

PRIME MINISTER

February 22, 1990

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister sees the West German Defence Minister

Pre-Budget Cabinet

EC: Internal Market Council, Brussels

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh attend the Mountbatten Music Festival, Royal Albert Hall, London

The Princess of Wales visits the London Connection project for homeless people, London

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PUBLICATIONS

HO: Victims' Charter

NAO/PSA: District works offices

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Home Office; Prime Minister

Business: Debate on East - West Relations on a Motion for the Adjournment

Adjournment Debates: Government funding of the Arts as it affects the Royal Shakespeare Company, the English National Opera and the English National Ballet

Select Committees: COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS  
Cardiff Bay Barrage Bill [Lords]  
King's Cross Railways Bill

Lords: Starred Questions

Courts and Legal Services Bill (HL): Report (2nd Day)

Chlorofluorocarbons (Control) Bill (HL): Committee

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Tories have wiped out Labour lead in Mid Staffs, according to Birmingham Post poll - 44% each.

Polish PM calls for urgent European talks at which both Germanies and Warsaw would affirm the western frontier of Poland (Times). Leader under the heading "Godfathers in Bonn" says Kohl and Brandt are giving the East German election an almost presidential character.

Ronald Butt in the Times urges a more positive approach to German unity saying the negative attitude of your Govt is well on the way to turning a tried friend into a suspicious, anxious and perhaps inward looking country. He describes the Govt's present stance is counter-productive.

Mazowiecki proposes Polish-German peace treaty to rule out doubts over borders after unification (Independent).

Times says the stampede towards German unification seems to have slowed since you complained about its pace last weekend.

In Independent Lawrence Freedman argues that it would be unfortunate if Germany's allies insisted on maintaining substantial forces in the country even after the Russians leave. That would risk interpretation in Moscow as an attempt to develop a commanding strategic position and would be seen in Germany as a reflection of hostility.

Mail says Kohl's use of two words "Middle Germany" at Erfurt rally has made hair stand on end in Downing Street and the Kremlin.

Peregrine Worsthorne, in Telegraph, says in last few days German Embassy has been taking susceptible British journalists on one side and smearing you.

Hungary may join NATO says Foreign Minister (Independent).

US denies backing Britain on sanctions, but FCO stands by Douglas Hurd's claim about Bush letter (Independent).

Govt expected to announce today that a third sanction, the voluntary ban on promotion of tourism, will be stopped unilaterally without agreement from the countries with which it was negotiated (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Kaunda attacks your decision to ease sanctions against South Africa. He says you do not understand Africa.

Today says there is more hypocrisy than honesty in the sanctions business but you are wrong to be so keen on dismantling them. We don't know whether South Africa can be trusted.

Mandela may address rally in Wembley Stadium on Easter Monday.

Claims that south African defence minister had personal control over death squads that targeted political opponents (Independent).

King Moshoeshoe, of Lusotho, stripped of all power, according to military ruler.

Disarray over community charge as Thatcher supporters urge voters to punish higher spending Conservative councils (Independent).

Mirror claims community charge will add 1% to Retail Prices Index.

Big row in House after Christopher Chope discloses Dave Nellist MP has a second home in a Tory borough yet had refused to pay community charge in Coventry.

Barnet levies a £338 community charge - £25 above Govt recommendation. But Bradford comes in with £276 without loss of services.

North Norfolk to put pot plants worth £30,000 in new community charge collection centre.

Two more building societies - Alliance & Leicester and Leeds Permanent - raise mortgage rates.

And Lloyds Bank raises mortgage rate to a record 15.7%, fuelling fears of even higher increases to come (Times).

The economy grew more strongly than expected in the final quarter of last year, suggesting Britain will probably escape a recession this year, despite the prospects of interest rates staying high (Times).

Times leader says that economic picture is moderately encouraging, but it does nothing to detract from the need for a cautious budget. Faced with varying signals about the lower growth of the economy and reduced buoyancy in revenue John Major should play for safety. The package to be announced on March 20 will be an important influence on the result of the next election.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph says Chancellor will today give a sombre assessment of the economy to Cabinet.

Chancellor sees no fall in interest rates while inflation rises. Will foreshadow his Budget in Cabinet today. Good news on foreign exchange markets - where sterling has risen to highest level since Nigel Lawson's resignation. Markets stay calm as Tokyo plunged (FT).

