

PRIME MINISTER

TODAY'S PRESS

My efforts yesterday were directed at trying to introduce a sense of calm and caution into the media over events in East Germany/Berlin and Eastern Europe.

On the whole they seem to have been successful, especially in the Sunday Telegraph and the Sunday Times.

I would commend to you Peregrine Worsthorne and Bruce Anderson in the Sunday Telegraph as well the second leader in that newspaper; and Michael Jones and Simon Jenkins (for his cautionary tale about a united Germany) in the Sunday Times.

The Correspondent interestingly reports Krenz as ruling out reunification.

The Observer, of course, is the haven for those who see Europe in ERM terms and are insistent of our being more European (in institutional terms).

And Robert Maxwell commandeers the leader columns in the People and the Sunday Mirror to say you have been overtaken by events and are outdated. He would wouldn't he?

For the rest, acres are devoted to the nuclear power/privatisation story; there are a number of stories in the qualities leading to the conclusion that public expenditure will rise as a proportion of GDP in the next financial year; and the preview of tomorrow's debate on Cambodia in the Sunday Telegraph for which the Labour Party are pointing the finger at a SAS M16 man training Sihanouk's forces there.

On the whole the media is not too bad and the German question foreshadows everything.

I have had a bit of fun over the possibility of a challenger, dismissing the idea of old nags and making the point that no Desert Orchid, that marvellous steeplechaser, has yet appeared.

(BERNARD INGHAM)

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