

February 8, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister will see the Brazilian President-elect,  
Mr Collor de Mello

---

STATISTICS

BOE: Financing of the CGBR (4th Qtr)

BOE: UK banking statistics (4th Qtr)

BOE: Money stock (4th Qtr)

---

PUBLICATIONS

HO: HM Inspector of Prisons report on HM Prison Featherstone

NAO: Report on The Royal Mint

---

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Prime Minister

Business: Opposition Day (6th Allotted Day)  
Until 7.00 pm  
Debate on the Scottish Economy on an Opposition Motion

Opposed Private Business: King's Cross Railways Bill Motion  
Motion to take note of EC documents relating  
to rights of residence. Details will be given in  
the Official Report

Adjournment Debates: Funding into allergy to oil seed rape seed (Mr A  
Welsh)

Select Committees: Cardiff Bay Barrage Bill [Lords]  
King's Cross Railways Bill

Lords: Starred Questions  
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill (HL): Committee (2nd Day)  
Official Secrets Act 1989 (Prescription) Order 1989: Motion for  
Approval

---

PRESS DIGESTMain News

You hail Gorbachev's success in steering Soviet Union towards multi-parliamentary democracy as a "great decision".

This issue dominates the press today. Mirror: A giant step for democracy. Express: Rebirth of a nation. Mail: A miracle in Moscow.

Chinese quickly make it clear they do not propose to end the Communist Party monopoly.

Press generally lost in admiration for Gorbachev's political skill but wonders whether he really can succeed against the odds.

Speaking in Prague, US Secy of State Baker sets out a framework for integrating emerging democracies in Eastern Europe into a new European order. Cornerstone of his plan would be new security system emerging from CFE agreement expected later this year (FT).

Kohl and Genscher to visit Moscow on Saturday to discuss proposal that a united Germany should be part of the Western Alliance but with no NATO troops in what is now East Germany. Meanwhile the Bundesbank agrees to help smooth the way for a quick currency union between the two Germanies in an effort to save the East German economy from collapse (Times).

Social Democrats scent victory in East German election as poll shows them 42% ahead of nearest rivals (Independent).

Shevardnadze concerned at pace of developments in Germany as Kohl's "Unity Cttee" meets (Independent).

You are to urge Kohl not to rush unification when you meet for Anglo-German summit at the end of next month (FT).

UK sends 1million syringes to Romania to combat extension of AIDS.

Professor Silviu Brucan, once a leading member of the Romanian Communist Party, writing in the Times under the heading "Communism, killed by a new revolution", believes swift technical change has left the party obsolete.

Romania's National Salvation Front to share power with newly formed opposition group, council for National Unity (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Two men die in 90 mph storms in South. Today calls for a Minister permanently assigned to coping with and co-ordinating action in emergencies.

Insurers face £5billion damage bill, according to Times.

Britain will reject limitations on Hong Kong democracy demanded by the Chinese, Cabinet sources tell the Independent.

Times says that after an hour long meeting with you on Tuesday when the 18-strong executive of the 1922 Cttee protested about the high handed attitude of Ministers formulating policy, many MPs were disappointed that you had not listened more closely to their concerns. There had been no evident meeting of minds.

Judge describes Tim Eggar as "stupid and idiotic" for ticking off a 6-year-old girl for picking flowers in his garden; father of girl who assaulted Minister afterwards gets suspended sentence.

Guardian p1 - Tories plan to abolish universal child benefit - a Govt intention built upon an unpublished CPS report.

Bernie Grant joins Jesse Jackson in demo against first unofficial cricket test in South Africa today.

Sun feature says you can buy a Big Mac in Moscow but not in Capetown - the result of the contradictory and hypocritical policies pursued by the West.

Times says that de Klerk is facing a Conservative backlash over his reform proposals.

Ronald Butt, in the Times, under the heading "Mirror images of reform" looks at what is happening in both the Soviet Union and South Africa concluding that the task of Gorbachev and de Klerk has been to woo people into change, and they deserve calm and encouraging responses.

Even the Mirror uses a picture of you cuddling blind girl at Children of Achievement awards.

This week's FT survey of Conservative MPs views shows clear message that Mr Major should ignore Treasury mandarins' advice to raise income tax (FT).

New car sales fell 6% last month, but imports rose to 59% - 5% up on a year ago.

