

May 14, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

European Parliament Plenary, Strasbourg (to 18 May)

EC: ECOFIN Council, Brussels

EC: Internal Market Council, Brussels (to 15 May)

Signor Nigido, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs visits London

House of Commons Select Committee on Home Affairs visit Belgium and Federal Republic of Germany (to 17 May)

House of Commons Select Committee on Social Services visit Trieste, Bologne and Berne (to 17 May)

National Union of Civil and Public Servants annual delegate conference, Blackpool (to 18 May)

Transport Salaried Staffs Association annual conference, Torquay (to 18 May)

Preliminary hearing of the Woolf Inquiry, Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors

Civil and Public Services Association annual conference, Bournemouth International Centre (to 18 May)

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STATISTICS

CBI/FT: Survey of distributive trades (April)

DOE: Housebuilding: March 1990

HMT: Retail sales (April - prov)

HMT: Producer prices (April - prov)

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PUBLICATIONS

MOD: House of Commons Defence Committee report on Low Flying

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Energy; Attorney General; Foreign and Commonwealth (overseas development questions)

**PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)**

**Business:** PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS  
 Mr Bowen Wells: Taxation Policies of Her Majesty's Opposition  
 Sir Hugh Rossi: Emissions from Power Stations  
 Mr David Shaw: Dover District Council's Responsibilities as a  
 Port Health Authority and the effect of the Channel Tunnel

OPPOSED PRIVATE BUSINESS  
 Clyde Port Authority Bill  
 Pakistan Bill: 2nd Reading  
 Town and Country Planning Bill (Lords): 2nd Reading  
 (Consolidation Measure)  
 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Bill (Lords):  
 2nd Reading (Consolidation Measure)  
 Planning (Consequential Provisions) Bill (Lords): 2nd Reading  
 (Consolidation Measure)  
 Planning (Hazardous Substances) Bill (Lords): 2nd Reading  
 (Consolidation Measure)

**Adjournment Debates:** The Community Charge (Mr G Riddick)

**Select Committees:** ENVIRONMENT  
 Subject: Department of the Environment, Property  
 Services Agency, Main Estimates 1990-1991  
 Witnesses: Department of the Environment, Property  
 Services Agency officials

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS  
 Subject: Arts Council  
 Witnesses: C E Henderson, Office of Arts and Libraries, A  
 Everett, Arts Council

**Lords:** Starred Questions  
 National Health Service and Community Care Bill: Committee (8th  
 Day)  
 Property Services Agency and Crown Suppliers Bill: Report

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Govt's views of the economy seen to be at odds after Chief Secy's TV interview yesterday in which, Mirror says, he spelled out the mess after 11 years of Tory rule.

He says prospect of tax cuts before next election do not look good.

This is contrasted with your upbeat speech in Aberdeen, insisting tax cuts still a priority. Guardian heading: Treasury warning dampens Conservative rallying call.

Meanwhile, spending demands from Departments seen to be building up, with Kenneth Clarke reportedly wanting £3billion for NHS over and above heavy requirements for community charge. Bids said to be totalling anything from another £10billion to £12billion.

Express - Axeman Lamont in spending war.

Mail leader says euphoria in the Labour camp is evaporating and the task of overturning the Govt is beginning to reappear in all its daunting reality.

Press interprets your remarks about inflation in relation to that in Europe as preparing the way for entry into ERM.

Fall in car sales last month to lowest level since 1983.

But CBI's distribution trades survey shows a surprising upturn in sales for both retailers and wholesalers in April after an apparent downturn since the blip around the turn of the year (Times).

Demand in construction industry falls for third successive quarter.

Employment Institute predicts a prolonged record of rising unemployment and urges Govt to "come clean" on effect of its efforts to cut inflation and trade deficit.

Heseltine says he will not fight you in the run up to the election but will stand for leadership when you go. He clashes with Jonathan Dimbleby on TV over questions about leadership.

Express says senior Conservatives increasingly believe Heseletine's campaign to unseat you is fast running out of steam.

PRESS DIGEST

Norman Tebbit says reports he will leave Commons at next election all pure speculation.

Express leader says you must stop Tebbit getting on his bike; his style of poliitcs will be needed at the next election.

Telegraph leader welcomes return of Enoch Powell to the Tory fold and urges you to bring him back into the counsels of the party.

Tories turn their fire on BBC for dropping a poll which brought a favourable result for you and for broadcasting Barry Porter MP's recorded remarks suggesting you should go five days later.

Labour says that while top rate of tax would be held at 50% there would be a blitz on tax concessions for rich.

A Labour anti-inflation policy being developed by the party is seen by its strategists as crucial to the public believing it has rejected incomes policies and trades union domination (Times).

