

February 12, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets Chairman of Polish Council of Ministers (and 13 February)

Electricity Privatisation Statement

EC: ECOFIN Council, Brussels

EC: Agriculture Council, Brussels (to 13 February)

EC: European Parliament Plenary, Strasbourg (to 16 February)

Open Skies conference, Ottawa, Canada (to 28 February)

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STATISTICS

CBI: CBI/FT Survey of distributive trades (Jan)

CSO: Producer price index numbers (Jan - prov)

CSO: Retail sales (Jan - prov)

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PUBLICATIONS

DES: Student loans leaflet

DES: Announcement of National Reporting System on Exclusions

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Transport; Arts; Civil Service

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS  
Mr Keith Vaz - Legal Services  
Mr Michael Martin - Health Services  
Mr Peter Pike - Prime Ministerial visit to South Africa

Property Services Agency and Crown Suppliers Bill: Remaining Stages

Adjournment Debates: The case of Colin Wallace (Mr T Dalyell)

Select Committees: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
Subject: Regenerating the Inner Cities  
Witnesses: Sir Terence Heiser, Department of the Environment; Sir Peter Gregson, Department of Trade and Industry; Sir Geoffrey Holland, Department of Employment

Lords: Starred Questions  
Motion to agree to the First Report of the Procedure Committee  
Food and Safety Bill (HL): Report

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd):Lords (Cont'd)

Note The Report Stage will be adjourned at about 7.00 pm for about 1 hour. The following business will be taken in the break.

Social Security (Contributions)(Re-rating) Order 1990	} Motions for Approval	
Guaranteed Minimum Pensions Increase Order 1990		
Social Security Benefits Up-rating Order 1990		
Statutory Sick Pay (Rate of Payment) Regulations 1990		
Social Security (Industrial Injuries)(Regular Employment Regulations 1990		
Social Security (Recoupment) Regulations 1990		

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Nelson Mandela's release commands the front pages.

He says struggle must go on and sanctions must remain - seen as reason why you did not appear before cameras last night. Mirror headline: Out of prison; into the cauldron.

Earlier you hailed his release as a bold and courageous move.

Mandela, the myth finally made man, free but defiant, dispels, in his first public speech, any notion he would prove a man with whom the South African Govt would find it comfortable to negotiate the political terms of the "new South Africa" (Independent).

US debates how and when to lift sanctions to encourage continuing moves towards the demolition of apartheid. President Bush phones de Klerk to congratulate him (Independent).

Labour Party call for statement by you today after your call for easing of sanctions.

Times notes you have written to EC and Commonwealth leaders calling for a more positive approach to South Africa including the resumption of investment. Kinnock says pressure on apartheid should not be eased.

Express says your campaign to ease sanctions is aimed at avoiding a flood of refugees to UK.

First party of London & Continental fund managers to test the South African investment water in the wake of Mandela's release leaves for Johannesburg this week (times).

FT says South African businessmen in 2 minds about Mandela's release. Welcome it as breaking the political log-jam which has bedevilled their country's trading effort but also wary of ANC's continued public commitment to nationalisation and socialism (FT).

At least 7 people killed in riots and 12 die in black gang clashes before Mandela walks free.

Mandela's threat to use guerilla warfare seen as more rhetorical than real (FT).

Times says among the many urgent political matters awaiting Mandela's attention is the future role of his outspoken and increasingly and controversial wife.

PRESS DIGEST

BBC comes under fire from viewers for interrupting The Road Show to screen Mandela's speech.

Anti-apartheid revellers in Trafalgar Square smash ambulance men's heart machine because he talked to Sun.

Soviet Union backs German unification.

Times says that a proud and happy Kohl flew home from Moscow yesterday with what he said was Gorbachev's approval for German unification in his pocket. Meanwhile at Torquay you harden your position on unification saying that massive consultation will be needed with other countries first.

Telegraph leader says you are right to draw attention to the wider implications of unification. But your carping tone towards healing the divide in Europe is sadly misplaced. No wonder Britain is seen increasingly as peripheral to this momentous reshaping of our continent.

Times leader says after a week in which the West seemed to expect democracy to break out in the Soviet Union overnight, the piecemeal emergence of what was actually agreed at the Central Cttee Plenum has inevitably come as something of an anti-climax. It adds that it is clear Gorbachev sustained defeat at the hands of the hard-liners.

Green Party candidate has beaten Solidarity candidate to become mayor of Krakow in Poland (FT).