PRESS DIGEST

One family in two now has a video recorder - Mail heads its report of Family Expenditure Survey with "Bigger and better - family spending tops £200 a week with plenty to buy life's luxuries.

Small businesses contributed the most to job creation in the late 80s creating an estimated 295,000 extra jobs in 2 years, study shows (FT).

Centre for Local Economic Strategies report urges huge devolution of power away from Westminster to the regions to ensure a better distribution of economic development throughout the country (Times).

Setback for ambulancemen as MOD firefighters lose automatic pay mechanism (Independent).

Threat of confrontation as Malcolm Rifkind refuses aid to Scottish fishermen hit by EC quotas (Independent).

Data Protection Registrar considers action against agencies who check creditworthiness (Independent).

Ford flying in electricians from Belgium to carry out maintenance at Dagenham because of EETPU strike over differentials.

President of General Council of British Shipping says Britain is facing a complete maritime eclipse because of the Govt's refusal to create a favourable investment climate for shipping (Times).

Lord Marshall tells MPs he should have spoken out publicly against the Govt's power privatisation plans as soon as they were announced (Times).

Andrew Lloyd Webber has bought back control of Really Useful Company.

Water bills to rise by 14% - 6.5% above inflation.

One in three adult Glaswegians face default warrants for non-payment of community charge (Independent).

National Consumer Council calls for proper protection for public against rogue estate agents. Today claims credit for report.

Labour accuse Govt of £18million bribe to save Mid Staffs by sanctioning electrification of rail line.

PRESS DIGEST

Birmingham Post poll suggests Labour could overturn 14,000 majority in Mid Staffs and win by 2,000.

1,000 British scientists living overseas urge you to spend more on research to block the brain drain. Mirror leader says we spend only half as much on R&D as France and West Germany.

Hackers Bill could fail to stop computer crime because police have inadequate powers, says sponsoring MP (Independent).

Commons Defence Cttee to investigate MOD maladministration in connection with Wallace affair. Tom King says he is not prepared to co-operate.

Paul Foot, in Mirror, accuses Tom King of a cover up over Wallace and Kingcora.

Today calls for end to import of nuclear waste after trailing a train bringing it from Switzerland to Sellafield which was totally unguarded.

Archbishop of York backs embryo research on eve of Warnock debate in York (Independent).

John Gummer praises Star's interest in improving animal welfare across Europe.

Govt accused of failing to meet legal quotas of disabled employees (Independent).

English National Ballet and English National Opera appeal for help after Westminster City Council say it will no longer have £2.3million to offer in grants after community charge is introduced. Peter Palumbo attacks Council for its action.

No-one injured by IRA bomb at Short's Belfast factory.

IRA issues death threat to Shorts men engaged on military work (Independent).

Man (previously acquitted of double murder of girls in Brighton area) arrested and charged with attempted murder of kidnapped girl, 7.

Ernest Saunders loses legal battle for a reporting ban in his forthcoming trial.

PRESS DIGEST

Mr Ridley defends Govt record on insider dealing, saying he is not aware of any major defects in existing laws (FT).

Trade body says boycott of most tropical timber imports will increase threat to rainforests. Fall in value will encourage clearance it claims (Independent).

In the Independent, commenting on B Ingham's speech to Press Gallery yesterday, Sandra Barwick says he is showing symptoms of paranoia. His disease has reached a serious stage which may explain the gates at 10 Downing Street. It is now thought that they may be intended to protect the public rather than you, as at first thought.

Telegraph - No 10 press chief attacks "viruses of the media".

French Army psychologists say their troops are not as good as the British.

Glenys Kinnock in the Times under the heading "A land in need of healing aid" offers a personal view of Nicaragua as national elections near.

Argentine President Menem's wife leaves him because of his womanising.

FT editorial looks at the peace process in the Middle East and the many problems surrounding it, commenting that the nub of the problem remains Mr Shamir and the power struggle in his Likud party. Saying Mr Shamir and his cohorts have no desire to see Israeli - Palestinian talks, it calls this a counsel of despair which is particularly dangerous at this time.

Japanese Banks set to write off 70% of Mexican debt (FT).

SOVIET UNION

Star - Gorby chuffed. Emerges triumphant. Russia reborn. Leader on "another amazing leap forward" says that five years ago it would have been considered heresy to talk about the reforms he has achieved. That is the measure of the man.

