

February 14, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister sees Mr Genscher, West German Foreign Minister
UK/Argentina talks, Madrid (to February 15)

Princess of Wales attends the Family of the Year award, Inn on the Park
Hotel, London

STATISTICS

CSO: Index of output of the production industries (Dec 1989)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: Committee of Public Accounts report on Financial Problems at
Universities

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Trade and Industry

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Recycling of Plastics (Mr Tim Devlin)
Opposition Day (7th Allotted Day)

Debates on Government Policy on South Africa on an
Opposition Motion; Rail Fares and Services on an
Opposition Motion

Adjournment Debates: The sale of tobacco to children (Mr J Home
Robertson)

Select Committees: ENVIRONMENT
Subject: Pollution of Beaches
Witnesses: ICI plc, Energy and Waste Systems Ltd;
Sunwater Ltd

AGRICULTURE

Subject: Fish Farming in the UK
Witnesses: Convention of Scottish Local Authorities;
Association of County Councils

ENERGY

Subject: The Fast Breeder Reactor
Witnesses: Officials from the Department of Energy

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: Tourism
Witnesses: Historic Houses Association; (at 5.15 pm) North
and West Tourist Board

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees:

HOME AFFAIRS

Subject: Crown Prosecution Service

Witnesses: National Association for Victims Support Schemes; National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Matters relating to Northern Ireland

Witnesses: Dr W Jack, Controller and Auditor General, Northern Ireland; Mr Elliot, Department of Health and Social Security, N Ireland; Mr Semple, Department of Finance and Personnel, N Ireland; Mr Murray, Department of Environment, N Ireland; Mr Blease, Chief Executive, N Ireland Housing Executive; Mr Hodges, Department of Agriculture, N Ireland

SOCIAL SERVICES

Subject: Community Care

Witness: Royal College of Nursing; Royal College of Psychiatrists

PROCEDURE

Subject: The working of the Select Committee system

Witnesses: Professor Garel Rhys (Cardiff Business School) (at 4.30 pm);

Mr Michael Rush (University of Exeter) (at 5.00 pm);

Professor Phillip Norton (University of Hull) (at 5.50 pm)

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE

Subject: Valuation Office

Witnesses: Mr R B B Shutler, Chief Valuer, and Valuation Office officials

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

Cardiff Bay Barrage Bill [Lords]

King's Cross Railways Bill

Lords:

Starred Questions

Short Debate to call attention to the state of the North Sea and the need to continue to prevent further pollutionShort Debate to call attention to the case for a Select Committee to scrutinise all Bills coming before Parliament, and to report whether such Bills contain sufficiently defined administrative powers or propose any inappropriate delegation of legislative powers

UQ to ask HMG what action they are planning to reduce traffic obstruction and delay due to public utility works in highways

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Mandela gets rapturous welcome on return to Soweto.

South African Minister says Mandela's concern for future is encouraging.

You withdraw remark about Kinnock possibly taking his instructions from ANC - first time in your life (Mirror).

Row reported is remarkably low key.

Hints of tension between No 10 and FCO over South Africa in several newspapers. Foreign Secy said to feel he is being left out on a limb in world events.

Philip Stephens, in FT, says some Tories accuse you of helping to marginalise Britain by adopting stances which accentuate our declining influence. Whitehall officials say there are renewed tensions between FCO and Downing Street.

Sisulu expects ANC/Govt talks to start soon.

English cricketers cut short their tour of South Africa after, it is claimed, a deal by tour organisers with ANC. Mirror says the tourists can never again be trusted to act in the best interests of cricket.

Independent says our cricket needs new leadership and concludes that the South African connection shows the gentlemen have vanished.

Foreign Ministers meeting in Ottawa reach an important double agreement - a 4 power procedure for handling the security implications of a united Germany; and 195,000 ceiling for US and Soviet troops in central front, allowing US to keep 30,000 troops elsewhere, including UK.

Express headline: The new Fatherland.

Mail p1 - Maggie's German super summit is going ahead - you win a major diplomatic triumph.

You issue your strongest warning yesterday of dangers of unification - in speech at dinner for Polish Prime Minister.

PRESS DIGEST

Delors 'haunted by anxiety' over implications for EC of German unification and proposes special Summit shortly after East German elections (Independent).

EC central banks say plans for Germany monetary union should not stand in way of EMU (FT).

Peter Jenkins, in the Independent, is critical of what he calls a damaging and demeaning crisis in the conduct of British foreign policy, saying it goes deeper than your style of diplomacy. Power and influence will shift to central Europe, he says, and recasting our foreign policy will require an unusual combination of realism and vision so far sadly lacking.

Times leader looks at German reunification and neutrality saying that a Germany whose first deed after achieving unity was to leave the Western camp could not expect others to join the celebrations. Such a fatal step would suggest that the besotted father had not merely welcomed his son home, but had abandoned everything to join him on new wanderings.

