

April 24, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen opens the Old Windsor Day Centre at Straight Street, London
Prime Minister visits Gallipoli (to April 25)
Tidy Britain Group launches Environment Charter
Second official level 2+4 meeting
Football Spectators Act comes into force
Gruinard handed back to owners by Michael Neubert

STATISTICS

BSA: Building societies monthly figures (Mar)

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Deaths reported to coroners (England and Wales 1989)

NAO: Training of non-industrial civil servants

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Employment; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Dogs (Mr David Amess)
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill (Lords) Consideration
in Committee (2nd Allotted Day)

Adjournment Debates: Guidelines on Fire Service cover (Mr P Viggers)

Select Committees: COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL
Cardiff Bay Barrage Bill [Lords]

Lords: Starred Questions
Town and Country Planning Bill (HL) (Consol): Third Reading
Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Bill (HC)
(Consol): Third Reading
Planning (Consequential Provisions) Bill (HL) (Consol): Third Reading
Planning (Hazardous Substances) Bill (Consol): Third Reading
Contracts (Applicable Law) Bill (HL): Third Reading
National Health Service and Community Care Bill: Committee (2nd
Day)

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Four teams of warders in riot gear bring riot at Bristol remand centre to a quick end; 42 prison staff and 35 inmates injured.

Snatch squad catches one of 7 Strangeways prisoners. Remaining 6 say they will come down at 2pm today if they are given a peaceful night.

Strangeways Governor signals he may use tougher tactics to end the seige - but Lord Ferrers says he doesn't want a "battle royal" in Britain's jails (Independent).

Star leads with report that 2 of the six rioters still holding out at Strangeways have AIDS.

Guardian says the Strangeways spark has spread protests to 19 prisons in 3 weeks; its leader says it made sense to hold back and the Governor deserves respect.

Two lorries carrying parts for Iraq supergun arrived in Iraq two days before Teesside shipment stopped.

MPs demand lorry driver detained in Greece carrying gun parts should be freed. William Waldegrave says he is innocent. Guardian says charge against him may be dropped.

Star leader says the driver is paying the price for incompetent Civil Servants.

Times says Hal Miller is to ask for an apology from Bernard Ingham for making a number of uncomplimentary references to him. The allegations are strenuously denied.

Senior Whitehall sources say security authorities first received positive intelligence about Iraqi plans to build a super gun several months before the seizure at Teesport Docks (Times).

You ask Sir Robin Butler to find out what action was taken on Sir Hal Miller's "supergun" warnings, as a Chief Customs man is summoned to Cabinet Office (Independent).

US officials oppose pressure to isolate Iraq. Bush administration man believes Saddam Hussein is more moderate than he has been in the past, and there is a good chance he will be more moderate in the future (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

West German shares plunge after Kohl announces 1:1 parity between Deutsch and Ost marks. Cost to unify currencies put at £70billion.

Chancellor Kohl brushed aside the economic arguments of the powerful Bundesbank and took the political decision to convert the nearly worthless Ostmarks into a strong DM at parity, says Times.

FT in its editorial, comments that the West German economic concessions to East Germany are neither as large as the East Germans wanted, nor as expensive as the West Germans fear. What, it argues, will prove decisive is how East German wages adjust to market forces, and here one-to-one currency conversion may lead to large scale unemployment. That would be no triumph for politics, but a disaster born of populism and shortsightedness.

FT round up of business opinion suggests economy is heading for a quicker recovery than Chancellor expects - by the end of next year inflation almost halved to 4.5%, trade gap cut to £11.4billion and interest rates down to 11%.

Likelihood EBRD to be sited in London increases after EC Finance Ministers' meeting in Luxembourg (FT).

Professor Sir Michael Howard, in Times, claims that there still lingers in Downing Street "that sour mixture of arrogance and timidity towards Europe which has proved so disastrous in the past".

In the Independent, Peter Jenkins says there is nothing you can do to stop some form of political union, as outlined by Kohl and Mitterrand. In practice such union would be much more mundane than a single federated state of Europe. Because what Kohl has in mind is such small beer, Britain appears ready to sup with him, albeit with a long Thatcherite spoon. In the end, the history of the Single European Act is likely to reflect itself: you will hold your nose, shield your eyes and sign up for the future. Later you can always blame it on the Foreign Office - if you are still around.

Economic reform in Eastern Europe could eventually add 10% to world trade, AMEX Bank review suggests (FT).

Patrick Minford, in Sun, claims that under Labour inflation would leap 5%; unemployment by 500,000 and output would fall by 2% - Kinnock's con trick.

