

May 18, 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen presents a new Colour to Submarine Command at HMS Dolphin, Gosport, Hampshire; later attends a Recommissioning Ceremony for HMS Invincible at Portsmouth, Hampshire.

Prime Minister meets Mr Enrique Iglesias, President of Inter-American Development Bank, and Mr Vargas Hosa, President of the Libertad Movement (photocall)

The Duke of Edinburgh visits the Province of Quebec, Canada, where he will attend the United Empire Loyalists Association convention in Lennoxville (to May 21)

Pompidou Group meets in London (to Friday) - Home Secretary to speak

EC: Culture Council, Brussels

NHS policy board announcement

Association of University Teachers, Bi-annual Council (to May 20)

STATISTICS

DEM: Labour market statistics: Unemployment and vacancies (Apr-prov); average earnings indices (Mar-prov); employment, hours, productivity and unit wage costs; industrial dispute

DTI: Vehicle production (Apr)

DTI: Capital expenditure by the manufacturing and service industries (1st qtr-prov)

OPCS: Deaths by cause: registrations (Dec qtr 1988)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: HMI report on Middlesex Polytechnic initial teacher training

DTP: White Paper on Roads

PAC: 15th Report on Road Planning

HO: Charity Commissioners for England and Wales report 1988

PARLIAMENTCommons

Questions: Northern Ireland; Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Prime Minister

Business: Debate on a Motion to take note of the White Paper on Developments in the European Community.

Adjournment Debates: Financing of the Arts Council and its effects on the National Theatre (Mr A Goodlad)

Select Committees: DEFENCE
 Subject: The Statement on the Defence Estimates 1989
 Witnesses: Sir Michael Quinlan, KCB, Permanent Under-Secretary and other officials of the Ministry of Defence

COURT OF REFEREES

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS

Opposed Bills:

1. Birmingham City Council No 2
2. Bromley London Borough Council (Crystal Palace)

Lords: Starred Questions
 Water Bill: Committee
 Motor Vehicles (International Circulation)(Amendment) Order 1989:
 Motion for Approval

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Latest Guardian Marplan poll puts Labour and Conservatives neck and neck at 43%. Labour's "multilateralist" policy likely to prove a net vote winner.

1million Chinese, according to reports, take to streets in Peking - and in other cities, too - to demand democracy.

Demonstrations overshadow Gorbachev's visit. Chinese leaders may yield to mass protest and disgrace of Deng may follow (Telegraph).

Mail devotes virtually 4 pages to your interview - page 1 lead "My European Nightmare" - corporatist, restricted, protectionist. In many ways you feel Britain is most committed European nation. Double page inside spread headed "Why I am the best European of all".

Commission drop demands Britain should impose VAT on food, children's clothes, books and newspapers. But now comes the battle over a proposed worker's charter.

Times and Sun say you are to join the ERM when inflation comes into line with Euro average.

More than 100 Conservative MPs sign motion congratulating you on your strong leadership and endorsing your view that a federal Europe and a common currency are unacceptable.

Dollar surges on narrowing of US trade deficit, closing at DM 1.9730 in London last night. Sterling closed at \$1.6130 (FT).

Shares at their highest level since Stock Exchange crash in 1987. But pound suffers from strength of dollar.

Benn says Labour defence policy "is now identical with Tory policy" on eve of presentation, today, of Labour's new policies.

Big row in Vauxhall where Labour enforces a white candidate on constituency.

Lord Jenkins appeals to members of his old party who stayed with Dr Owen to vote for the SLD in Euro-elections (Times).

Today says Commons plans, unveiled by Select Committee, almost universally seen as likely to provide the most boring show in town. Both BBC and IBA complain rules are too harsh. ITN says it will be like watching paint dry.

PRESS DIGEST

Michael Heseltine, in speech in Manchester, outlines his views on the development of the regions and calls for more government intervention in managing the economy (FT).

Labour's Policy Review says it will restore public control over key utilities, give DTI equal status with Treasury and set up a British investment bank to offer long-term capital to industry (Times).

Motions submitted for next week's Tory Women's conference on tax and other benefits for child care services have been dismissed by Dame Joan Secombe on the grounds that child care provision did not necessarily require the injection of extra government resources (Independent).

Commons Select Committee told BBC World Service facing cash crisis which threatens programmes broadcasting in 37 languages (Times).

Greenwich, which unsuccessfully took Government to court over community charge leaflet, admits making a "mistake" about the charge in its own magazine. Ridley has last laugh in row (Telegraph).

NERC calls for additional £1.5million, on top of £5million for atmosphere research. Says Britain's role in fighting global warming could be severely limited without extra cash.

Case of bus driver in Caerphilly who ordered children as young as 5 to get off two miles from school because he was late for a union meeting.

Dockers' ballot to be officially announced tomorrow, will show a majority in support of strike (FT). But doubts in other papers whether there will be a strike.

London Underground offer to re-negotiate in effort to stop unofficial strikes (Times).

Calls for a NALGO strike ballot after 7% is rejected.

Express says French power chiefs say that control systems on 25 nuclear reactors are wearing out so fast that catastrophies could happen at any time.

