

PRIME MINISTER

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Oct 17/90

THE SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS

The Sunday newspapers make rather dismal reading because the Party Conference is judged to have been low key, defensive, nervy, uninspired and divided over Europe.

And the objective of your enemies and some others in the press is to paint you as a phenomenon of the past irrelevant to the future. (We shall have to deal with this quickly.)

Meanwhile, the People claims to have overheard Cecil Parkinson make disparaging remarks over dinner in Bournemouth about the Cabinet, Geoffrey Howe, John Gummer, etc. Mr Parkinson denies it, and so do Geoffrey Parkhouse and Julia Langdon, with whom he was dining. I have described it as yet another disgraceful Sunday newspaper stunt.

The Observer has you rowing with the Foreign Secretary for allegedly encouraging Ted Heath to visit Iraq.

The Sunday Times says you are at odds with John MacGregor over the Government's failure to capture education as its plus subject.

The theme is emerging that October next year will be the optimum date for the next election.

The Sunday Times leader calls on the Government to get over the idea that what is needed in public services, including education, is not more money but more choice and competition - and education would be a good place to start.

The Commander of our forces in the Gulf suggests we are ready to send more troops there.

Nelson Mandela, according to the Sunday Telegraph denies he is a Socialist and that he has ever been one.

*Bernard Ingham*

PP BERNARD INGHAM

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