PRESS DIGEST

Harris/Thames poll gives Labour a 20% lead in London elections, putting Barnet, Express says, in danger.

In an Independent article, Gordon Brown attacks the Govt for policies that are, he claims, bankrupting small businesses in record numbers.

Community Charge

Mirror claims Princess Royal has said that if the Govt had tested the charge it would not now be experiencing its massive problems.

Greenwich councillors threatening to sue Kenneth Baker over Tory adverts which say Labour is to blame for high community charge.

Hammersmith & Fulham, Islington, Camden, Greenwich, Rotherham, Barnsley and Derbyshire County Councils to challenge charge capping. More expected to follow (Times).

Frank Field, in Guardian, says the poor are not benefiting from economic growth; contrary to Govt claims they are getting poorer.

House sales picking up; building societies lent more than £4billion last month for first time since October.

Mail, commenting on CBI warning of pay price spiral, says the buck stops with bosses. The CBI spends much of its time whingeing to the Govt about what politicians should be doing; perhaps it would be better if they spent more time ensuring their own members get the message.

Mirror claims 40,000 miners' jobs will be lost and 40 pits will be closed as Govt knocks the industry into shape for privatisation.

The Govt has significantly altered its timetable for privatising British Coal because of uncertainty over business prospects during the rest of the 1990s (FT).

British Rail offer 9.3% and bring hopes of a settlement.

Express, contemplating overcrowding and fare increases on BR, calls for privatisation as soon as possible or, if that is dropped, to sort out the mess.

Sun claims Rover workers, with first 24 hour working in UK, will work only two weeks a month.

PRESS DIGEST

Extra 1,200 jobs to be created after the deal to cut working hours (Times).

Channel Tunnel will cost extra £2billion - at least £7.5billion.

British Telecom makes 60% profit on phone calls abroad, according to leaked internal document.

Renown, one of Japan's biggest clothing companies, buys Aquascutum for £73.8million.

Sir James Goldsmith pulls out of BAT's takeover after nine month struggle.

Lords' Cttee says figures used by you and your Ministers on the Govt's spending on research and development are badly flawed (Times).

You are planning to exploit the Franco-German call for greater political union in the EC by pressing for new curbs on the powers of the Commission (Times).

Richard Holt MP protests at double standards of CRE for protesting about a white mother removing her child from a predominantly Pakistani school when they made no complaint about a Muslim father removing two youngsters from a mainly white school in same area.

Express feature says the "racist" charge has taken over from "fascist" as an all inclusive, unthinking Left wing response to just about anything they don't like.

Times leader says those who are genuinely concerned to foster good relations between different racial and cultural communities should be wary of making accusations of racism against parents seeking an education for their children suitable for the society in which they will live. Such accusations are more likely to breed racism than to prevent it.

An Independent editorial says a parent's racial reason for withdrawing child from school is regrettable. But parents should not be forced to behave like multi-cultural zealots. Not only will coercion prove counter-productive, it also infringes the liberty of parents to bring up their children in one tradition rather than another. On balance the drawbacks of letting officials dictate to parents where they can send their children are worse than the admittedly alarming risk that British schools will become more divided.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph leader says common sense insists that John MacGregor is right in declaring the right of parents to choose a school for their children cannot be overturned by the Race Relations Act. This issue is not one of colour but mainly of language.

Small time robber who sprayed his victims with ammonia but got only £2,000 jailed for 20 years - 5 years on each charge.

Mail critical that 8 months after Marchioness disaster there is still no official explanation for the collision.

Contraceptive services cut by up to 50% in a year as health authorities try to stay within budget, Family Planning Assn claims (Independent).

Ballot of 10,000 health service staff emphatically rejects plans for Guys and Lewisham Hospitals to opt out of health authority control (Times).

Research on human embryos given go ahead by Commons by 364-193.

Times leader calls for tolerance on embryo research and abortion saying the task of drawing a line is a matter which some people regard as of life and death will never be uncontroversial. But that is why Parliament exists and that is why good democrats accept the rule of law, even when they may disagree with the conclusions. It adds that tolerance and respect is also owed to those whose religion and moral convictions leave them deeply disturbed.

Star, continuing its campaign to close Sellafield, says Greenpeace want this and Chapelcross plants closed now - both, they say, are timebombs waiting to explode.

Meanwhile, NII gives the two stations another 5-10 years' operating life.

Sellafield nuclear factory has won a £225million contract to reprocess spent fuel from West Germany (FT).

Another 14,000 to be moved from Chernobyl disaster zone, according to Pravda; 12million acres of land contaminated by accident.

Guardian says future of Philharmonia, one of the world's great orchestras, is in jeopardy because the London Philharmonic, chosen as the South Bank's first resident orchestra, is to be given special contractual privileges.