NUR will today table demand for a substantial pay increase and 35 hour week.

300 jobs to go at Pirelli plant in Hants.

EC Enterprise Directorate have proposed tough rules to encourage companies and public authorities to settle debts promptly (FT):

Ambulance leaders confident that 2-year formula will be accepted. Unions will present it as just under 16% - but there's no automatic pay mechanism (Independent).

Times says ambulance unions accept that any settlement is unlikely to be linked to inflation or to police and fire-fighters as leader of the Assn of Chief Ambulance Officers says failure to settle would have catastrophic effect on service.

Sun says ambulance offer of 17% is fair and unions should accept it today.

Roger Poole, NUPE, says thousands of ambulancemen will quit if today's talks collapse.

Today asks what good did the dispute do? The Govt wasted £15million on employing the Army and police and ambulance men lost up to £3,000 each. And all the Govt has is a fudge to show for it.

Mail says militants are attacking Poole for climbing down - cave-in a triumph for Kenneth Clarke. Poole's union career likely to be halted, but could lead him into politics; leader tells ambulance men now is compromise time, though the deal is not generous.

Telegraph says unions will order a ballot on the offer.

Lecturers urged by employers to ballot on new offer to end 19 month old dispute (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Tom King says "very substantial markets" for the defence industry will continue, despite changes in Eastern Europe (Independent).

Trident project facing delays because of staff shortages and safety fears, Aldermaston director tells Commons defence cttee (Times).

Express attacks Prince Charles for his call to business leaders to give capitalism a "more humane face". He might usefully bear in mind the effects of socialism in Eastern Europe.

Conservationists claim Govt's "Green Roads" policy will destroy valuable beauty spots.

Director of Kenya Wildlife Service says British Govt's decision to allow Hong Kong to continue trading in ivory has devastatingly undermined fight to save the elephant.

Today claims the UK decision has resulted in the death of another 2,250 African elephants.

David Icke, Green Party, shocks advertising industry by telling them "Bad adverts are fuelling the system which is destroying the world" in presenting a TV commercial award.

Danger alert on South Coast as drums of cyanide are washed up on shore.

Row over advice given by BNFL director of Health & Safety for saying "If someone is really that worried (about children having leukaemia) it may be that the proper advice is don't have a family). This "Don't have kids" advice is widely regarded as "insensitive". Star calls the man "God". Mirror says this is passing the buck. BNFL says it is not company policy.

Official water watchdog says that unless the private water companies offer better water quality and a cleaner environment, water charges to the public will have to be cut (Times).

Govt's social fund thrown into chaos by legal ruling, according to press.

Mirror finds a Coventry doctor who is leaving the NHS because of GP contracts.

PRESS DIGEST

Paul Foot, in Mirror, claims that Govt is ending ballots over whether hospitals should opt out after losing so many on housing and school opt outs.

New drive to increase number of YTS places in the health service launched yesterday to ease the nurse recruitment crisis (Times).

MOD say 12 servicemen have died from heatstroke on military service since 1978. Changes in training methods in hand (Independent).

Police attack Keith Vaz MP for suggesting bomb which fell of Army vehicle in Leicester was an Army (not an IRA) device. Sun says the police brand him as a "liar". Mail says that by jumping to conclusions Vaz made the police job more difficult; his unwarranted intrusion was irresponsible and dangerous.

Ulster Republican mob forces police in south Armagh to release 3 armed and masked men who had been cornered.

Police raid on "Crack City" - a housing estate in Deptford - cleans it out, according to Mirror; at least 24 arrests.

Mirror features book which suggests official accounts of spate of deaths of people working in defence industry are vague or dubious.

US Congress asks David Waddington to co-operate with its investigation of Birmingham Six case (Independent).

High Court defeat for Home Office could affect 500 deportation cases (Independent).

Norman Tebbit attacks BBC - full of ageing Lefties, third raters and Red Queens (after Lewis Carroll's); Corporation "sanctimonious, naive, guilt ridden and wet, pink orthodoxy".

Mail attacks BBC for getting Dr Marietta Higgs, of Cleveland child abuse scandal, to present a 15-minute Lenten religious talk. It suggests BBC now stands for Blinkered Beyond Credibility.

John Birt says the BBC will not be cowed by political pressure on it. Peter Mandelson warns that Tories are attempting to suborn BBC in run-up to General Election (Independent).

