

January 29, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Lord Justice Taylor's final report on Football Safety published

Princess Royal visits the Faculty of Engineering, University College, London

EC: Count Lambsdorff, Chairman of Free Democratic Party in West Germany visits London (to 2 February)

House of Commons Select Committee on European Legislation visit Dublin (to 31 January - prov)

Labour Party unveils policy for London

US defence cuts announced

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Energy; Attorney General; Foreign and Commonwealth (Overseas Development Questions)

Business: Second Reading of the Employment Bill
Motion relating to the welfare food amendment regulations

Adjournment Debates: Paternal support for children of single mothers
(Mr Frank Field)

Select Committees: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Subject: Promotion of Quality and Standards
Witnesses: Sir Peter Gregson, KCB, Department of Trade and Industry, Dr Ivan Dunstan, British Standards Institution

Lords: Starred Questions
Capital Allowances (Consolidation) Bill (HL): Second Reading
Courts and Legal Services Bill (HL): Committee (4th Day)
Code of Practice on the implementation of the Mental Health Act 1983: Motion to annul

PRESS DIGESTMain News

USA to announce defence cuts today - 3 British bases to be closed or run down at Greenham Common, Fairford and Wethersfield.

Telegraph leads with Bush to recall 20,000 troops from Europe.

Guardian says US is to step up its nuclear spending on development and modernisation.

Mail suggests end of cold war will bring a £15billion peace dividend to Britain over five years with proposal of more spending on NHS, schools, and transport as well as tax cuts.

Foreign Secy rules out 'premature' cuts in UK defence spending (Times).

East German elections brought forward from May to March 18.

Reports that attempts may be made to topple Gorbachev at Central Cttee meeting next week.

Soviet reformers form new faction, "Democratic Platform", with more than 1,200 people from 100 cities' Communist parties. The aim is to renew communism within, but move could split the party (Times).

As Moscow tightens grip on Azerbaijan, Republic's Communist Party opens discussions to find a way out of crisis (Independent).

40,000 demonstrate in Bucharest demanding a say in coalitions.

Times says post-revolutionary Romania slips closer to anarchy in wake of yesterday's demonstrations.

Today says Western car manufacturing jobs are at risk with cut-price labour forces available in Eastern Europe.

14 die - shot dead by police - in weekend riots in Kosovo, Yugoslavia.

Polish Communist Party splinters into three warring factions (Times).

Speculation that Mandela is to be released today; others say he has refused freedom until ANC is unbanned.

PRESS DIGEST

Mirror makes much - a front page lead in fact - of Gatting dismissing black protests at the South African cricket tour as "a few people singing and dancing". Kinnock also attacks him and Kaufman urges Gatting to call off tour. Mirror says Gatting & Co will never be forgiven but it would help if they came home now.

Independent editorial comments on how naive, if not stupid, the Gatting tour members were in believing their tour could be divorced from politics or help the cause of multiracial sport.

On weekend before Taylor report on Hillsborough is published 15 Newcastle fans arrested after rampage in Oxford pub; 32 held en route to Southampton-Oxford tie; and complaints about behaviour of besuited "gents", guests of Pall Mall Marketing, at Bristol City v. Chelsea tie.

Today says football's authorities are the real culprits behind its violent malaise. Clubs treat their fans like rabble and they (Today) have been sued for telling this truth.

Express says Govt faces a row with League clubs over all seater stadia; they will plead poverty. Mail says soccer is bracing itself for a £100million bill. Independent puts it at £130million.

Fulham sell their ground to developers for £13million.

More storms forecast for this week.

Consultants to seek judicial review of Govt's arrangements for implementing NHS reforms (FT).

Seven per cent rise on electricity prices forecast.

Full Employment UK pressure group urges provision of £500 training vouchers to help unemployed prepare for new jobs (Independent).

BAe to develop closer links with Daimler-Benz and Honda in move to reduce reliance on UK defence market (FT).

Thousands of Lloyds Bank Access card holders have moved to other credit cards, many to Barclaycard, following introduction of £12 annual levy (Times).

MOD considering taking control of a £2billion helicopter project away from Westland because development running more than 3 years behind and overbudget (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

B/Rail studying overhead rail system, abandoned as obsolete in New York 40 years ago, as possible high-speed Channel Tunnel rail link to London (Times).

Vets in Britain and Germany to meet to try to end beef "war" over BSE.

NALGO to instruct branches to readmit those drummed out for working during national stoppage in view of threat of compensation running into millions (Telegraph).

UFC figures indicate that academic "brain drain" was countered by those coming to this country by 160 to 244 in 1988 (FT).

Govt's task in whittling down the 12% lead Labour reported by MORI poll seen as becoming harder (Times).

Express forecasts bruising times ahead for Kinnock as he tries to end the electoral college system and reselection in the Labour Party and strip unions of their 40% vote.

Sir John Stradling Thomas MP to face deselection following allegations of his lack parliamentary activity (Independent).

In Times Conservative prospective candidate Praveen Moman attacks Norman Tebbit's "gratuitously offensive" case against Hong Kongers coming here. Tebbit shows disregard for the quiet and constructive way in which blacks and Asians have settled down. His statements can only create divisions in British society.

Religious shows to be compulsory on new TV franchises (Times).

Richard Branson's UK 2000 to be scrapped.

Oil companies urging the Chancellor for 4p tax cut on unleaded fuels to revive sales (Times).

President Bush to launch a scheme to plant 1 billion trees a year in USA.

