

May 23, 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister receives Mary Tudor rose from Marie Curie Memorial foundation (photocall)

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visit the Channel Islands (to May 25)

EC: European Conference of Ministers of Transport, Edinburgh (to May 24)

London Underground Transport strike and safety audit

National Union of Lock & Metal Workers annual conference, Willenhall

Prison Officers' Association 50th annual conference, Floral Hall, Southport (to May 26)

DOE press conference on ivory

MAPP ban on slimming pills

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BSA: Building Societies monthly figures (Apr)

DTI: Manufacturers' and distributors' stocks (1st qtr-prov)

DTI: Capital expenditure (provisional estimate)(1st Qtr 1989)

HO: Operation of the Firearms Act, England and Wales 1988

OPCS: Labour force survey 1987 (prov)

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PUBLICATIONS

DES: HMI report on a survey of two year full-time beauty therapy courses in further education

HO: Response to Home Affairs Standing Committee report on the Forensic Science Service

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Health; Education and Science; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Takeaway Food (Biodegradable Packaging) Bill (Mr James Paice)  
Opposition Day (11th allotted day)  
Debate on Inner Cities on an Opposition Motion  
Opposed Private Business: Associated British Ports (No 2) Bill: 2nd Reading

Adjournment Debates: Government policy towards rain forest problems (Mr T Dalyell)



PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees:

MEMBERS' INTERESTS  
Subject: Parliamentary Lobbying  
Witness: Mr Adam Raphael

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL  
Bromley London Borough Council  
(Crystal Palace)

Lords:

Starred Questions  
Scrabster Harbour Order Confirmation Bill: Third Reading  
Water Bill: Committee (8th Day)  
Parking Bill (L Teviot): Report  
Hearing Aid Council (Amendment) Bill: Second Reading

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Power struggle in Peking with Army declining to fire on crowds but regaining some control, though not entirely peacefully, 40 injured. Li Pen's future in doubt; Zhao mustering support for a comeback.

Hong Kong share prices hit by fears over China (FT).

Russians reduce our nationals ceiling in USSR to same as theirs in UK - 205 - meaning that something like 170 jobs in Moscow will have to go.

Great confusion over what has actually happened. Times tries to clarify it by saying it could force our embassy to cut number of locally employed staff from more than 200 to about 65, but Soviet sources say no further British officials or journalists will have to leave.

You regret Kremlin chose not to take the chance not to retaliate.

NATO sources see Lance missile remaining a credible weapon system well beyond the 1995 deadline set for its replacement (Times).

German and Italian foreign ministers in complete agreement on seeking a delay in Lance modernisation until 1992 and to open talks with the Warsaw Pact on reduction of nuclear arms (Times).

FT says Bonn inclining towards a compromise with Washington over the timing of talks on SNF - and have indicated a willingness to link the opening of such negotiations to verifiable success in the reduction of troops and tanks.

British officials are irritated and perplexed by the Bush administration's shift towards brokering a compromise with West Germany over modernisation and SNF (FT).

Pound loses nearly 4 cents against dollar and money market rates rise a little. £7billion wiped off shares. Independent forecasts £1.65billion trade deficit.

All eyes on Thursday's trade figures. Andrew Alexander, in Mail, says if Chancellor reacts to the soaring dollar by raising interest rates he will do much to reinforce the view that masochism is a particularly British vice. Why not enjoy the soaring dollar?



PRESS DIGEST

FT says dollar's surge in spite of central banks' intervention, has cast doubt on G7's ability to preserve the 1987 Louvre Accord.

Sun says Chancellor had to ask you for an apology but you didn't mean it.

Housing prices in the South take a tumble and slump is spreading northwards as Government's anti-inflationary measures work. But they continue to boom in the North.

Government to be pressed to introduce statutory controls on estate agents and to establish minimum qualifying standards to eliminate malpractices against home buyers and sellers (Times).

In launching the Euro manifesto you pledge your commitment to EC but also to resist unwarrantable bureaucratic interference from Brussels.

More trouble on the Tube; and while working to rule ends on Southern Region ballot on industrial action over 8.7% pay rise on whole of British Rail.

Unofficial strike over safety and pay in North Sea oilfields.

Government writes off £5.5 billion water debts to prevent privatised industry being unduly burdened (Times).

Lowest rainfall for 13 years in some areas of the south leads to calls for water conservation (Times).

Tiny Rowland has objected to being tried for contempt of the House of Lords by the same Law Lords who levelled the accusation during a legal row over the Harrods takeover. He also objected to Lord Ackner since the Law Lord's father had been the Lonrho chief's dentist and they had lunched and dined together! (FT).

Stock Exchange Council has rejected recommendation for radical changes in its market making system, by approving a draft report which will favour established firms rather than new ones (FT).

Australia refuses to sign international treaty clearing the way for mining operations to begin in the Antarctic (Times).

Double glazing salesmen voted top of conmen's league by consumers.

Kenneth Baker beats off plan by EC for children to be sent abroad to learn languages at its expense.



