

April 5, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister attends President of India banquet
Mr Romita, Italian Minister for EC Affairs visits London
Houses of Parliament rise for Easter Recess
COI launches as Executive Agency
The Princess Royal attends the premiere of "All Dogs go to Heaven",
Odeon Cinema, Leicester Square

STATISTICS

DOE: Housing starts and completions (Feb)

OPCS: Mortality and social organisation (prov)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: Demand for highly qualified people report

NAO: Inland Revenue: Collection and Enforcement of Debts

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Prime Minister

Business: Timed Easter Adjournment Debates until 3.30 pm

Lords: Starred Questions
Criminal Justice (International Co-operation) Bill (HL): Consideration
of Commons Amendments
Contracts (Applicable Law) Bill (HL): Report
Debate to move that this House takes note of the Report of the
European Communities Committee on 1992: Border Control of People
(22nd Report, Session 1988-89 HL Paper 90); and to move that this
House takes note of the Report of the European Communities
Committee on 1992: Health Controls and the Internal Market
Aviation and Maritime Security Bill: Second Reading
National Code of Local Government Conduct: Motion for Approval
Redbridge London Borough Council Bill: Second Reading
ROYAL ASSENT

PRESS DIGESTMain News

You are facing defeat over Hong Kong Bill, according to some papers.

Labour to vote against Bill. Up to 80 Tories will do the same, it is said. Your biggest Parliamentary battle (Mail).

Colony shows very little enthusiasm for Bill (Telegraph).

Times says the Hong Kong Chinese in Britain last night greeted the Bill with pragmatic resignation. Meanwhile Hong Kong's director of administration is disappointed with the Bill but believes it will help stem the brain drain.

Leaders generally supportive of Govt's position and condemnatory of Labour (and Tebbit) - especially Guardian and Independent.

Senior Ministers, according to Sun, want you to make clear now - before local elections - that mistakes have been made with the community charge and will be put right.

Governor of Strangeways speaks of an "explosion of evil" in the jail. 28 prisoners still on the loose as seige enters fifth day, but on brink of surrender (Mail).

- Claims that - a remand prisoner in Strangeways saw 3 hanged bodies; bodies cut up and dumped in sewer
- a girl spy foiled Iraq's attempt to import nuclear triggers
 - listeria lurks in supermarket salads
 - Kinnock would impose a £1 billion jobs tax to pay for training done by other companies
 - thousands of teachers and home-helpers could lose their jobs because of community charge, according to Labour Party
 - more than 1,000 Tories could lose their seats in local elections (Today)
 - Labour is upset - "seething with rage" (Mirror) - over Govt appointing more Tory peers than Labour

PRESS DIGEST

20 capped councils meet in London today to plan legal challenge.

Telegraph leader on community charge says the principle remains good but the time is fast approaching for the Govt to make up its mind - either to scrap the tax (which is probably too damaging to contemplate) or make it work on the lines originally intended.

Genscher in Washington says that a united Germany might formally renounce possession of all but conventional military forces to allay Soviet opposition to its full membership of NATO (Times).

North-South divide in Germany widens as Berlin wall crumbles (Times).

G7 likely to focus on German monetary union when they meet in Paris on Saturday (Times).

Gorbachev criticises Estonia's drive for independence in "furious" telephone call to republic's President (Independent).

FT says Soviet Union is to open its economy to direct foreign investment by selling enterprises.

Kinnock says membership of ERM is vital as sheet anchor for economy.

Record Jaguar sales in USA in first quarter of this year.

Women to form 45% of workforce by 2001.

NEDC told that British industry could be returning to the days when it was renowned for bad quality and delivery (Times).

Michael Heseltine, in Telegraph, says countries of Western Europe have learnt to share power to enjoy a greater influence and strength. Nothing should dim our determination to do that.

National Assn of Health Authorities urges Govt to provide an emergency injection of funds to the NHS to prevent further cuts in patient care (Times).

Peter Jenkins, in Independent, says the Govt is up the creek politically with the reform of the NHS - second only in unpopularity to community charge. Nothing is going to persuade the public that the problem is not underfunding while you are around.

PRESS DIGEST

Seven teachers at the City of Ely Community College are to be made redundant to allow it to stay within its budget under a system of school finance introduced by the Govt four days ago (Times).

Today says Fred Smithies, teachers' leader, seems to think he achieved something useful with yesterday's strike. He is wrong. All he has done is waste children's day, lose his members money and give all teachers a bad name.

John MacGregor tells teachers who went on strike they were totally unjustified.

Express says if teachers stopped cynically abandoning their duty they might find others inclined to be more sympathetic.

Lambeth Council found guilty of racial discrimination after advertising senior management posts for coloured people.

Express says that having launched his toll roads initiative Cecil Parkinson must not allow the momentum to flag. We have lost enough time.

Lord Chief Justice says journalists who refuse to disclose confidential information claiming a conscientious objection directly undermine the rule of law; stance wholly unacceptable in a democratic society. Guardian says it is obtuse for the law to be trying to despatch a 23 year old trainee journalist to prison.

Surgeon struck off for organising sale of human kidneys. Two surgeons who performed transplants severely admonished. Today wants a Medical Commission to regulate all transplant work.

Fewer than one third of people over 16 now smoke cigarettes.

Leading historian claims families today are far more caring than they were in Victorian times.

Ann Gloag, ex nurse, named Businesswoman of the year - now heads largest independent bus company in Europe.

Charles McLachlan, Notts Chief Constable during pit strike, dies, 58.

Ex-King Peter of Romania to visit his home country.

Mandela will try to put talks between ANC and South African Govt back on course when he meets de Klerk today (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph says it has been a salutary experience to see Mandela's standing decline from status of myth to first among equals.

Peres reported to be ready to lead an Israeli Govt for peace.

