenkins, Independent, welcomes the revival of the two-party choice, following Labour's policy review. But he thinks Kinnock's weakness is his competence.

Times leader on Labour policy on a second chamber says this is a genuine about-turn for which it deserves credit. There should be a second-chamber with specific constitutional rights. You have given the impression of being uninterested in constitutional change - you should explore the possibility of taking the initiative in the direction which Labour is now pointing.

Police still questioning two Irish men arrested in Stoke yesterday in connection with IRA bomb attack on Shrewsbury barracks.

President Bush, during discussions with Ruud Lubbers, commits himself to an international conference on global warming and related environmental issues. He will propose the conference at the Paris summit (FT).

DTI to launch £200,000 study into practical alternatives to CFCs as well as public awareness campaign (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Nicholas Ridley calls for a revolution on the use of pesticides and warns farmers of new laws to crack down on pollution caused by nitrates in fertilisers and farm wastes. Farm prices would have to rise to protect the countryside and peoples' health. NFU say speech is "extremely one sided" (Times).

Rafsanjani backs down over threat to Westerners (FT).

Today makes much of fireball over Upper Heyford when an F1-11 jettisoned fuel just, as it claims, five other jets were taking off; it suggests they were carrying nuclear weapons.

SNF missile row splits Bonn coalition amid CDU-CSU allegations that Genscher is aiming to eliminate all short-range missiles - which is precisely what you suspect (Independent).

Superpowers agree to resume START talks in June (Independent).

Mirror says Guy's Hospital is seeking sponsorship for an hour, day, week or month of cots to make up for shortages of cash to treat child heart patients.

140 bids so far for self government involving more than 200 NHS hospitals and units (Independent).

GPs in Nottinghamshire reject new contract (Independent).

Health main concern of British young people - and those in 9 other European countries - but Britons rate money more highly than anywhere else.

Lord Young says a United States of Europe, a common currency and a Eurobank are distractions too far ahead of their time. He singles out for attack a clause in the Delors Report which states that Community governments should commit themselves at the outset to the final goal of full monetary union (FT).

President Bush is planning to meet Delors later this month - both likely to seek tighter political dialogue between US and EC as trade storm recedes (Times).

Britain preparing to block European Commission attempt to introduce common ID card for pensioners (Independent).

Archbishop Worlock and Bishop Sheppard, of Liverpool, attack "the very damaging illusion" that economic growth is solving the problems of poverty.

PRESS DIGEST

Church of Scotland claims theology gives Scots a divine right to decide whether they should rule themselves.

Michael Ancram warns Scottish Tories not to sit back and let words of constitutional change gather in Scotland (Independent).

FT feature examines plans to revitalise training and enterprise in Scotland through Scottish Enterprise; and concludes that while the debate rages on structures hardly anyone seems to ask what kind of goods and services the Scottish economy should actually produce in the 1990s.

Sam Brittain, in FT, argues the case for taking the prices of internationally traded products as a more realistic target for zero inflation.

Electricity supply industry meets unions today in effort to head off industrial action over pay. Electricity Consumers Council backs privatisation plans (FT).

Bob Reid to offer railwaymen average of another £6 a week to buy off industrial trouble; this on top of 7%. NUR looks set to hold a fresh ballot of Tube workers.

Norman Fowler warns dockers that a strike could mean even more job losses.

Post Office workers threatening to strike next week over pay.

Union leaders at BBC to consider balloting members on indefinite strike.

Moderates confirm leadership of CPSA.

Engineering union leaders call delegate conference for June 9 to discuss ballots on claims for reduced working week (FT).

Shorts, of Belfast, announce 700 redundancies. Seen as a slimming process to make firm more attractive to private buyers.

Clarks Shoes are to close two factories employing 600 in the West Country (FT).

Guardian leads with break up of BR into operating divisions is emerging a favourite option for privatisation.

PRESS DIGEST

Backbench hostility set to kill MMC plan to force sale of pubs (Independent).

Car test fee to rise 9% to £18 from June 5.

Hamley's toy shop bought by Americans for £22million.

Plans for a Maplin Sands airport resurrected; businessmen to meet Ministers in July.

More than 25million gallons of oil a year - twice that lost in Alaska - goes down drains in Britain.

Brent Council paying off race equality official who was criticised in Maureen McGoldrick affair with £72,000 so that they can qualify for a £2.4million grant for race equality programme from Home Office. Mail says the driving out of a head teacher and the pay off to her accuser is a most disgraceful act of discrimination.

Express and Star manages to produce editions by use of old technology when a computer broke down.

British Satellite Broadcasting may postpone its planned autumn launch because of technical problems.

Banks likely to pull out of student loan scheme with negotiations close to breakdown. Officials examining alternative of government agency (Independent).

Universities to break ranks over pay deal for lecturers by offering more than vice chancellors have nationally (Independent).

Scotland Yard planning to introduce a civil volunteer force to bridge gap between Guardian Angels and Special Constabulary.

Lord Chancellor orders inquiry into case of Judge who escaped disqualification on drink/drive charge. Today wants magistrate who failed to ban judge from driving sacked.

Economic League offering football clubs a central register for hooligans in anticipation of the membership card scheme.