FT says Mazowieck will seek political support and debt relief when he sees you this week - and will aks you to back his request to Paris Club to suspend payments on foreign debt in 1990 and seek ways of reducing it.

CBI/FT survey shows unexpected level of trade in January.

Independent editorial on reiteration, by Iran, of the death threat to Salman Rushdie, says the Govt should make clear that there can be no improvmeent in Anglo-Iranian relations while such threats are made, and should follow the French lead and state any further calls for violence in UK will be met with immediate criminal prosecution.

Mail says Labour is dogged by doubt over its "roof tax" and Gould pulled out of a BBC TV programme because he could not explain the muddle.

PRESS DIGEST

Ministers say Labour's "roof tax" is a "mess, muddle and mix-up" which would take more than 50,000 extra council staff to operate (Times).

Kinnock defends Labour poll tax proposals as Cunningham accuses Tories of "Goebbels-type" tactics in blaming Labour councils for big rises (Independent).

Labour Party try to persuade Kenneth Clarke to suspend new GPs' contracts because it is alleged they are causing doctors to strike needy off their rolls because they can't afford to treat them.

Labour Party to back 16 as the age of consent for homosexuals. Today says it is right such an issue should be looked at by all political parties.

Bishop to face strong Synod pressure to publish a report on homosexuality after it leaked last week (Times).

CPSA to seek expulsion next month of Militant deputy general secy John Macreadie and eight officers for misusing union funds.

Ex-education Minister Rhodes Boyson urges Govt to stop treating teachers like blue-collar workers and to give them a big pay rise to rebuild their shattered morale (Times).

John MacGregor rejects proposals that universities should take over the student loans scheme (Times).

Mail says you are having a battle with John Major who does not want to raise mortgage tax relief.

Norman Fowler joins call for child care tax relief (Independent).

Electricity privatisation statement widely trailed in context of prices - some foreshadow restraint, others higher prices than inflation.

AEA chairman, John Collier, claims a big increase in electricity generated from nuclear power would offset the greenhouse effect - slowing global warming (FT).

Cecil Parkinson says BR's punctuality and cleanliness performance will be subject to rigorous scrutiny over the next three years (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

MMC expected to report today on proposed merger of 2 water companies which will provide a test for Govt restrictions on such takeovers (FT).

You are poised to launch a youth training initiative intended to move skill levels in Britain closer to those in competitor economies such as West Germany and Japan (Times).

Rolls Royce prepares to meet rising demand from Eastern European entrepreneurs (Times).

Today says advertising of tobacco is to be banned.

Tests of Perrier water in UK to see whether supplies are contaminated as in USA with benzene, a solvent which has been linked with cancer (Times).

Greenpeace claims tax concessions to company motorists cost ordinary taxpayer £2.8 billion a year.

Two drown as further storms rage across the country.

Bar approves barristers advertising, opening chambers where they like and practising on their own or from home without a clerk (Times).

Govt planning big shake-up in probation service, including a new management structure, and putting the training of probation officers out to tender from universities and polytechnics (times).

Pressure grows for pay rises to combat CPS staff shortages (Independent).

Change in law to be announced today - husbands will no longer be protected from rape charge in law for raping wives when marriage has broken down.

Prison Officers' Assn criticise squalid nature of jails and their understaffing and overcrowding.

3 soldiers hurt when IRA gun down helicopter near Irish border.

Report on John Browne MP by Commons on allegations he failed to disclose his full business interests to Parliament to be published soon.

Row over who is World Heavyweight Boxing Champ after Tyson is knocked out - but did he knock out his opponent earlier?

PRESS DIGEST

Indian troops shot dead 3 Pakistani protesters who crossed Kashmir ceasefire line (FT).

MANDELA - COMMENT

Star: A dream comes true. But we are still light years away from ensuring South Africa will not turn into a bloody nightmare.

Sun says the world must now scrap sanctions. It is absurd to celebrate Mandela's release as if it were some Second Coming. He went to jail as a symbol of violence. In releasing him de Klerk is taking enormous risks. But if he is seen to be giving vast concessions without a real response from the outside world there is a danger he will be repudiated by his own party. Both Kaufman and Ramphal ("odious little pipsqueak") can be ignored. You are as usual right.

Mirror leader headed "A new beginning" says that from this day nothing can be the same in South Africa but it is too early for victory celebrations. Mandela's release is the beginning not the end of a new struggle against apartheid. What is essential is for black and white, left and right, to give Mandela and his team a chance to sit down with the Govt.

