

12 May 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister speaks at Scottish Conservative conference, Perth

Prince of Wales visits Turkey

The Princess of Wales attends festival of flowers and music at Westminster Cathedral in aid of the Cardinal Hume Centre, a refuge for young people at risk in London

CBI conference on investment in Zimbabwe

TUC Trades Councils' conference, Blackpool (to May 14)

Conclusion of London Information Forum

Announcement on Official History of Intelligence, Volumes IV and V

STATISTICS

BSC/BISPA: Usable steel production (Apr)

DOE: Housing and construction (Sept qtr 1988)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business:

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Dr Charles Goodson-Wickes - Active Citizenship and Voluntary Organisations

Mr Tom Clarke - International Debt Crisis

Mr Robert Boscawen - Food and Farming Year

Adjournment Debates: The Post Office (Mr J Bowis)

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Gorbachev offers to withdraw 500 short range nuclear weapons for Europe by the end of the year.

Bush sends 2,000 troops to Panama to protect American lives and democracy.

Sun prints 20 awful things you never knew about the Panama rat (Noriega).

Mail says while Latin American dictators do not come much nastier than Noriega, there are global reasons for Bush keeping his powder dry. In respecting the rights of sovereign nations to settle their own internal affairs you have to take the fair with the foul.

Times says President Bush hints at use of military force saying US would not be intimidated by bullying tactics.

Labour Party attacks John Moore's speech on poverty as 'insensitive and hard-hearted' and CPAG suggests he is "trying to define the poor out of existence".

Bank of England warns that interest rates will have to remain high for several months as earnings climb uncomfortably high (Independent).

Chancellor "bullish" about the economy in Perth and receives standing ovation.

Bank of England, in quarterly bulletin, opposes Britain's early entry into EMS - on grounds of high inflation rate, huge current account deficit and the large gap between high British and lower European interest rates (FT).

Malcolm Rifkind calls on you to apply the brakes to the reform programme and for more "sensitivity". There is, he says, a need for a period of consolidation.

50,000 Scots tenants given means to buy their homes (Times).

Scotland to get two new hospitals worth £45million (Independent).

Scottish Transport Group boosts profit to £13.5million (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

You lead sustained Tory onslaught against Labour's policy review saying their industrial relations proposals would put Britain back under the control of union bosses and questioning its conversion from unilateralism. Chancellor derides the review as the biggest repackaging exercise in the history of British politics (Times).

Gerald Kaufman says that party's proposed new defence policy, while seeking a non-nuclear world, effectively accepts the American nuclear umbrella (Independent).

Joe Rogaly, in FT, assesses Labour's election chances after its policy review and suggests that, if it keeps a cold grip on reality, it just may come to stand a slim chance of achieving what would be the political miracle of the century.

Paddy Ashdown warns the party's 19 MPs to pull behind his leadership and work together more closely (Times).

Express says Britain is leading the world in the effort to save it from the greenhouse effect, but our polluted beaches are a "shame".

Virginia Bottomley launches a competition to clean up London's rubbish strewn streets.

Times -ICI express concern at Nicholas Ridley's remarks that the company's Blue Bag fertiliser products were a potent source of nitrates; leader discusses Mr Ridley's nitrates speech saying today's farmers should not be penalised for the ploughing up of grasslands 40 years ago. Suggestion by MAFF that they may expect no compensation for measures to reduce nitrate leaching seems niggardly. The revolution in farming projected by Mr Ridley is inescapable. Compulsion may be necessary, but it should remain a last resort.

Power workers leaders reject 7.5%; threat of overtime ban from May 24 which could cause power cuts within a fortnight. They are holding out for 10%.

Threat of 24 hour bus and Tube strike on Monday.

ITN unions threatening strike to protect overtime pay.

Port employers win court injunction to stop transport union encouraging Hull dockers continuing unofficial strike (Times).

PRESS DIGESTEuropean Community

Mirror leader attacks you for trying to block a cut price card for pensioners throughout the EC. Your opposition to Europe has become an obsession and is doing Britain - and pensioners - great harm.

Mail leads with Tory split over Europe growing - a reference to a speech by Lord Plumb today which advocates full economic and political co-operation.

Tory unrest surfaces as Lord Young confirms your opposition to EMS. His intervention is seen as an attempt to forestall efforts of Chancellor and Foreign Secretary to promote acceptance of membership (Independent).

Robert McCrindle MP calls for clearer Government statement on its intentions to closer monetary union.

Times leader discusses the coming Euro elections and calls for greater clarification from you about your attitude towards the EC as there have been misinterpretations of your Bruges speech. It would be ironic indeed if the Conservative Party, due to preventable confusion over European policy, ceded votes to the Labour Party, bitterly divided for two decades on the issue.

City reacts angrily to draft EC directive on insider dealing (FT).

Britain to implement European directive on recognition of professional qualifications two years ahead of schedule in an attempt to ease teacher shortages (Times).

Britain presents European Commission with the choice of breaking up the Lingua scheme or losing it altogether by using its veto (Independent).

Mirror claims Tory MPs are backing the big brewers and telling Lord Young to water down MMC sell off proposals.

Independent leader says Lord Young should not be deflected from the goal of reducing the brewers' monopolistic grip.

Express says petrol companies are moving towards a head on clash with you as petrol prices near £2 a gallon and profits rocket. Leader says MMC should force them to divest themselves of petrol stations and sell them to those who can run them more efficiently.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail says cost to motorist of EC catalytic converters could be £350 for small family car.

Connection of new house to water mains and public sewers could cost £800 after privatisation (Times).

