

PRIME MINISTER

April 6, 1990

MAIN EVENTS

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The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh attend a concert to mark the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, Royal Festival Hall

Hydrographic office becomes Defence Support Agency

The President of Colombia, Dr Virgilio Barco visits the UK (to 11 April)

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Gallup gives Labour 24.5% lead and your Prime Ministerial rating worst for 50 years.

Telegraph says only a spectacular turnaround in the Govt's fortunes is likely to avert risk of defeat at next election. Leader says it believes the political future is far more open than it appears.

10 prisoners said to be unaccounted for at Strangeways as a dozen hold out for sixth day. But all sex offenders recorded. Teenage prisoner says he saw four inmates killed.

Lord Justice Woolf appointed to chair inquiry into riot. Express hopes that Woolf, in conducting his inquiry, will remember that in the end responsibility for the explosion of evil rests with those who perpetrated it.

Guardian leader is enthusiastic about Woolf and says Woolf must be the Scarman of the prisons.

Times leader on Strangeways' riots says the sub-culture revealed comes as no surprise to those acquainted with the state of prisons, but it now demands attention. The pyramidal structure of this incarcerated community has been more starkly illuminated than ever before. At its base lie the segregated prisoners, most of them convicted or charged with sexual crimes. Their plight can no longer be overlooked by the community or by the Home Office. It goes on to suggest separate prisons for sex offenders equipped with therapeutic facilities.

An Independent editorial welcomes decision to publish the Woolf inquiry, but says it must not be taken as excuse to defer other action. Britain's prisons will remain shamefully and perilously over-crowded until sentencing policy is changed to reduce numbers.

Andy Murphy, Class War anarchist leader, suspended by Hackney Council. Express outlines his middle class background. His mother says he's a good boy.

Met Police to ask court to order national newspaper editors and broadcasters to hand over used and unpublished pictures taken at last Saturday's riots in Trafalgar Square (Times).

Senior Met Police sources admit that force was taken by surprise when community charge riot erupted (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

18 of the 30 Labour MPs who have threatened not to pay community charge tell the Times that they are still determined not to pay. The others now intend to pay.

Ferdy Mount, in Telegraph, says rather than continue with an ineffective dribble of concessions you would do better to have a full blooded revision of community charge.

Govt figures for what rates would have been show high rises for Tory councils. Your attempt to show that Labour councils are big spenders has been an embarrassing failure, says David Blunkett (Independent).

Times says that Labour's plan to introduce a modernised and updated version of domestic rates shows that Bryan Gould has bowed under pressure from colleagues to tone down "roof tax" proposals.

The 20 charge capped councils unite to appeal against the Govt's "blatantly political" decision (Times).

Conor Cruise O'Brien, writing in the Times, under the heading "Thatcher hero who should be heeded", cites Burke's opposition to the imposts that led to the American Revolution as good reason to scrap the community charge.

Governor of Bank says something has gone badly wrong with the economy and speaks of "policy mistakes" and "forecasting errors"; Andrew Alexander, in Mail, says he is effectively condemning Nigel Lawson.

Nat West bank economist says interest rates should be down by 2% at the end of the year. Chancellor's Budget strategy was right.

Survey by accountancy firms shows 78% of firms want to go into ERM.

Green Party official tells their conference Britain's economy would be wrecked if they won power because of City panic.

NAO claims that more than £5 billion a year is not collected in taxes because of inefficiencies.

Paddy Ashdown rides to rescue over Hong Kong Bill - he declares his party's support. And Labour Left who refuse to go into Lobbies with Tory Right help further.

Tony Marlow claims there are 92 Tory rebels.

PRESS DIGEST

Sun says Hong Kong Bill is wrong. We should insist Peking honours rights and protects welfare of all in Hong Kong.

Mail leader says Labour's approach to the Bill is wholly self serving. Whatever your present troubles you are anchored in principle.

Bush and Gorbachev to meet in Washington May 30-June 3; hopes for START Treaty.

Engineering union leaders step up campaign for 35 hour week by ordering strike ballots in 34 companies.

Vauxhall announce a new engine plant will be built at Ellesmere Port employing 300 at first; result of single union deal (Sun).

Michael Howard attacks Labour muddle over plan for £1.25billion payroll training levy (Independent).

British Airways in talks with Aeroflot for an Anglo-Soviet airline.

Survey shows rapid changes since end of Dock Labour Scheme with nearly half registered dockers leaving (Independent).

Consultants at Barts vote strongly against idea of becoming self governing hospital.

National curriculum group members make unprecedented attack on John MacGregor's demand for historical knowledge targets (Independent).

Times says that Select Cttee report to be published in three weeks time will urge the Govt to eliminate teacher shortages by introducing regional pay and establishing a general teaching council.