Today says Mandela's release was an event of truly historic importance. Yet while the South African regime has been asking Mandela to renounce violence it showed no sign yesterday that it had given up violence itself. That blighted the day. And Mandela should have no illusions it will be easy to prise white hands from power.

Express says your prompt relaxation of sanctions is exactly the right response. How can it be right to encourage democratic reforms throughout the Soviet bloc by offering financial aid while seeking to make economic difficulties for those making similar reforms in South Africa?

Mail hopes that having shown heroic patience in captivity Mandela does not allow himself to become an old man in too much of a hurry. No-one should underestimate how hard it will be for de Klerk to sell further concessions to his people. You understand this. That is why you are the first to declare he needs and deserves encouragement.

PRESS DIGEST

Paul Johnson, writing in the Mail, says in a perfect world the best thing now would be for the international community to leave South Africa alone. But such self-restraint among the rentamob of the West is most unlikely. Those of us who want peace in South Africa should back your constructive response.

Times leader says Mandela's first and most difficult task will be to impose some form of coherence on a black opposition which remains deeply divided. It adds that de Klerk needs to be given more than words of encouragement. You are correct in responding positively. The US and EC should close their ears to the pusillanimous advice of Kinnock and Ramphal and all those who dread the end of the anti-apartheid industry.

FT says Mandela should seek to stand above the tensions and preside over a pragmatic but honourable solution for South Africa. It will prove as daunting a test of Mandela's resolve as his 27 years in jail. His release is only a beginning.

Independent, comparing Mandela's release to the opening of the Berlin Wall, speaks of a profound expectation of change among the black community. Mandela is in a strong position, and de Klerk a weak one, but it is nevertheless up to all the parties involved to rebuild confidence in the future of South Africa. The level of confidence will have a more important effect on investment than any decisions on sanctions.

Telegraph says after the symbolic act of Mandela's release the risks and difficulties ahead are immense. de Klerk, having recognised the bankruptcy of the previous way deserves our support in maintaining order. You and Foreign Secy have made clear our determination. It hopes Mandela's reaffirmation of the need to maintain the armed struggle is ritualistic.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- LPC: Sir Geoffrey Howe welcomes Polish Prime Minister, Mr Tadeusz Mazowiecki
- DEM: Mr Eggar has lunch at Peat Marwick McLintock, London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls attends Industry and Parliament Trust lunch, London
- DEM: Mr Baldry visits British Coal Headquarters, Edwinstone; later meets Mansfield District Council on subsidence
- DES: Mr Jackson visits London School of Economics
- DES: Mr Howarth visits National Interactive Video Centre
- DH: Mrs Bottomley visits St Luke's Hospital and Bradford Royal Infirmary Bradford; later dines with London Consultants, St Thomas Hospital
- DH: Mr Freeman meets the Institute of Public Relations Health and Medical Special Interest Group, London; later chairs meeting on homeless mentally ill with members of London Health Authorities and Local Authorities
- DOE: Mr Moynihan launches Deptford Task Force
- DOE: Mr Chope attends BIMB Group meeting and dinner
- DSS: Mrs Shepherd meets David Trippier MP and representatives from the Boot, Shoe and Slipper Operatives Union about Unemployment Benefit
- DTp: Mr Portillo addresses Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors, London
- DTp: Mr Atkins addresses London Community Transport Association, County Hall, London
- FCO: Mr Waldegrave meets Mr Diem, Polish co-ordinator of the Know How Fund; later attends the Soviet Ambassador's reception to meet a Soviet parliamentary delegation; later addresses the US Republican Party dinner, Marriot Hotel, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- MOD: Mr King visits the Falkland Islands (to 16 February - prov)
- DTI: Lord Trefgarne visits Portugal and Spain (to 15 February) including visit to Expo 92 site in Seville
- DTI: Mr Redwood visits Czechoslovakia (to 14 February)
- HMT: Mr Ryder attends ECOFIN, Brussels
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DES: Mrs Rumbold interviewed by "Antenna", TV science programme

DH: Mr Freeman interviewed by the Betham and Maudsley Gazette

FCO: Mr Maude interviewed by Alistair Cooke

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TV AND RADIO

"World in Action Special" ITV (8.00pm) Looking at Police "scandal" involving the West Midlands Serious Crime Squad

"Horizon" BBC2 (8.10pm) Looks at the effects of genetically engineered food

"Panorama" BBC1 (9.30pm) The Police - In for Questioning. Jane Corbin reports on what the Police can do to put their own house in order

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