Expectation that a £10billion plan to ease road congestion will be unveiled today.

PRESS DIGEST

John Moore's reorganisation of benefit system gets little coverage in pops. Independent - 80,000 civil servants who run social security are to be hived off into 2 or 3 agencies moving the £50billion system under contract to the government.

Paul Foot, in Mirror, notes the impending climbdown over MMC report on brewers and contributions by brewers to Conservative Party funds.

Express says 1922 Committee has told Lord Young to drop his proposals.

FT leader on Minorco/Consgold says the Takeover Panel's inability to uphold the principle of majority control looks, at best, a lame performance. Much of the trouble has arisen because national laws and codes of behaviour have been invoked to deal with a bid that has supranational implications.

Only 1% of GPs, according to poll, back the NHS reforms and nearly half reject them.

BMA meeting which rejects reforms calls for meeting with Kenneth Clarke.

Lord Mackay indicates Government might compromise over legal reforms but he rejects his opponents' argument that his plans could raise costs (Times).

Magistrates to be issued with sentencing guidelines for non-motoring offences in an attempt to secure greater consistency (Times).

Home Secretary says private security firms must improve and expand self-regulation or face the possibility of Government control (Times).

Home Secretary says 66,000 Neighbourhood Watch schemes played a vital part in 5% drop in crime last year.

Police Federation accuses Police Complaints Authority of left-wing bias; overwhelming vote of no confidence in it.

Food Poisoning cases rose 52% between 1987 and 1988 (Independent).

Another example of quite remarkable developments in cardiac surgery with picture of man sitting up 2 minutes after a major operation to the sound of Nat King Cole.

PRESS DIGEST

Home Office puts first batch of illegal Turkish immigrants on plane to Turkey.

Right-wing Social Affairs Unit says British Muslims should be allowed to run their own schools with state aid (Times).

Reports that children are being used by terrorists to smuggle Semtex in sweet tins.

Star claims that all relations of the Lockerbie dead have got out of the £2million disaster fund is the offer of a bible.

NFU, in plea to House of Lords committee, said a return to grass growing in highly productive areas was the only solution if the EC directive on river water quality was to become law (Independent).

Absence of water authority staff led to nearly a thousand gallons of poisonous chemicals being poured into a country stream in Cornwall (Independent).

Government under pressure to institute a total ban on import of ivory and products.

Scientists forecast 20million AIDS sufferers worldwide by end of century (Times).

President Mitterrand expected to intervene in the bitter French cabinet row over defence cuts of £2.1billion put forward by M. Rocard (Times).

Military intelligence contradicts Soviet denials of the existence of chemical weapons in eastern Europe, George Younger claimed yesterday (Independent).

Lenin Shipyard is to be part-leased to a private businessman who has said he will fire any worker who joins a union (FT).

EC

Star - Maggie in new Euro storm - on collision course over VAT on food and children's clothing and workers' rights.

Sun - Maggie fights Euro cuts on B-test limit.

PRESS DIGEST

Today - Maggie wins battle for cheaper food prices. Leader congratulates you on your stand against VAT. Labour should note that a surer recipe for political suicide than being seen to be the puppet of Brussels would be hard to imagine.

Express page 1 - Britain wins Euro VAT victory. Rating major slap in the eye for Lord Cockfield. Leader says you are arguing for a strong position when you oppose Delors' "worker's charter". It there is a case for worker directors it will have far more force elsewhere in Europe than here.

Mail's 4 page coverage of your interview includes a leader under the heading "What the lady has to learn". It says that on the so called workers' charter it wholeheartedly agrees you know what is best for Britain. It admires the spirit you revealed in the interview. But it wonders about your tactics. We need friends. You cannot say 'No' to everything. To win some you must compromise on others. In Britain you rule with your Parliamentary majority. In other Euro countries shifting coalitions are going to reign supreme. That is the power game in Europe and you must learn to master it.

Telegraph page 1 - Thatcher's EC battleground to be rabies and workers' rights. Leader says public altercations between Heath and Heseltine on the one hand and you and FCS on another damage party's prospects in Euro-elections and Britain's image in Europe. We need to develop a more positive presentation of the Government's case, fighting our corner on issues that really matter and not dramatising threats to sovereignty.

Hugo Young in Gurdian, says that for the first time you face a segment of Europe and Britain's place in it and it is too large a question to be resolved by the prejudice of a single leader and her small band of partisans.

Independent - Revised package of VAT proposals allows flexibility and represents a considerable climbdown by Brussels from the position taken 2 years ago by the then Commissioner, Lord Cockfield.

PRESS DIGEST

Times - Senior Tories believe you are preparing to defuse controversy by setting timetable for membership of EMS. They think you will use the Euro-elections to announce that we will join the ERM when our inflation rate falls into line with the EC's average. Leader says the argument about who is a good or bad European is becoming simultaneously more commonplace and more empty. It does not think the Government is conducting its case well. Its rhetoric is uneven - as is the ground it picks for its battles. It agrees, however, in the sound principle that Europe-wide regulations should be the minimum necessary.

Times - Ted Heath widens his attack on you by criticising your narrow, nationalistic attitude to the problems facing the developing world.