Mail, on calls by some NUT members for the promotion of homosexual lessons in schools, says if teachers sometimes wonder why they are not always treated with respect they should take a long hard look at sections of their own profession.

Sun and Today attack Labour for opposing road tolls - Today says Labour is so class obsessed it can see class divisions even in private roads.

PRESS DIGEST

Commons Cttee to call for shake-up of Crown Prosecution Service, with more cash and stronger safeguards against corruption (Independnet).

Govt decides to try to settle the abortion controversy by using an unprecedented procedure which could mean MPs voting throughout the night on a series of alternatives for changing the law (Times).

BBC reducing staff by 1,000 because income is failing to keep pace with pay rises; up to 9,000 to go eventually.

Granada says there were "more than 20 half-truths and omissions" in the police's attack on their Birmingham Six programme (Independent).

Provisional agreemeent by staff and management to buy out New Statesman & Society.

Ron Brown MP de-selected in Leith.

Writs and allegations of conference packing halt selection of Labour candidate in Southall where Syd Bidwell seems likely to be de-selected.

Parliamentary Labour Party spending rose by 20% in last year (Independent).

Sun priases Bishop of Durham for advocating disestablishment of Church of England.

Lithuanians hint at compromise over independence (Independent).

UK in first tentative contact with Lithuanian leadership while William Waldegrave warns the Soviets not to thwart Baltic independence (Independent).

Times says that the Soviet Union and its former East European satellites are set to agree to establish free enterprise and a complete range of economic reforms designed to allow the private sector to develop and to encourage foreign investment.

Solidarity shipyard at Gdansk to be privatised.

Lothar de Maiziere appointed Prime Minister of East Germany.

East Germans demand 1:1 currency conversion rate.

PRESS DIGEST

Times says that majority of Kohl's govt was understood to be in favour of ignoring some of the Bundesbank's demands and seeking a wider one-for-one conversion of East marks for West marks when German monetary union goes ahead.

West Germany to present plan for economic union with East soon after Easter. Complete authority for monetary affairs to be held by Bundesbank says Finance Minister Waizel (Independent).

Mail claims 1.5million are suffering from exposure to radiation in Chernobyl area.

de Klerk and Mandela get together and put political negotiations back on the rails.

Times leader says that the time is fast approaching when Mandela will have to test the strength of his popularity against the warring ANC factions and the township mafias as well as against the traditional white enemy. Otherwise the negotiating space he and de Klerk have constructed between them will be obliterated by those on both sides of South Africa's racial divide who believe that conflict is the only path to victory.

Czech armed forces may have sent illegal Semtex supplies to Libya, on top of official exports (Independent).

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Howard addresses Institute of Personnel Management, Oxford
- FCO: Mr Hurd attends Anglo/Argentine conference, Westwell
- HO: Mr Waddington opens factory extension at James Stroud Insulations, Longridge
- HMT: Mr Major addresses RAF Benevolent Fund, Guildhall
- LPC: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses National Conference on Alcohol, Oxford
- SO: Mr Rifkind performs Next Steps Agency launch, Department of the Registers of Scotland, Meadowbank House, Edinburgh; later, with Lord James Douglas-Hamilton meets COSLA convention on RSG settlement 1991-92; Mr Rifkind also addresses BMA dinner
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde opens new Granada Studies, Manchester
- DEN: Mr Morrison tours British Nuclear Fuels Ltd, Sellafield
- DH: Mrs Bottomley visits Kent community care facilities
- DSS: Lord Henley visits Doncaster East Local Office and the Doncaster Inner City Task Force
- DTI: Lord Trefgarne visits Derby and addresses Business in Derbyshire dinner; later meets Mr Panichev, Machine Tools Minister from the USSR
- FCO: Mr Sainsbury meets the prospective Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, Sr Emilio Alvarez
- MAFF: Mr Curry tours Fishing '90 Exhibition, Glasgow
- SO: Lord Sanderson visits Fishing '90 Exhibition, Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow
- WO: Mr Grist addresses Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors' dinner, Cardiff
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DH: Mr Freeman visits Spain
- FCO: Mr Maude visits Hong Kong (to 11 April)
- FCO: Lord Brabazon visits Botswana, Lesotho and Zimbabwe (to 9 April)
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- FCO: Mr Hurd interviewed by Radio Oxford
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TV AND RADIO

"What the Papers Say" BBC 2 (7.15 pm) Introduced by freelance Godfrey Hodgson

"Any Questions?" BBC Radio 4 (8.05 pm) With Chris Patten, Gerald Kaufman, Susan Thomas (Surrey County Councillor and member of Federal Policy Committee of the Liberal Democrats) and Howard Davies (Controller of the Audit Commission)

"Survival Special" - The Elephants of Tsavo: Love and Betrayal ITV (9.00 pm)  
Report from the Tsavo National Park in Kenya