Schmidt and Giscard writing in the Times under the heading "Ties that must bind a new Europe" call on the leaders of their two countries to set as a new objective the union of the European states, in which Germany may enjoy its unity while Europe maintains the balance it vitally needs.

37 dead in further Tajikstan riots; 100 injured. Moscow Radio says situation is out of control.

Platform for Soviet reform spread across 2 pages of Pravda, as Gorbachev publishes Communist Party's democracy programme. Elsewhere, new platform extols personal liberty (Independent).

Personal appeal from Gorbachev to Czech President Havel has led to a softening of Czech position in Soviet troop withdrawals (Independent).

KGB reveal 786,098 Soviet citizens, almost all of them innocent, were executed during Stalin's reign of terror.

US officials say privately Bush administration has decided, in distinct policy shift, that US's 'battered' special relationship with UK needs some massaging (Independent).

3,000 rioted for three hours in Hong Kong detention centre yesterday.

PRESS DIGEST

UN makes progress on Cambodia peace effort, reaching provisional agreement aspects of a UN plan (Independent).

Midland Bank has given its strongest indication yet that it is contemplating a merger with the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation after pressure from the Stock Exchange to declare its intentions (times).

Writing in the Times under the heading "Major's limited options" Robin Oakley sees little prospect of Budget largesse as the Chancellor has less room for manoeuvre than since Geoffrey Howe in 1980-81.

Mortgage arrears rose 28% during second half of last year; 58,000 more than six months behind with payments.

Govt keep tight rein on public spending in order to make room for tax-cutting Budget in run-up to next election, Labour claims (Independent).

Mail supports Nigel Lawson in charging those who criticise his taking highly paid jobs with humbug - the only reasonable conclusion is that we get those who run the country on the cheap.

Duncan Nichol to meet ambulance offers to try to find a way through the dispute. Sun says ambulancemen at Isleworth yesterday refused to take a critically ill baby to hospital; Army and police ambulances could not be used because they lacked breathing apparatus.

D/Employment signals tax relief for working mothers for child care now firmly on the agenda (Express).

B/Aerospace threatens to shut down factories as workers vote to continue 15 week strike.

Airbus task force formed in effort to save project as partners threaten strike-hit BAe with claims for £41million (Times).

Labour Party up in arms over threatened reduction in Post Office monopoly.

Eric Forth denies there are plans to break Royal Mail's letter monopoly (Independent).

Management buy-out of Skillcentres given the go-ahead. £11million deal.

PRESS DIGEST

Express concerned about political consequences of water and electricity price increases after privatisation and value of Ministerial assurances.

DTI relaxes rules restricting export of computers to eastern countries (FT).

Truck sales fell by 28% in January (FT).

Cattle farmers to get 100% compensation for every beast affected with BSE.

Kinnock, addressing NFU, commits a future Labour Govt to financial support for farmers who adopt environmentally friendly methods (Times).

Britain heads for row with neighbours over North Sea waste dumping (FT).

Harrods to announce today that it is to stop selling animal furs from April (Times).

Lady Porter reveals in Mail Westminster's community charge will be below £200.

You condemn Labour idea of allowing local authorities to see individual tax records to collect roof tax.

Irish Judge orders Post Office robber to leave Ireland for Birmingham instead of sending him to jail. Star - breathtaking cheek.

Dole fiddler gets 10 years imprisonment - mastermind behind plot to rip off taxpayer of £2million.

National Consumer Council pressing for rule that would oblige Law Society to find a lawyer for any client whose case solicitor had refused to take on because it offended his political or moral principles (Times).

Students will have five years to repay loans under Govt scheme.

Govt to come under pressure from its backbenchers to set up a General Teaching Council to raise the status of teachers (Times).

Gyneacologist at St Thomas's claims he has bought a £3,000 machine out of his own money in order to give urgent treatment since the hospital was short of funds (Mirror).

PRESS DIGEST

Express leader about Govt about to launch "yet another deceitful line" that heterosexuals are now as much at risk of AIDS as homosexuals and drug users.

And now the health threat from brown bread and tomato ketchup - alarming levels of chemicals linked with cancer found in both.

Bristol University report claims only 20% of couples can afford to buy a house, and that only a third of the 150,000 homes needed each year are being built.

Nigel Lawson's son to take over Editorship of Spectator from Charles Moore who is to write a book.

British Satellite Broadcasting in news link-up with the "Daily Mail" (Independent).

Maxwell buys 40% stake in former Hungarian Govt newspaper.

Independent editorial says the world is paying little attention to Sunday's elections in Japan where there are some signs of a more genuine struggle than usual. It concludes the LDP remains the best bet, but unless it reforms itself, Japan will continue to be denied a world role effecting its true economing strength.

Britain has provisionally agreed to cut size of Falklands protection zone (FT).

Two Americans taken hostage in Colombia in protest against Bush's visit tomorrow.

COMMONS - ANC etc

Star - Maggie shouted down.