FT - EC's "Social charter" immediately drew a frosty response from Britain. Downing Street indicated that it would be prepared to veto any measure it disliked. John MacGregor signalled that he was preparing to oppose EC regulations which could mean a relaxation in Britain's animal health controls.

Independent - Britain will fight EC workers' charter guaranteeing them the right to participate in industrial management. Norman Fowler said the proposals were "bad news" and "clearly unacceptable". Since neither London nor Brussels are clear whether the proposals are subject to majority voting the matter could end up in the European Court (Independent).

Peter Jenkins, writing about the social charter in Independent, says we should be careful before we drop Government "anxious against social Europe with your gut anti-Europeanism". Leader says its nonsense to assert that there will be no sustained economic growth without a social consensus in the Community. The point which should be made in Madrid is that each nation should be allowed to play to its strengths rather than being obliged to conform to the Commission's standards.

LABOUR POLICIES

Sun leader says Kinnock would open negotiation with the Argentines over the Falklands. He has chosen a fine time to offer surrender - when the Argentine has a new president sworn "to spill blood to seize the islands".

PRESS DIGESTTELEVISIONING THE HOUSE

Today says if the TV networks have any guts left in them they will refuse to televise the House on terms proposed yesterday. This is anti-democratic nonsense. MPs want to distort Parliament not reflect it. TV companies must reject this poisoned offer. Either they get a free hand or it must refuse to have any hand at all.

Express leader headed "MPs TV snub is an affront" says no doubt the British public has received a greater snub than that just delivered by MPs. but it is difficult to recall when or by whom. The decision combines patronising arrogance and marked self interest. This scheme must be changed. The voters want to see their MPs at work - warts and all.

Times - Broadcasters turned off by Commons TV rules.

Independent - TV companies claimed yesterday that rules for televising the House of Commons were editorially restrictive and would not ensure proper coverage.

Guardian - Report places tough curbs on Commons television cameras. Leader says Frank Dobson, Brian Wilson, Joan Ruddock and Charles Kennedy should hang their heads in shame. They at least ought to have known better. Report offers journalists no real prospect of doing their job properly. It takes away all true discretion. In a world where market forces ruled the broadcasters might say no. Thanks, An opportunity terribly lost.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DH: Mr Clarke gives reception for the sale of General Practice Finance Corporation
- DTp: Mr Channon launches Roads White Paper, London
- HO: Mr Hurd addresses and, with Mr Hogg, hosts Ministerial meeting of the Council of Europe's Drug Co-operation Group, The Pompidou Group, QE II Conference Centre, London (to 19 May)
- MOD: Mr Younger meets General Luscher, Commander in Chief, Warsaw Pact, London
- DEM: Mr Lee presents 1988 Fit for Work awards to Cumbrian winners, Carlisle
- DEM: Mr Nicholls addresses the Turning Point conference about "Health and Safety", London
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses the Governor Training conference in Somerset
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses the Professions: Complacency or Progress pickup conference, Glaziers Hall, London Bridge
- DES: Mr Butcher visits Durham School
- DH: Mr Mellor and Mr Freeman attend Pompidou group meeting, QEII Conference Centre, London; Mr Freeman later attends National Association of Health Authorities Resource Management conference, London
- DOE: Mr Howard launches Water Privatisation: Project River Life, Derby
- DOE: Mr Moynihan attends football writers annual dinner
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley addresses Price Waterhouse conference on "Management Buyouts"; later addresses British Tourist Association lunch and addresses Women in Property Heritage conference, London; also meets RSPCA
- DTI: Mr Atkins visits Preston and Blackpool
- DTp: Lord Brabazon addresses Marine Society meeting and lunch, Ironmongers Hall
- FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses CPA Parliamentarians, House of Commons on Commonwealth and World Affairs
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses the Pavilion Opera Company reception, Lancaster House, London
- ODA: Mr Patten visits Oxford Forestry Institute and Queen Elizabeth House, International Development Centre; also addresses Christian Aid meeting, Oxford
- WO: Mr Roberts attends Committee of Welsh District Councils reception, Cardiff Centre
- WO: Mr Grist attends Pompidou Group Ministerial meeting on drugs, QEII Conference Centre, London; later addresses Institute of Hospital Engineering annual conference dinner, Cardiff
-

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

CO: Mr Luce attends European Community Ministers meeting, Brussels

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DEM: Mr Fowler lunches with Robert Gibson of The Daily Express, John Deans of the Daily Mail and Colin Brown of The Independent

DEM: Mr Cope lunches with Patrick Winter of The Guardian and Colin Hughes of The Independent

DOE: Mr Moynihan launches Cystic Fibrosis 'Skate Along', Blue Peter Programme, BBC TV

DTI: Mr Forth interviewed by Judy Jones of The Independent

TV AND RADIO

'Hard News' Ch 4 (20.00) Raymond Snoddy on the media's behaviour

'Analysis': BBC Radio 4 (20.00) Peter Hennessy in conversation with John Smith MP

'This Week': Thames (20.30)

'Question Time': BBC 1 (22.00) with Tom King, Joan Ruddock, Andrew Neil and Elizabeth Filkin
