

May 19, 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister's photocall with Icewalk polar expedition

EC: Informal ECOFIN Ministers Meeting, S'Agaro - Gerona (May 21)

TGWU dock strike ballot result

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STATISTICS

BoE: Provisional estimates of monetary aggregates (Apr)

CLSB: London and Scottish banks monthly statement (Apr)

CSO: Tax and price index (Apr)

DEM: Retail prices index (Apr)

DTI: Capital expenditure (1st qtr 1989)(prov)

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PUBLICATIONS

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Mr Roger Gale - Domestic and Satellite Broadcasting

Sir Geoffrey Johnson Smith - The Territorial Army and Reserve Forces

Mr Andrew Faulds - Repair and Sewage Pipes

Adjournment Debates: The implementation of the Data Protection Act (Mr H Cohen)

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Chinese peaceful revolt gets top billing again. Talks break down. Deng reported to have resigned.

French back your stand against negotiations on SNF - well not immediately, at any rate.

Labour's programme gets a poor reception from the media apart from the Mirror; Mail has Tories asking what it will all cost. Today and Express attacking Labour's plan to squeeze private health and education.

Meanwhile, Kinnock rocked by race row over imposition of white candidate at Vauxhall. Tories may select a black candidate. Mail leads with "Labour's black rebellion".

Bernie Grant refuses to campaign for Kate Hoey, while candidate selected to fight Vauxhall.

Telegraph says Kinnock is to remain a CND member.

SDP leaders warned that they are in danger of losing the trust of their party and that it was not created just to save their parliamentary seats (Times).

You oppose EC's proposed "Social Charter". Mail says Delors yesterday ducked a fight with you at Brussels press conference.

Mitterrand accuses opponents of European unity of "grumbling, putting on the brakes and stopping at each obstacle".

Lawrence Freidman, in Independent, reflects on the inherent irony in Bonn's attitude to nuclear defence. If Germany is now unwilling to accept nuclear risks in its own defence it should not be surprised if its Allies come to the same conclusion. One thing Bonn would find more upsetting than its current position being rejected by London and Washington might be its unequivocal embrace - and the withdrawal of US nuclear forces from Germany.

BMA spending £600,000 on an advertising campaign against NHS reforms.

Kenneth Clarke attacks BMA scare adverts on NHS reforms accusing the doctors of deliberately trying to frighten patients.

Express gives Kenneth Clarke a page to explain his reforms through their political editor.

PRESS DIGEST

Exeter GP resigns as new contract would leave him £3,500 worse off and he would have to offer patients worse service (Times).

Soaring pay sinks hopes of lower inflation and mortgage rates (Today). But unemployment down by 76,000 to lowest figure for 9 years.

Times leader discusses the problems of the soaring dollar saying that during the past week the natives in the City have been running riot and, despite yesterday's limited success in pulling the dollar back, it is far from clear that the central banks at the moment have any sort of hold over exchange rates. The psychological advantage has been well and truly lost.

Guardian says you reopened row with Chancellor yesterday by blaming the failure of his experiment in shadowing the Deutschmark for inflation.

G7 officials agree in principle to allow IMF and World Bank to provide finance for bank interest payments from problem Third World debtor countries (FT).

Another £7billion to improve Britain's roads. Express says years of bad planning, short sighted Government and incompetent forecasting have left us with a transport system that is a disgrace. So Paul Channon's announcement is nothing short of a miracle. A far sighted triumph for him. Mail says Paul Channon is tackling the problem with some boldness.

Times leader says it is a formidable plan to face a formidable problem. The general direction of the programme deserves welcome from all of us who have been campaigning against official neglect of traffic chaos.

Guadian leader sees the announcement as a watershed in the evolution of the Government's attitude to infrastructure and Mr Channon is to be commended for presiding over a welcome change of attitude.

FT leader on roads White Paper sees it as a statement of the Government's confidence in the success of the enterprise economy and continued economic growth. The Government is putting transport infrastructure development at the top of its list of extra spending priorities.

Independent leader says you have paid scant attention to transport for 10 years - the result 6 second rate men have headed the

PRESS DIGEST

Department. The nation suffered. The spending increase announced yesterday comes better late than never. But it is only a start. The PAC has drawn attention to incompetence and complacency.

Voting on a dock strike said to be so close that TGWU will not order stoppage.

Port employers accuse dock leaders of manufacturing a sham dispute to enable them to hold a national dock strike (Times).

FT says Port shop stewards plan to meet in London tomorrow to draw up plans for a national docks strike.