Sun - Gorby's Yankee Doodle Russie - set for American style presidential elections. Hardliners routed. Maggie hails "great" Gorby.

Mirror - In giant step for democracy.

PRESS DIGEST

Today - Gorby 247, against one (Yeltsin). Communist grip on power is swept away.

Express p1 lead - Rebirth of a nation. Gorbachev routs hard line opponents as Communists lose their monopoly. Leader says such is the speed of change unleashed by Gorbachev's reforms that it is controlling him. But he is a brilliant improviser. And only the military, it would seem, could threaten to derail the transition to a democratic society. And the trauma of Afghanistan has shaken the army's faith in itself and the public's faith in the Army. For the moment Gorbachev would seem to be a better bet than his foes.

Independent - Huge shift of power from Soviet party as plenum gives up monopoly and calls for genuine presidential system

Mail p1 lead - A miracle in Moscow. Gorbachev paves way for Soviet democracy. Leader hopes with all its heart the transition can be made without trauma and tragedy. But anything could happen. Gorbachev's powers of survival are prodigious.

Times p1 lead - Gorbachev's 1990 revolution. But Communists will be more equal than others. It adds that the new-style presidency, in particular, could shift much of the burden of decision making from the party to state agencies.

Times leader talks of history being made in the Kremlin. But it warns that the more Gorbachev distances himself from the party the more directly accountable he will be held for the miserable performance of the Soviet economy. It concludes, however, that he has proved himself once again a master of political manoeuvre; the coming months will stretch to the full his capacity for strategic vision.

Telegraph p1 lead - Kremlin vote gives victory to Gorbachev. Hardliners yield to pressure for February revolution. Leader headed "Historic decision" says Gorbachev, to avoid being swept away as reform gathers momentum, may have to bend his principles to the point where they are no longer recognisable.

Guardian p1 lead - Russia ends one party rule. Leader says this is an end game with no predictable end in sight.

Independent editorial says Gorbachev has now regained the initiative. Although the emergence of multi party politics will be painful and chaotic, no other way can lead to a better life. Gorbachev has clinched his claim to greatness.

PRESS DIGEST

FT - Gorbachev wins reform vote as Soviet Communist Party backs his programme for historic change. It marks a personal victory, after 3 days of stormy and divisive debate for Gorbachev whose executive powers as President have also been increased (FT).

CHILDREN OF ACHIEVEMENT

Star picture of you cuddling blind 5 year old - over story.

Sun similar picture under heading "Maggie and the little girl who lost her eyes to cancer".

Mirror with same picture under "The brave little girl who won over a Prime Minister".

Today colour picture under heading "Brave tot brings Prime Minister to her knees".

Express - Brave Ashleigh's hug of love - picture caption story.

Mail devotes two pages to the awards, using your cuddling picture - You're a two hug lady; love from Maggie for a heroine who stole her heart.

Times also prints picture of you with blind girl.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Howard addresses TVS Skill Shortages conference
- DEN: Mr Wakeham presents Toshiba Year of Invention 1990 awards for the Design Council, Savoy, London
- DH: Mr Clarke meets the Iraqi Health Minister, London
- DTI: Mr Ridley addresses Small Business Bureau dinner, House of Commons
- LPC: Sir Geoffrey Howe meets Supreme Soviet delegation, London
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde addresses the Guild of Guides Lecturers press launch; later addresses ABTA's National Training Boards dinner, London
- DES: Mr Howarth addresses National Association of Advisers in Computer Education
- DTI: Mr Redwood visits Scottish Financial Enterprise; Martin Currie Ltd fund managers and the Association of Scottish Life Officers, Edinburgh
- DTI: Mr Forth launches recycling pack for Primary Schools, London
- FCO: Mr Maude attends dinner hosted by M Rene Felber, Swiss Federal Councillor for Foreign Affairs
- DTI: Mr Hogg visits Marconi Space Systems, Portsmouth
- 

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Lord Brabazon visits Pakistan, India and Nepal (to 21 February)
- 

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DES: Mr Jackson interviewed by BBC World Service
- 

TV AND RADIO

"Question Time" BBC1 (10.00pm) With MPs Paddy Ashdown, Margaret Ewing, George Younger, and Frank Dobson

---