Labour Party calls on BBC to resist Tory attacks. Mandelson says BBC bashing has become a regular feature of Tory propaganda.

Guardian leader attacks Woodrow Wyatt for attacking BBC.

PRESS DIGEST

Peregrine Worsthorne says "Today" programme is civilised, lively, and intelligent. On the whole, the team does an excellent job.

ITN said to be at odds with itself over whether Alastair Burnet and Sandy Gall should retire.

EC may also seek to introduce a Directive covering control of the media (FT).

Sales increase for Sunday Correspondent from 209,000 - 247,000. Independent on Sunday fell from 480,000 to 425,000 (FT).

Nigel Lawson reported to have been paid £250,000 for his memoirs; Today says the deal is worth £1million - a record.

Sun says it is a crazy situation for the Anglican church to wait upon the Commons, where there are probably more sinners than elsewhere, to settle its attitude to divorce.

Ted Heath's party gets extensive coverage on lines of two and a half hour truce.

Francis Maude leaves Vietnam after four days without an agreement to carry out more mandatory repatriation of boat people (Times).

Britain heads for budget conflict with EC over planned increase in aid to Latin America and Africa. Fears that it could be thin end of wedge for growing EC budget.

Menem invites opponents to join him in govt of national unity in bid to stave off economic and political collapse in Argentina (Independent).

Foreign Minister resigns as Turkish govt crisis deepens (Independent).

Bob Hawke, Australian Premier, in the Times under the heading "Please complete our birth certificate" explains why his countrymen want permanent possession of the Australian Constitution Act to round off their nationhood.

TED HEATH'S PARTY

Star, with picture of you with Mr Heath: Bitter Ted gives Mrs T a belly full - after the lunch.

PRESS DIGEST

Express - Ted's party unity. Best of enemies celebrate a lot of weeks in politics. Colour picture of you, Ted and Lord Home.

Picture on front page of Times of you at Ted Heath's celebrations. Story says all was sweetness and light for 2.5 hours between Ted Heath and you. But barely had the last mouthful of chocolate mousse been digested when he launched stinging attacks on your economic policy and your attitudes towards sanctions, the EC and German unity.

Independent - Mr Heath's lunch goes smoothly, and his tribute to you goes down well. He has only one relatively restrained outburst of Thatcherphobia as he calls for "creative and positive leadership" in Europe.

Mail with picture "Heath declares peace in our lunchtime".

Telegraph "Heath and Thatcher enjoy a lunchtime truce" over story under front page picture.

Guardian with picture, Friends honour Heath's 40 years. Everyone behaved wonderfully.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEN: Mr Wakeham attends the Institute of Electrical Engineering annual dinner, Grosvenor House, London
- DOE: Mr Patten addresses Herald Tribune Inter-American Development conference; later addresses Birmingham Chamber of Commerce on Urban Regeneration
- DSS: Mr Newton meets Lord Joseph to discuss Child Benefit
- FCO: Mr Hurd meets Herr Stoltenburg, Federal Republic of Germany's Defence Minister, London; later hosts farewell dinner for Spanish Ambassador, Senor Don José J Puis de la Ballacara
- DEN: Mr Baldry dines with British Coal, London
- DH: Lady Hooper addresses Women's Health Concern conference, Kensington Town Hall, London; later visits Yellowhammer advertising agency
- DH: Mrs Bottomley meets representatives from Waste Watch, London
- DOE: Mr Chope addresses seminar of South East employers on Housing
- DOE: Mr Moynihan addresses joint LGC Communications NALC conference, Nottingham
- MAFF: Mr Maclean attends Farm Animal Welfare Council's 10th Anniversary celebration, London
- WO: Mr Roberts addresses YTS Managing Agents conference, Llandrindod Wells
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTI: Mr Redwood attends Internal Market Council, Brussels
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DH: Mr Clarke interviewed by Lyn Barker, Sunday Independent, London
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde has photocall with "Opportunities for the Disabled" Magazine
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TV AND RADIO

"40 Minutes" BBC2 (9.30 pm)

Adventures in the Skin Trade. Looks at the changing attitude of women towards fur

"Question Time" BBC1 (10.00 pm)

With Dr Kim Howells (Labour MP for Pontypridd), Sheila McKechnie (Director of Shelter), Rt Hon Enoch Powell and David Willetts (Director of the Centre for Policy Studies)

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