ASLEF decide not to ballot on a strike against a 7% pay offer leaving NUR to go it alone.

Goldsmith, Jacob Rothschild and Kerry Packer buy Rank Hovis McDougall for £415million.

Peugot Talbot increases its profits after tax to £106.7million last year from £13.15million in 1987 (FT).

Senior pathologists and vets accuse Government of not doing enough to stop cattle with incurable brain disease from being processed for human consumption (Times).

Legislation forcing American firms in Northern Ireland to discriminate positively in favour of Catholics is on the increase as Britain fights a losing battle against increasingly well-organised Irish American lobbying (Times).

Law Lords back Lord Young's refusal to publish inquiry report into Harrods at this stage; accuse Lonrho of trying to bully and intimidate DTI.

A man accused of raping a 5 year old girl walked free from court yesterday as a judge ruled the child was too young to give evidence (Independent).

Private hospitals offering free sterilisations to induce women to donate their eggs will be denied a licence pending laws to outlaw the practice (Independent).

Turkish mastermind of a human kidney racket has been jailed for 2 years (Independent).

Police Federation calls upon Crown Prosecution Service to pursue justice instead of economies (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Architects say new laws are needed to protect archaeological sites (Times).

Committee headed by Simon Hughes MP formed to raise funds for outright purchase of the Rose Theatre site (FT).

Newspaper owners to be stopped from acquiring more than 20% stake in new franchises for commercial TV, direct broadcasting satellite channels and national radio (Times).

Charles Moore (Express) and George Gale (Mail) among those who criticise rules for televising Parliament.

Central TV appoints ombudsman.

Douglas Hurd warns of a crack epidemic in Europe.

American magazine says you rely on a secret Indian woman guru to keep fit and it involves electric baths. Sun leads with "The ION Lady".

Another 56 Kurds arrived at Heathrow seeking political asylum.

More than half Liverpool fans found guilty in Heysel trial have appealed and prosecution appeals against length of sentence.

Government considering supporting a complete ban on the international trade in ivory (Times).

Times features Mr Shamir under the heading "Guardian of the Third Temple" and wonders what you will make of one of the most subtle minds in the Middle East.

Times - Moscow tells US that it intends to relax emigration restrictions enabling remaining Jews who want to leave to do so.

Organisation of American States strongly condemns Noriega and is to send three foreign ministers to Panama to try to bring about an orderly transfer of power (Times).

General Noriega has been forced to share control of the armed forces with a council of hardline officers (Independent).

PRESS DIGESTLABOUR PROGRAMME

Ignored by Star.

Sun page 2 says Kinnock is to copy Chairman Mao and have Ministers in any Labour Government do ordinary jobs as part of their duties.

Mirror page 2 - Happy Neil unveils Labour's new look. Leader says after a decade of disaster Labour has a policy which makes it fit to govern again. It isn't perfect but it's a great leap forward. No praise was higher than Benn's instant condemnation.

Today page 2 - £10 a week bribe to shun private health - cash incentives to lure thousands out of company health schemes. Leader says Labour claims to be the party of equality but its new manifesto has some funny ways of backing up the claim. Its deepest instincts are to abolish private education and health but it knows that this would be struck down by the EuroCourt so instead it will try to kill them by a thousand cuts.

Express buries programme in race row in Vauxhall. Leader says the principle underlying Labour's policy review is clear: what the Government has done, reverse it. Labour has become a party which cannot look at a clock without wanting to turn it back.

Mail page 2 - What will it all cost, Tories ask Kinnock? Page 1 lead on Vauxhall race row. Leader says the putsch in Vauxhall was conducted with cold efficiency. For years socialists have foamed and frothed at your authoritarian manner but it is inconceivable you could ever dictate to a wayward Tory constituency.

Times - Kinnock says, "Take a new look at Labour. We are ready", as he unveils the policies that will form the foundation of his party's challenge for Government (Times).

Telegraph - Kinnock insists sweeping reforms are affordable. Leader on Vauxhall says the blocking of a Left-wing candidate shows what a Right-wing party Labour is becoming. Re-education has failed. So class prejudice is being pandered to.

Eric Heffer argues in the Times that Labour, in forsaking the socialist path, is entering the same political cul-de-sac as West Germany's Left.

Labour would set up an independent body to oversee British Rail and ensure passengers interests (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Independent - Front page article on the metamorphosis of Neil Kinnock as Kinnock Mark III went on display yesterday . Gone the triumphant trappings of Kinnock Mark II but "the corporate identity is now way up-market" (Independent).