Commons Defence committee postpones decision on whether to re-open Westland inquiry until next week (Independent).

Michael Heseltine, in Telegraph, argues case for SNF modernisation and peace through strength.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent repeats its old story that staff shortages and construction problems at the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston pose threat to Trident Warheads. Fears that safety procedures may be relaxed to meet schedule.

Independent leader looks at DNA bloodtesting on immigrants and urges Mr Hurd to act honourably and admit genuine dependants over 18 who were refused admission before they reached that age under the old procedures.

Ron Brown MP goes into hospital for major plastic surgery on his face where he was burned.

David Steel, ex-Liberal leader, is elected to fight an Italian seat in MEP elections.

Paul Foot tries to make something by innuendo of George Guise's connection with ConsGold and his work on competition and monopoly.

16million Italians stop work for 4 hours in protest against new hospital charges to cut public deficit.

Express writer says your look at Ortega would have killed an ox at five yards.

Yasser Arafat predicts preparations for international Middle East peace conference within six months and an independent Palestinian state within two years (Independent).

Noriega's rivals beaten up in Panama riots following election.

FT - Bush calls for Latin America to unite in diplomatic effort to remove Noriega. Leader argues against US military intervention, which would result in loss of moral and political advantage. Diplomatic pressure seems to be the best hope.

Independent leader says there is no case for force to remove Noriega. To do so would almost certainly be counter-productive.

Babangida - small piece in Telegraph - Thatcher praises Nigerian president for way he had faced up to difficult problems in his country.

FT - Thatcher backs Nigerian reforms. You reaffirm Britain's support for Nigeria's "courageous" economic recovery programme - picture page 6.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DH: Mr Clarke attends Mental Health Foundation 40th Anniversary Appeal, Vickers PLC, Millbank, London
- DSS: Mr Moore gives speech on Poverty, London
- DTI: Lord Young addresses Association of British Chambers of Commerce, Birmingham
- DEM: Mr Cope presents National Federation of Self Employed Small Business Awards, Butchers Hall, London
- DEM: Mr Lee opens Fulshaw Assembly Factory, Stockport; later attends launch of South Cheshire Tourism Action Programme
- DH: Mr Mellor meets FPC Chairmen and visits Huntleigh Technology, Luton
- DH: Mr Freeman visits Nurses Accommodation, Middlesex Hospital; later meets Gerry Bermingham MP and a deputation from St Helen's and Knowsley CHC
- DOE: Mr Howard visits Thames Water Authority, Battersea; also addresses Westminster Industrial Brief Engineer Employers Federation on water privatisation
- DOE: Mr Gummer visits Colchester and Cambridge (local government "listening" visit)
- DOE: Mr Moynihan meets Robert Hughes MP on safety in childrens playgrounds; later meets World Cycling Tourists, Palace Green
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley presents London Tourist Board's "Clean and Tidy" award
- DOE: Mr Tripper meets Doncaster City Council and Mike Welsh MP about gypsy sites
- DOE: Lord Hesketh meets Ordnance Survey, London
- DOE: Lord Caithness addresses launch of Housing Corporation Self-Build programme
- DTI: Mr Atkins visits BNFL Sellafield, Cumbria
- DTI: Mr Maude addresses International Financial Markets conference, with Euromoney, on "Development of Financial Markets", London
- DTI: Mr Forth launches Open Systems Technology Transfer Programme, London
- DTI: Mr Clark meets Dr Chidzero, Zimbabwean Minister for Finance, Lancaster House, London

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

- DTp: Mr Bottomley attends Westminster Road Safety Service, St Margarets, London
- FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses Consumers' and the Consequences conference, London; later addresses City Woman's network luncheon, Sadlers Hall, London
- HMT: Mr Brooke hosts reception at CBI Investment in Zimbabwe conference, Lancaster House, London
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington opens Bibby's Cereal Plant, Framlington
- WO: Mr Roberts addresses Industry Matters conference, Swansea; later addresses inaugural meeting of the Training Advisory Group, Cardiff
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- HO: Mr Hurd attends Trevi conference, Madrid (to 12 May)
- DTI: Mr Maude visits Cologne, Berlin and Dusseldorf, Germany (to 12 May)
- FCO: Mr Eggar visits Rome and Florence (to 12 May)
- FCO: Mr Waldegrave attends Heads of Mission conference, Abu Dhabi (to 17 May)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DEM: Mr Fowler lunches with David McKie and Peter Preston of The Guardian
- DTI: Mr Newton interviewed by Business Korea on investing in Britain
- ODA: Mr Patten takes part in BBC TV's "Question Time"
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TV AND RADIO

- "Hard News": Ch 4 (20.00) Raymond Snoddy on the media's behaviour
- "Analysis: Enter the Regulators": BBC Radio 4 (20.00) David Walker looks at public supervision of the private sector
- "This Week": Thames (20.30)
- "Nature": BBC 2 (20.30) special programme on Chernobyl today
- "40 Minutes": BBC 2 (21.30) Britain's first AIDS hospice
- "Question Time": BBC 1 (22.45) with Chris Patten, George Robertson, Frances Edmonds and Sir John Burgh
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