PRESS DIGEST

Public schools now facing difficulties in attracting teachers (Times).

Attorney General is considering a case where 4 A level students tried to bribe a security guard to smuggle exam papers from Sutton College, Birmingham (FT).

Dealers told to stop taking orders for new Mercedes six months before it goes on sale in Britain (Times).

Mirror hails Euro Court which is being asked to rule on Sunday shop opening in UK - a favourable verdict would show the Community fighting for the interests of all the community.

Blacks to select an independent to fight Vauxhall by-election.

Four coloured men forced their way into Vauxhall Tory campaign office and threatened to burn it down if officials did not leave within four days.

NUPE backs Kinnock's defence policy - seen as a victory for him.

Sun leads with 5p a mile private motorways; Today says private money should have been brought in years ago.

Channon's blueprint for private toll roads could anticipate similar asset privatisation in the fields of health and education (Independent).

FT leader says yesterday's Green Paper on private finance for new roads is much less coherent than last week's White Paper. The plans, if implemented, might result in profits for private entrepreneurs, but they could easily impair the efficiency of the road system. The paper lacks intellectual clarity. Once again the Thatcher government has shown itself to be the prisoner of its own political rhetoric. The market is not well placed to determine which roads should be built and where.

Bob Scholey and Graham Day join NHS policy board. Mirror says they were denounced as "Thatcher Butchers" by unions. Express says appointments make a lot of sense.

RCN and BMA criticise exclusion of Chief Nurse from NHS Policy Board.

Star claims the Government has knifed the Gurkhas in the back by cutting its strength by half.



PRESS DIGEST

Bar Council commends televising of court hearings, with safeguards. Today finds this attitude a "welcome surprise" and the Government should give immediate access to cameras to Hillsborough inquiry. But the Mail sees the idea as no more than a plea in mitigation of a largely unreformed profession.

Tower Hamlets Bangladeshis found guilty of discriminating against a Chinese employee.

Government to announce soon new move to give social workers quicker access to children feared to be in danger of abuse or neglect, as an amendment to the Children Bill (Independent).

According to the Campaign for Freedom of Information of the 208 MPs who responded to their questionnaire, 159 said they favoured the scrapping of the Lobby system (Times).

Des Wilson says abolition of Lobby system supported by 75% of MPs and calls on newspapers to withdraw from the system for experimental one year (Independent).

Crucial parts of the Government's justification for the shooting dead of three IRA terrorists in Gibraltar flatly contradicted by Spanish police. Police dispute could damage diplomatic relations (Independent). Leader says it now appears more likely that the three terrorists were, in effect, executed. It adds that the official British account, unsatisfactory from the first, has now become even less plausible.

Claims that Sky TV dishes have melted in the Sun..

Mail takes a page over the campaign to protect the elephant with "Maggie into the fray". You support their campaign.

Today finds it intolerable that Treasury will pocket proceeds of selling confiscated poached ivory which will then find its way back on to the market; it should be destroyed.

War crimes inquiry says there is sufficient evidence to justify changing laws to permit trials (Telegraph).

You are to steam ahead with National Membership Card scheme for soccer.

Hillsborough disaster appeal tops £5million.

Mirror says Nicholas Scott confirmed yesterday that families will lose State benefits if they get cash from disaster fund.



PRESS DIGEST

Shamir urges you to back his peace plan for occupied territories. Failure to agree on whether Israel should negotiate with PLO. Times says he obtained qualified support from you for his elections plan.

US Secretary of State Baker urges talks between Israelis and Palestinians (Times).

PLO has presented its own peace proposals to the US on the occupied territories. It insists that elections have to be linked to an overall settlement involving territory for peace and the convening of an international conference (FT).

UK and other EC states have objected to a proposal from the Commission to encourage political reform in Poland by lending them EC finance (FT).

The South African Government has tabled a Bill to allow the appointment of blacks to the Cabinet (FT).

You are being urged to stop British RU players going to South Africa.

Peace accord ends Namibian impasse (Times).

US concern that India's successful launch of a guided missile could unsettle the area (FT).

EC LAUNCH

Star - I'll do it my way - you tell Tories the future of Britain lies in the EC but you won't have Britain run by Euro meddlers.

Sun - Maggie hits out at Heath; you accuse him of being jealous of your success.

Today - Maggie fumes at "mad" EC. We won't be a soft touch, you warn.

Mail - Maggie: I must fight our corner in Europe - you brush aside any suggestion of Tory rift.

Times leader looks at the Euro-elections saying for Conservatives and Labour it is seen as one important test of strength, but to the voters it is not so clear as there is a massive ignorance in Britain about what the European Parliament does and who is in it.



PRESS DIGEST

Times - You brush aside criticisms of your Europe stance declaring that the British people do not like petty bureaucracy and will not want anyone acting for them in Europe who did not stand up for Britain's interests.

Woodrow Wyatt in the Times under the heading "Which Tory is the genuine European" urges Heath and Heseltine to face facts and stop sniping.