EC

Sun full page leader headed "Don't let the Euroclots rule Britannia" says you are now caught up in what may be the most important fight of your life: to preserve Britain's identity, sovereignty and freedom of choice against meddling and ambitions of Eurocrats. If the gains from Europe have been elusive and illusory the costs have been real and onerous. On our own we would survive and prosper.

Express says Eurocrats were last night accused of rushing out an opinion poll to try to influence voting in the Euro elections showing you are out of touch with voters on workers' charter and united Europe.

Times - Spain to propose compromise that would remove the basis of Britain's objections to Lingua programme by suggesting that all references to school programmes and exchanges are dropped and concentrating on higher education and training in the workplace.

Times - You brand Brussels workers' charter a "socialist charter" which you will oppose at Madrid Summit. You also dismiss the £160million EC Lingua programme.

Michael Binyon, in the Times, writes: Anger, foreboding and bewilderment are the principal reactions of Britain's European partners and Commission officials to your spirited rejection of the proposed social charter for workers. He says there was open incredulity in Brussels to your Daily Mail interview. You are effectively isolated in arguing that social policy is tantamount to social engineering, and in danger of being caricatured as wanting a single market for business but not for its employees.

Independent says many other EC Heads of Government are opposed to the social charter and the Delors Report on monetary union and both will require a unanimous vote. You told the Commons yesterday you would be ready to veto them at Madrid.

3 million teachers have rallied behind EC commission proposal on Lingua (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

FT - You attack EC Social Charter, in what appears to be a setback to intensive efforts by the Foreign Office and senior ministers to persuade you to soften your attacks on Brussels in the run up to the Euro-elections. Joe Rogaly, in FT, believes that the enemy is largely a figment of your imagination: a sinister Brussels conspiracy to impose corporatism and Marxist principles in Britain. Increasingly, you rely on the advice of a small band of courtiers, more than ever cut off from moderating outside influences. You are now plainly going all out to flatter the saloon-bar vote.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler presents West Midlands Evening News, Express and Star Silver Acorn Awards, London
- DEN: Mr Parkinson addresses the Institute of Mining Engineers centenary conference, Harrogate
- DH: Mr Clarke addresses Directors of Boots PLC, London
- DOE: Mr Ridley visits Anglian Water, Peterborough and opens Flag Fen Sewage Treatment Works
- DTI: Mr Newton addresses Nottingham Business Venture
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor speaks at Diss High School, Diss, Yorkshire
- DEM: Mr Cope launches new Government Purchasing Guidelines booklets, London; later addresses western section of Institute of Production Engineers, Bristol
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses the Annual Congress of British Printing Industries Federation on "Education/Industry", Palace Hotel, Torquay
- DES: Mr Jackson visits Cambridge University
- DH: Mr Mellor attends Pompidou Group Meeting, QEII Conference Centre, London
- DH: Mr Freeman visits Maidstone District Health Authority
- DOE: Mr Trippier conducts tree planting ceremony, St James' Park development, Salford
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley visits Blackbush Metals open day, re waste metal reclamation
- DSS: Lord Skelmersdale opens Citizens Advice Bureau, Doncaster
- DTI: Mr Forth visits Scottish Consumer Council
- DTp: Lord Brabazon visits Birmingham Airport
- DTp: Mr Bottomley attends Transport 2000 "Feet First" symposium, City University, London
- MAFF: Mr Ryder attends prize giving at Devon County Show, Whipton, Exeter
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington addresses National Association of Food Potato Merchants, Peterborough

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

- SO: Lord James Douglas Hamilton addresses Association of Scottish Police Superintendents annual conference, Peebles Hydro
- WO: Mr Roberts attends British Coal Enterprises Employment Training promotion, Pontypridd; later views art exhibition, National Museum of Wales, Cardiff
- WO: Mr Grist presents CBI Make Health Your Business awards, Cardiff
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- HMT: Mr Lawson attends informal ECOFIN council in Gerona (to 21 May)
- HO: Mr Hurd attends bilateral talks and signs memorandum of understanding on Terrorism, Drugs and Crime, with M. Joxe, French Interior Minister, Paris
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TV AND RADIO

- 'Hard News': Ch 4 (17.30) repeat
- 'Any Questions?': BBC Radio 4 (20.05) with Chris Patten, Dennis Skinner and two others
- 'Stop Press': BBC Radio 4 (20.50) Media issues
- 'The Houses are Full of Smoke': BBC 2 (21.30) documentary on US involvement in Nicaragua
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