Labour plan to offer people over 50 incentives to train for a second career to offset the ageing of the population (Times).

MOD confirms to Select Committee that Aldermaston will not be able to meet its delivery schedule of Trident nuclear warheads unless staff problems are resolved (Independent).

Kenneth Clarke announces another £40million to help doctors launch NHS reforms.

Barts Hospital backs self-government for whole district of City & Hackney (Times).

Cigarette smoking increases for first time in almost a decade (Times).

Government's plans for student top-up loans will lead to waste of £18billion say LSE (Times).

Douglas Hogg announces crackdown on slimming clinics over their use of addictive drugs.

Claims that "dozens" of warders at Holloway Prison are lesbians.

Express leader claims Crown Prosecution Service has spectacularly failed to live up to its billing and is underfunded, understaffed and short of talent. Today says CPS was created on the cheap. The Government, having willed the end, must now will the means.

Bishop of Aston, Birmingham, resigns after flop of a visit by Archbishop Tutu cost Diocesan finance board £200,000.

Express says television is failing to capture attention of affluent young; viewing figures down to a new low.

Sun leader urges Salman Rushdie to come out of hiding and start living again. British Government could promise Iranian leaders that if any harm came to him terrible retribution would follow.

Charles Moore, in Express, noting the actions across the world from Kinnock to Gorbachev, says we are witnessing the end of socialism.

PRESS DIGEST

George Gale, in Mail, welcomes Labour proposal for an elected Second Chamber.

Romania set to block final communique of London Information Forum if it contains the mildest commitment to the free exchange of information (Independent).

Asylum status is withdrawn from Dikko. He is told to leave the country by the end of the month but is expected to appeal. Link to Babangida visit is denied (Independent).

SNF/DEFENCE

Sun leader asks us to imagine a Russian attack with Kinnock in No 10. What does he do? Pray? head for the fall-out shelter? Fire his missiles? It offers a £50 prize for a convincing answer. Among the judges is Ken Dodd.

Joe Haines, in Mirror, attacking Ken Livingstone's opposition to Labour's defence policy, says Livingstone symbolises the disaster which became the Labour Party in the 1980s.

Express says Ministers yesterday ripped apart Kinnock's attempt to moderate Labour's policies. Michael Heseltine claims Labour's defence policy could lead to a Third World War.

COMMUNITY CHARGE

Sun leader says the saga of the leaflet is not the Government's finest hour.

JOHN MOORE'S SPEECH

Star ignores it. Sun, page 9 "The poor get the pleasure!".

Mirror page 2 - Poor not really poor, says Moore.

Today - Uproar as Minister says no-one is poor. It claims many Tory MPs were shocked by the speech.

Express page 2 - Poverty trap just a myth, says Moore; leader says it was high time a Minister set about the myths propagated by the poverty lobby and John Moore's speech comes as a refreshing douche of common sense.

PRESS DIGEST

Mail page 2 - Minister attacks the great poverty "myth" and causes an outcry. Leader says that while some people find it grindingly difficult to make ends meet it is utterly absurd to give the impression that millions in Britain are in dire need. John Moore is justified in seeking to keep relative poverty in perspective but unfortunately his tone is harsh.

Times - John Moore rejects claims that a third live in poverty but Low Pay Unit describe his speech as an admission of wilful complacency from a Government that has presided over massive increase in number of poor.

Telegraph page 1 - Poor are not getting poorer, says Moore.

Malcolm Wicks, director of Family Studies Centre, replies in the Times to John Moore's keynote speech saying "Yes, poverty really exists".

Independent - Welfare groups and opposition politicians bitterly attack John Moore speech on poverty. Low Pay Unit describes his comments as "an insult"; leader says Mr Moore is right to argue that the prevailing definition of poverty is excessively relative. But he should have also admitted that poverty undoubtedly exists. It suggests he has no idea how to sort out his Department. He cuts an unimpressive figure.

Guardian page 1 - Moore "abolishes" poverty.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler opens multi-lingual Jobclub in Birmingham
- DH: Mr Clarke visits Yorkshire
- DOE: Mr Ridley opens Ocean Valley Redevelopment Scheme, Southampton;
Mr Chope attends
- DEM: Mr Lee launches computerised accommodation database in Blackpool
- DES: Mrs Rumbold opens new preparatory department at Grove School,
Hindhead, Surrey
- DH: Mr Mellor visits West Midlands (NHS Review)
- DOE: Mr Moynihan opens new sports facilities at St Dunstons College
- DOE: Mr Trippier opens Cheadle Village Housing Scheme
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley visits Royal Society for Nature Conservation in
Lincoln
- DOE: Lord Caithness visits Lincolnshire and flies in RAF Tornado (noise
pollution)
- DSS: Lord Skelmersdale visits Royal British Legion Village and industries
in Maidstone
- DTI: Mr Maude addresses Coventry Chamber of Commerce
- FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses CBI conference on Zimbabwe, London
- HO: Mr Patten addresses the Association of Magisterial Officers,
annual conference, Coventry
- MAFF: Mr Thompson attends University Seminar, York
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington opens General Assembly at UEITP, French
Potato Organisation, Gleneagles Hotel, Sutton
- SO: Lord Sanderson addresses European Federation of Salmon and Trout
Farmers, Dunblane Hydro, Dunblane
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DOE: Mr Gummer appears on 200th edition of Anglia TV's 'Cross Question
Quiz'
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TV AND RADIO

"Hard News": Ch 4 (17.30) repeat

"Any Questions?": BBC Radio 4 (20.05) with Bryan Gould, Desmond Watkins of
Shell International, journalist Angela Neustarter and one other

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