Mail feature says punishing parents for the crimes of their children has worked wonders in the USA.

New Church of England report on poor and inner cities causes dismay within Church itself in condemning virtually every social policy of the past 5 years (Mail).

PRESS DIGEST

Michael Spicer to announce £200million package to improve urban housing, providing a boost for inner cities and the homeless (Times).

Looking at the £100million overspend by the Housing Corporation, the Independent, in an editorial, say better financial co-ordination is needed. If this year's overspend leads to closer monitoring of the whole sector, then it will be a lesson well learnt.

Divorcee, 33, in court today on baby snatch charge. Portia Trust wants the charge dropped - it believes this could lead to other kidnappers abandoning the infants. Today says kidnapper needs help.

Lord Hailsham calls Judge Pickles "an anti-judge".

IRA apologise for killing a 17 year old youth by mistake - and injuring 8 others - in bomb outrage at Bloody Sunday march.

Reports that US is negotiating a multi-million pound ransom of hostages held in Lebanon, including Waite and McCarthy.

Trainee barristers to receive £6,000 during pupillage year under Bar council reforms (Times).

Police Federation say evidence to be presented to Select Cttee this week on Crown Prosecution Service will be critical "but not destructively so" (Times).

Treasury poised to approve a £4-5million package of improvements to career structure of lawyers in CPS (Times).

Pressure groups say leaked documents prove 1988 Immigration Act has led to more deportations (Independent).

Princess Margaret's jet for the West Indies struck by lightning. Lands safely at Manchester.

FT leader on Europe calls for a new European union based on confederation and open to new members which meet its economic and political criteria; would be an appropriate centrepiece round which to build new European order.

Mail suggests German is about to replace English as main language in EC because of rising power of Germanys.

PRESS DIGEST

Jesse Jackson poised to run as Mayor of Washington when current incumbent, Mayor Barry, steps down, in wake of allegations he took drugs (Independent).

Observers speculate Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng may be sacrificed as the scapegoat for June 4 massacre, to save image of the Communist party (Times).

New World Bank loans - totalling £54million - proposed for China: the first since Tiananmen Square (FT).

India has warned Pakistan it will not tolerate interference in Kashmir: Ministers are voicing the possibility of war with Pakistan. 60 have died in Kashmir since January 21.

Benazir Bhutto yesterday sacked her Minister responsible for Kashmir (FT).

ARMS CONTROL - EASTERN EUROPE

Today says the clamour for arms cuts is growing all over the Western world. They must be resisted. The unravelling of the Eastern bloc makes it very unstable and Gorbachev may not survive. We cannot tell what new Napoleon may be waiting in the Kremlin wings.

Express sees danger in rushing our fences. It would be prudent to postpone decisions to cut the armed forces until later when we see the precise extent of CFE1 reductions agreed in Vienna.

Mail says the British Govt must be prepared to join in with its own positive and radical suggestions for saving money on defence without economising on essential security. If ever there was time for military minds to redefine and refine the doctrine of flexible response this looks like it.

Times editorial previews Bush's State of the Union speech saying that there are some negative aspects to his first year in office (eg rising inner city crime), and his immediate political prospects in an election year are not good. On the international front, the paper concludes Bush is a conservative internationalist, a breed that is in gentle decline.

Tom King assured by the Chancellor and Chief Secretary that the Defence Budget will not be cut this year (Independent).

FT - Bush aims to halve budget deficit with tax and cuts plan: defence to rise by 2% less than rate of inflation.

PRESS DIGEST

Work on large radar installation in the Ukraine halted after public demonstrations about its environmental impact - further indication of anti-military sentiment in Soviet republics (FT).

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEN: Mr Wakeham addresses Parliamentary Alternative Energy Group meeting; later opens British Coal Opencast exhibition, both House of Commons, London
- DES: Mr MacGregor visits National Council for Vocational Qualifications headquarters, London
- DSS: Mr Newton attends staff suggestions awards, London
- MAFF: Mr Gummer visits Game Farm, Edinburgh
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses the Bolton Institute of Higher Education
- DES: Mrs Rumbold opens new department at the Cambridge Institute
- DES: Mr Howarth visits East Sussex LEA
- DH: Mr Freeman visits Teignbridge and North Devon
- DH: Lady Hooper addresses the annual Age Concern Institute of Gerontology lecture, Kings College, London
- DH: Mrs Bottomley meets Dr Graham McDonald re Junior Doctor's Hours; Michael Morris MP re Vitamins Forum; Womens National Cancer Control Campaign; Prince of Wales Advisory Group on Disability; English National Board; Mrs Myers, President, Society of FPCS, all London
- DTp: Mr Atkins visits M65, North East Lancashire
- FCO: Mr Waldegrave receives visit from Hank Cohen, US Assistant Secretary for Africa
- HO: Mr Mellor visits Drug Squad, New Scotland Yard, London
- MAFF: Mr Curry visits Woodsford Farm and attends Dorset National Farmers Union, Annual General Meeting, both Woodsford, Dorset
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington attends Cumbria County National Farmers Union, Annual General Meeting, Penrith
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- MOD: Mr King visits Washington, USA (to 31 January)
- FCO: Mr Sainsbury visits the Falkland Islands (to 8 February)
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TV AND RADIO

"World in Action" ITV (8.30 pm)
Community charge

"Panorama" BBC1 (9.30 pm)
Bunking off. Looks at problem of truancy in Britain's schools; DES Minister, Mrs Rumbold, appears on the programme