HONG KONG BILL

Mirror says there is little justice in the Bill. Those who will benefit are the rich, clever and highly skilled. And whatever Norman Tebbit's intention his language will be seized on by every bigot, bully and racist.

Today - Beware of all politicians who claim to be acting on principle. It's usually a polite cover for skulduggery. This is what we shall be witnessing if Kinnock and Tebbit go into voting lobbies together.

Express - Ministers can do without the extra trouble caused by this Bill. Yet they cannot duck their commitment. Our pride and respect demand we discharge our last obligation of Empire with honour.

Mail says no Govt with any sense of responsibility could sit on its hands for seven years and do nothing. It understands the feelings of those who say we cannot cope with another 225,000 immigrants. What is however beneath contempt is the posture of "HM opportunist Opposition" which carps at the Govt's Bill as "elitist" but dare not suggest any practical help for the people of Hong Kong. You are doing the honourable thing.

Times leader, under the heading "A stopgap Bill", describes the points system as a moral obligation of post-imperialism reduced to crude opportunism. Yet some sympathy with the Govt's predicament over Hong Kong is in order. It adds that in reality, short of genocidal cataclysm, few people in Hong Kong would wish to come to this country. If such a cataclysm did occur, Britain would be obliged to honour its commitment to the British passport holders - indeed also to those without them, since Britain would, under international refugee protocols, be the country of refuge of first resort.

Colin Holmes, Professor of History at Sheffield University, looks at the implications of the Hong Kong proposals in the Times under the heading "Immigration: the issue that could take centre stage".

PRESS DIGEST

Guardian says it is a disaster for Labour to end up in the same lobby as Tebbit. Hugo Young says it will be shameful if Ministers, alone and vainly, rise to the occasion.

Independent leader headed "Labour's shame over Hong Kong" accuses Kaufman of "cheap opportunism" in trying to portray Govt's proposals as elitist. The supposedly new, moderate Labour Party should be ashamed to find itself in the same camp as the Rightwing of the Conservative Party.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Howard addresses Recruitment Advertising luncheon, London
- DSS: Mr Newton meets the Disability Benefits Consortium, London
- DTI: Mr Ridley meets Mr Romita, Italian EC Minister, London
- HO: Mr Waddington meets Pakistani Minister of the Interior, London
- LPC: Sir Geoffrey Howe attends Indian High Commissioner's banquet for President of India, London
- MAFF: Mr Gummer speaks at the Pig Veterinary Society's AGM, Stoneleigh
- DEN: Mr Morrison visits Greyfriars House; later visits the Balmoral Group, Aberdeen to present the BSI Awards; in the evening has dinner with British Nuclear Fuels Ltd, Sellafield
- DEN: Mr Baldry visits Riccall Mine, near York for underground tour and press call; later meets Gascoigne Wood Mine for surface tour
- DES: Mr Howarth opens and speaks at the Education Resources exhibition at the NEC, Birmingham; later visits Birmingham Conductive Education Centre
- DES: Mrs Rumbold attends annual reception for the British Library, British Museum
- DH: Mrs Bottomley addresses Legal Studies and Services Ltd conference "After the White Paper"; later visits St Mary's Hospital, Praed Street and meets Peter Roth of Terance Higgins Trust re AIDS-HIV insurance
- DH: Mr Freeman launches a video for the Physically and Mentally Handicapped in the Asian Community
- DSS: Lord Henley visits the headquarters relocation site, Leeds
- DTI: Lord Trefgarne addresses the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry on "Turkey"
- DTI: Mr Forth is principal guest at Finance Houses Association lunch, The Savoy, London; later opens new premises of Consumers Association
- DTp: Mr Portillo addresses annual dinner of Institution of Civil Engineers, London
- FCO: Mrs Chalker meets the Canadian High Commissioner, Mr Donald McDonald before meeting the Prince of Wales, London
- FCO: Mr Maude meets Mr Romita, Italian EC Minister; later meets Dr Carlos Sampaio EC Advisor to Portuguese Prime Minister, both London

ANNEX

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)(Cont'd)

- FCO: Mr Sainsbury addresses seminar on Human Rights for Teachers of International Law
- MAFF: Mr Maclean speaks at the Association of Public Analysts conference, Glasgow
- OAL: Mr Luce speaks at Horniman Museum launch, London; later attends lunch hosted by New Zealand High Commissioner for Minister of Arts and Culture
- WO: Mr Roberts presents 500,000th Europe Open for Business leaflet, Rogerstone, Newport
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Mr Waldegrave visits Athens (to 9 April)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DES: Mr Rumbold interviewed by BBC North West on Local Management of Schools in the North West
- DES: Mr Howarth interviewed by BBC GWR on Local Management of Schools
- DH: Mrs Bottomley interviewed by Rodney Dritch, Parliamentary Healthcare Monitor Magazine
- HO: Mr Patten appears on BBC TV's "Question Time"
- SO: Mr Lang hosts reception for Unemployed Voluntary Action Fund, Edinburgh
- SO: Lord James Douglas-Hamilton launches 2nd Qtr of Scottish Road Safety Year
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TV AND RADIO

- "Kilroy" BBC 1 (9.20 am) From Hong Kong
- "Yes Minister" BBC 2 (8.00 pm)
- "Nature" BBC 2 (8.00 pm) Explores how you can invest in a 'green' way and paper recycling
- "Analysis" BBC Radio 4 (8.00 pm) Asks what the growth of judicial review says about Parliament and the control of over-mighty Ministers
- "This Week" ITV (8.30 pm) Looks at the effects of radiation
- "Question Time" BBC 1 (10.00 pm) With John Patten, Peter Mandelson (Labour's director of communications), Max Hastings and Rosalind Miles (author and broadcaster)