Independent describes the Tory manifesto as advocating the Thatcherisation of Europe. Its leader says the pamphlet is hectoring and negative. You apparently believe there are still significant votes to be won by bashing foreigners and bureaucrats. It admits that the derision over Labour's conversion to the European ideal can be partly justified. But it believes that Labour will not find it difficult to persuade the public that your current mood is irrational and petty rather than positive and forthright.

Express - One is a fighter, snaps Thatcher. Spitfire Premier blasts back at Euro snipers. Leader headed "Manifesto for a fuller future" says the elections have produced one of the most sensible Tory documents seen in several weeks of Euro hysteria.

Telegraph gives extensive coverage with picture. Main page headed "Substantial upheaval for farmers in reform of EC agricultural policy". Leader on "Where the Tories fall down over Europe" says the manifesto is an excellent document - everything that the current Tory image on Europe is not.

Guardian says the manifesto is a deft job, which touches every base and squares every circle. But it does not attempt to see the problems and opportunities whole, and offers no clue as to what comes next.

ANGLO/SOVIET RELATIONS

Sun says you are right to express your doubts as to how much the Russians have changed. Their behaviour is not that of people who genuinely wish to have friendly relations with the West. It would be wiser and safer to judge Gorbachev by his deeds not his words.



PRESS DIGEST

Mail leader asks what is Gorbachev up to so soon after his visit here and invitation to the Queen. The Government's acting on Soviet personnel in London has much to commend it but the same could not be said of British businessmen and journalists. But unlike the USA and West Germany we impose a limit on Soviet State employees here. If the Kremlin can be castigated after reverting to the Cold War Downing Street can be caricatured as hard line.

Independent - Moscow halves UK presence as spy row grows. What might have remained a diplomatic tiff grows into an incident which threatens to undermine the great improvement in Anglo-Soviet relations.

CHINA

Times - As Peking protesters continue to resist arrival of army to enforce martial law, there are increasing signs of divisions within the military about the advisability of such an operation. Leader says that with or without the use of force, there is no simple way to save face for Mr Deng Xiaping. A military crackdown would be a major humiliation for Peking and discredit their approach to Hong Kong of two countries, one system. Within China, armed repression would also derail China's economic modernisation.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler attends a reception given by 3"i" Investors, Claridges, London
- DES: Mr Baker delivers first IBM Education Lecture on "Teacher Supply", Royal Society, London
- DH: Mr Clarke meets President Qi Mongie, President, State Pharmaceutical Association of China, London
- DOE: Mr Ridley receives Malaysian National Development Minister, Mr Dhanabala
- MOD: Mr Younger addresses Oxford University Strategic Studies Group
- WO: Mr Walker visits Pannell Kerr Forster offices, Cardiff; later opens Sheer Pride Ltd new factory, Hirwaun; also attends lunch with Board Members of S4C, Welsh Channel 4, Cardiff; later visits offices of the Prince of Wales Committee, Cardiff
- DEM: Mr Cope addresses Engineering Employers Federation conference on 1992, London
- DEM: Mr Lee views a project on tourism opportunities rising from Stockton and Darlington Railway
- DEN: Mr Morrison attends Petrobras THS seminar, London
- DEN: Baroness Hooper attends 800th Anniversary Year of the Mayoralty for the City of London reception, House of Commons, London
- DES: Mr Jackson delivers keynote address for the National Information Services conference at the Great Western Hotel, Praed Street, Paddington, London
- DH: Mr Mellor meets Said Al Asnimi, Kuwait Minister for Foreign Affairs
- DOE: Mr Howard addresses Foreign Press Association, London
- DOE: Mr Moynihan delivers keynote speech at British Football in Turmoil seminar, London
- DOE: Mr Gummer visits Bristol (DOE listening visit)
- DOE: Mr Chope visits Halifax to open office furniture showroom (PSA)
- DTI: Mr Clark meets Mr Kollarik, Hungarian Deputy Minister of Finance, London
- DTI: Mr Forth launches Hazard Dome, Thorpe Park
- DTI: Mr Atkins visits the South West (to 25 May)
- DTp: Lord Brabazon hosts Prince of Wales' opening of the Walton on the Naze Maritime Rescue Sub Centre



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

HO: Lord Ferrers attends Divisional Special Constables Parade, Rochester  
MAFF: Mr Ryder attends Hill Farming Advisory Committee, Huddersfield  
MAFF: Baroness Trumpington visits Chelsea Flower Show  
OAL: Mr Luce addresses the launch of Friends of the British Library,  
London

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

FCO: Mr Waldegrave visits Hungary (to 25 May)

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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DOE: Mr Moynihan interviewed by Q Magazine  
MAFF: Baroness Trumpington interviewed by Horticulture Weekly

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TV AND RADIO

'Birmingham': BBC 2 (16.00). At the start of the 1980s Birmingham was a barren city of decline

'Split Screen': BBC 2 (20.30). Peoples private lives are no business of the press. Two films about press intrusion, looking at both sides of the argument

'Enterprise Culture': BBC 2 (21.50). A look at the "North/South divide" which requires some wage earners to commute weekly

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