Under the heading "Devolve and Rule", Times leader says with only 10 out of 72 Scottish MPs being Conservative the strain on the authority and credibility of the Tories is severe. It suggests as a starting point the establishment of a parliamentary Scottish Grand Cttee in Edinburgh, with the Scottish Secy of State answerable to them. Such a cttee could even be given the discretion over the Scottish budget within overall Treasury cash limits.

Ronald Butt in the Times predicts that negative voting may help the Tories. He says the Labour Party is benefiting greatly from public impatience with the Conservatives and from the urge for a change of some sort. But it is clear that the Tories retain the votes of many of the discontented whose decision is determined largely by the dislike of Labour.

Peter Walker takes non-executive director job with Smiths New Court; opponents critical.

Voters in 2 German States covering 40% of West German electorate vote out Kohl's CDU in favour of SPD; fears of cost of German unification; loses majority in Upper House.

Tom King says nuclear forces must remain in a united Germany, on eve of his five day visit to the Soviet Union which will include talks with his Soviet opposite number (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

UK plans to reduce troop levels in Germany from the autumn. Looking to discuss proposals in fresh arms control talks immediately following an agreement in current CFE negotiations (FT).

US Secy of State Baker flies to Moscow today for a final round of talks with Shevardnadze which should determine whether this month's full presidential summit in Washington can put US-Soviet relations back on their previously productive and harmonious course (Times).

Ryzhkov contradicts Gorbachev on pace of economic reform saying that the transition to a market economy would take many years and that it could, and should, be achieved without generating unemployment (Times).

The three Baltic republics move swiftly to prove their new common purpose, by asking Gorbachev for joint talks to discuss their drive for independence (Independent).

Romania's provisional govt preparing for a showdown with anti-communist crowds as leader issues ultimatum to protestors threatening force if they do not disperse by Friday (Independent).

US to sponsor voluntary organisation, Citizen Democracy Corps, to give expertise and assistance for the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe (FT).

The Govt is to advise farmers not to breed from the offspring of cattle infected with BSE (mad cow disease): new advice which suggests beating the disease may be harder than was thought.

Today critical of MAFF for inaction on BSE after scientists calls for 6million cattle to be slaughtered.

Humberside Council's ban on beef in area's schools brings bitter reaction from NFU.

Argentine, not British, beef will be served during your visit to Russia next month.

One of America's leading experts believes a type of "mad cow disease" may exist in the US (Independent).

Residents of Merton, lost by Conservatives to Labour, warned that community charge will double next year because bank balances were run down to bring in a low charge this year.

PRESS DIGEST

Express says residents of Chorley, Bradford, Kirklees, Basildon, Southampton and Watford are all awaiting news of higher charges.

Kirklees Council sending patients who die in a nursing home certificates cancelling their exemption from community charge.

Keva Coombes, Merseyside leader, expected to be ousted by moderates today after losing his solicitor's job for spending too much time on politics.

Ken Livingstone, writing in the Independent, highlights the need for Labour to focus its attention more on London, which he calls Labour's gateway to power.

The AEU is renewing its attempt to secure a single union deal at the £700million car plant being built by Toyota in Derbyshire (Times).

EC lagging in drive to create standards essential to its planned single market. Brussels fears only a few of about 3,000 standards will be ready by 1992. commission likely to recommend changes sin way standards are set (FT).

Belgium has asked EC to 'buy' the Berlaymont building for £228million because they are strapped for cash. EC has flatly refused (FT).

BHS to sack 100 managers tomorrow.

FT leader on a freer car market says while the EC market remains segmented and subject to limited competition, European car producers will lack incentives to match the Japanese by cutting costs, accelerating product development and expanding aggressively across national frontiers. MMC reference has thrown down a challenge which should be taken up in Brussels and other EC capitals.

Report from brokers Rowe & Pitman on forecasts for electricity privatisation suggests the 12 distribution companies will not suffer too greatly from losing supply customers to National Power and Power Gen.

Survey claims nearly 66% of MPs want some form of public investment in Channel Tunnel.

CPSA and NUCPS, in conference this week, to vote on merger.

PRESS DIGEST

Macclesfield Borough Council first to break with national bargaining and set up its own structure.

BAT Industries accused of contributing to an explosive epidemic of smoking-related diseases in many African countries (times).

Mr MacGregor backs campaign to delay GCSE exams until late in the summer term to allow pupils more teaching and preparation time (Independent).

New exam for 17-year-olds to bridge gap between GCSEs and A-levels likely to be called for at special conference of head teachers of country's leading independent schools (Times).

Rhodes Boyson claims that allowing lower ability pupils to leave school at 14 would improve educational standards.

The Govt is considering delaying implementation of its care in the community proposals until after the general election, amid fears they may prove a political and financial minefield (Independent).

Govt advisers have produced a confidential report highly critical of plans to stop students claiming welfare benefits this autumn, saying proposals will cause hardship (Independent).

Mirror claims cost of replacing wastage among nurses, fed up with low pay and grim conditions, is £50million. Labour claims nurse shortage is growing.