Sun - Maggie in TV war with Neil. Mandela storm. Leader, covering virtually a full page, says far from the world never being the same after Mandela's release, South Africa is a nightmare of racism and overwhelmingly black against black. And Mandela has title to speak for far fewer people than Buthelezi. He was useful as a jailed martyr. But he will now increasingly be seen as mortal and may be expendable by young militants.

Mirror - Terror smear on Kinnock.

PRESS DIGEST

Today - Maggie shouted down over TV slur. Leader on "The Dis Hon Member" - John Carlisle - says he is a disgrace to Parliament - for putting down a motion attacking Today journalist who was expelled from South Africa.

Express - Thatcher - Kinnock taking ANC orders.

Mail - Maggie howled down in sanctions clashes. Leader says that to portray you as isolated on the sanctions issue is a travesty of the truth. What you have grasped is that the gravest danger is not that de Klerk will betray the blacks but will be swept away by a white backlash. It describes Kinnock's approach to the ANC as once again finding adulation comes more naturally to him than analysis. Colin Welch, in Mail, says why you withdrew your ANC remarks, except for peace, is obscure.

Independent p1 - You defy sanctions uproar in the House and signal a readiness to act unilaterally by lifting ban on new investment in South Africa. Page 6 - You outrage Labour MPs by accusing Kinnock of "possibly taking instructions" from ANC. You agree to withdraw the remark amid furious protests (Independent).

FT - You issue robust defence of your decision to ease South African sanctions. Tensions between you and Foreign Office on South Africa and other foreign policy matters.

Independent - South African Govt response to Mandela's pronouncements dismissing his unwillingness to abandon international sanctions and nationalisation, and welcomes stated willingness to seek a peaceful, negotiated settlement.

Independent - 50 reported killed in escalating violence in Natal, with Indians attacked by crowds of blacks.

Matthew Parris in the Times discusses yesterday's Question Time saying Kinnock started the row. Labour has elevated Mandela into a sort of black Nye Bevan: simply to discover Mandela's opinion on any great question is to know one's own.

Telegraph p1 lead - MPs in uproar over Kinnock and sanctions. Simon Heffer's sketch asks who could blame you for your ANC remark in view of Kinnock's question which suggested "unquestioning obedience to the Creed of Comrade Nelson".

PRESS DIGEST

Times - South African Govt urges ANC to drop its preconditions and abandon calls for sanctions to continue, adding that it finds unacceptable Mandela's views on sanctions, nationalisation and the armed struggle. Meanwhile in some of the most dramatic and tumultuous Commons scenes for years you round fiercely on critics and infuriate Kinnock by accusing him of being an ANC puppet.

Times leader describes Labour as throwing themselves into paroxysms of rage. If Kinnock's words are examined for their precise significance, your remarks, though later withdrawn, seem far from uncalled for. It could, indeed, be regarded as a pertinent response to a loaded question. Looking at today's debate it concludes that, as so often happens, Labour will let its head be governed not just by its heart but by its guts.

Times - Far right Conservative Party in South Africa has laid formal charges of treason against Mandela for advocating an intensification of the "armed struggle" against the Govt.

Guardian p1 - Thatcher jibe causes uproar.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Howard addresses Laing Enterprise conference, London
- DES: Mr MacGregor visits the Open University, Milton Keynes
- DOE: Mr Patten visits Water Research Centre, Medmenham; later attends ICI dinner, London
- DTI: Mr Ridley dines with the Finance Houses Association, London
- WO: Mr Walker visits West Glamorgan local authorities, Swansea
- DEM: Mr Eggar visits small firms in Hackney, London
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde addresses British Association of Leisure Parks, Piers and Attractions annual lunch, London; Mr Roberts (WO) attends
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses launch of Local Education Authority Project 2, QEII Conference Centre, London
- DH: Mrs Bottomley meets Community Care Now, London; later meets MSF re junior doctor's hours and launches the HEA AIDS TV campaign, QEII Conference Centre, London
- DOE: Mr Spicer attends British Contractor Group dinner, London
- DOE: Mr Chope addresses AMA Housing and Public Works conference in 1990, Newcastle upon Tyne
- DOE: Mr Heathcote-Amory visits Barbican Rural Development Commission, London
- DOE: Mr Hunt addresses National Trade and Industry Forum, London
- DOE: Mr Trippier addresses PIRA Packaging Division gala dinner, London
- DSS: Mrs Shephard meets Elizabeth Peacock MP re the allocation of the Social Fund Budget in Dewsbury, London
- DSS: Lord Henley meets the War Widows Association re war pensions and war widows' pensions, London
- DTp: Mr McLoughlin speaks at Air Transport Users' Committee, London
- FCO: Mr Waldegrave meets Mrs Kullman Five, Norwegian Minister for Trade and Shipping, London
- HO: Mr Patten attends launch of Enterprising Neighbours, Commonwealth House, London
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