PRESS DIGEST

Natural History Museum announces 100 redundancies by 1995 to make it more sensitive to market and public needs.

Woodrow Wyatt in the Times urges the West to stand up to Gorbachev over Lithuania. For a start Britain and the US should call Mr Gorbachev's bluff and send the Lithuanians the oil, gas and other supplies they need. He could not retaliate without wrecking the improvement of Soviet relations with the East, which are so important to him if he is to survive at all.

Sun highly critical of West for doing nothing to help Lithuania. Kremlin offers Lithuania a deal - delay independence for two years.

Telegraph leader deplores Russia's current attempt to browbeat the Lithuanians into submission and says any use of force will arouse revulsion in the outside world. But these considerations must be tempered by the wider context. The Lithuanians must judge whether their cause is best served by precipitate action.

Gorbachev spokesman signals backing away from radical reform for Soviet economy. There will be no shock treatment says Maslennikov (Independent).

Moscow TV has bought three episodes of Yes, Prime Minister.

Editor of Tehran Times suggests all Middle East hostages could be freed by the end of the year.

Times leader looks at Syria's role in the release of a US hostage saying that the case for restoration of British relations with Syria, broken off in 1986, might look stronger but it is not yet decisive. The Govt's firm action in 1986 has paid off. The route to resuming diplomatic ties was clearly charted in 1986. It starts in Damascus, and there is no reason for the British Govt yet to redraw the map.

Iran's Foreign Minister says Britain should use its strong influence over the Phalangist groups in Lebanon and the Israeli Govt to free Muslim captives in both countries (Times).

10 die as mobs attack police in Kathmandu.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Howard makes presentation to 500,000 EAS entrant; Mr Eggar attends
- DEN: Mr Wakeham addresses the Institute of Energy's annual lunch, Inn on the Park, London
- DSS: Mr Newton addresses Age Concern conference
- HO: Mr Waddington addresses Cambridgeshire Magistrates Association
- LPC: Sir Geoffrey Howe lunches with Peat Marwick McLintock, London
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde attends Tidy Britain Group launch of Environmental Charter, Regents Park, London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls attends press launch of "The Third Age Network", London; later addresses Motor Agents Association dinner
- DEN: Mr Morrison addresses the Module Constructors Association, Inn on the Park, London
- DEN: Mr Baldry addresses the World Conference Coal Dinner, QEII Conference Centre, London
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses press conference for launch of Active Memory Technology Ltd's computers for universities programme, London
- DES: Mrs Rumbold launches Thames Polytechnic Accreditation Inset Scheme with Bromley LEA, Bromley
- DES: Mr Howarth launches the West Midlands Regional Drugs Campaign, Birmingham
- DH: Mr Freeman visits North West Hertfordshire District Health Authority; later visits Harperbury Hospital and meets Toby Jessell MP re Teddington Memorial Hospital
- DTI: Mr Redwood presents New Year Honours Awards to DTI staff, London
- DTI: Mr Hogg visits BAe, Stevenage
- DTI: Lord Trefgarne visits Glasgow for Expo '92 presentation

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

- DTp: Mr Atkins visits Middlesex Polytechnic's Road Safety Unit
- DTp: Mr McLoughlin visits Humberside airport and gives speech to Joint Airport Committee of Local Authorities
- DTp: Mr Portillo visits BREL works, Derby
- DTp: Mr Atkins visits Middlesex Polytechnic's Road Safety Unit
- HO: Mr Patten addresses Gingerbread Conference on Lone Parents and Childcare, Westminster Cathedral Conference Centre; later chairs Ministerial Group on Crime Prevention; later addresses Forum Communications Conference on "Community Involvement", Cafe Royal, London
- HO: Mr Lloyd addresses Off Licence News Seminar on "Licensing", Hilton Hotel, London
- HO: Lord Ferrers attends Charities Aid Foundation press launch, London
- MAFF: Mr Curry tours potato planting and grading demonstration, Stafford; later addresses Bedfordshire farmers, Biggleswade
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DTp: Mr Parkinson attends ECAC Ministerial conference on Air Traffic Control, Paris
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- MAFF: Mr Gummer interviewed by Brian Hayes, LBC, London
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TV AND RADIO

"Whose Shall Be the Land". Radio 4 (7.20 pm) Explores the prospects for a new society in South Africa

"Army Lives". BBC2 (7.50 pm)

"24 Hours in Deepest Dulwich Ch 4 (8.00 pm) A look at the wildlife in a city garden

"Compass: Mozambique - The Struggle Continues". Granada TV (10.35 pm)