Future of Reviewing Cttee of the Export of Works of Art in the balance after controversial changes in the law to allow the sale of The Three Graces (Times).

Haughey's coalition partner, Desmond O'Malley, and opposition leader Alan Dukes, call for new extradition laws; the Republic must not be allowed to become a safe haven for terrorists.

Mail much encouraged by news that officers leaving the Army may soon be offered accelerated promotion in the police. There are too many plodders in the police.

EC to cut exports of chemicals which can be used in refining street drugs, as a result of US pressure to do more to tackle the drugs problem (Independent).

American author writes on "The Emerging British Underclass" which will contaminate entire British neighbourhoods within a decade.

PRESS DIGEST

Former Scotland Yard Supt, allowed to retire on medical grounds 16 months ago accused by TV journalist of links with a criminal and corruption.

Homosexual and lesbian groups urge police to take tougher action against "queer bashing" (Independent).

Independent editorial comments that the persecution of homosexuals is akin to anti-Semitism, and that the British are amongst the worst offenders. It says the reason for this is our education system which produces a growing underclass of resentful youths.

Prosecutions for begging in Central London have at least tripled over the past year and may have increased by as much as five times as police take tougher line as complaints rise (Times).

War being won with oil slick off Devon coast.

Britain and the US will be at odds with neighbours over measures for tackling the greenhouse effect at UN environmental conference this week (Independent).

Today says whalemeat, reindeer steaks, seal skin trinkets and furs are on sale in Bergen where Brundtland follow up conference is being held.

Today calls on you to reinforce efforts of Colin Moynihan in Italy by stating that you will personally ask football authorities to send England team home at first sign of trouble from yobs.

100 hurt in soccer riot in Yugoslavia which brings ethnic tension to the surface.

Guardian leader claims that Govt's approach to the World Cup has been unrealistic, inept and blandly complacent. It says a large bond guaranteeing good behaviour should have been required.

13 Liverpool football fans due in court today after wrecking 3 flats and fighting security guards in drunken spree.

Iran seeking Lucas tender to overhaul the US-made engines on 2 Boeing 747 jumbo jets belonging to Iran Air. Lucas has denied knowledge of any link between the potential contract and the possible release of western hostages - as has the FCO (FT).

Druze spokesman says Terry Waite is alive but price of his freedom will be Britain's not blocking a £3billion loan from World Bank.

PRESS DIGEST

Express claims Israelis are now ready to swap Arab detainees for 16 Western hostages.

Shamir intends to form new govt without the Labour Party (FT).

Britain and Iran moving towards direct discussions of their differences over Beirut hostages. The Iranian "Fatwa" against Rushdie and the imprisonment of Roger Cooper (Times).

Big row between Mirror and Sun over coverage of release of Iraqi gun driver with Sun standing accused of appropriating Mirror's story and picture and "lying into the sunset".

Seven suspects held in Italy over parts for the Iraqi supergun provided information over the killing of Dr Bull in Brussels.

More than 30 Chinese, some said to have fled after Tiananmen Square massacre, have gone into hiding in Britain to avoid deportation (Times).

US senior Govt official says Hong Kong will plunge into severe recession if the US decides to punish China by ending its "favoured nation" trading status (Times).

Independent editorial looks at anti-semitism in the Soviet Union, France and Israel, and comments that its re-emergence is deeply saddening at the human level, and very worrying in its implication for the future of the Middle East. The Americans must further increase pressure on Shamir to set the peace process in motion, while Western leaders could usefully emphasise their distaste for Gorbachev's acceptance of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. It concludes that anti-Semitism, and hostage taking, and other forms of terrorism, diminish us all, but are liable to feed off each other.

3 car bombs in Bogota kill 22 and injure 130 in massacre blamed on head of Medellin cocaine cartel.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr MacGregor opens new buildings at East Surrey College of Further Education, Redhill and has talks with local teachers in Surrey
- DSS: Mr Newton attends Carers National Association reception
- DTp: Mr Parkinson opens Institute of Highway and Transportation conference on "Transport and Prosperity", London
- FCO: Mr Hurd at press launch for British Days with USSR
- HMT: Mr Major addresses Surrey County Cricket Club
- HO: Mr Waddington meets Bahrainian Minister of Interior, Sheikh Mohammad Al Khalijan and hosts dinner at Lancaster House in his honour
- SO: Mr Rifkind opens Scottish Prisons Headquarters; later holds press conference for Management of Longterm Prisoners, Calton House, South Gyle, Edinburgh
- WO: Mr Hunt performs start of work ceremony at Rhualt Hill improvement, A55, Clwyd; later opens GKK Plastics Ltd new factory, Wrexham and opens Kimberley Clark Delyn Mill Flint
- DEM: Mr Eggar visits Interior Design Exhibition, Earls Court
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde visits Worthing and visits Bognor Regis Training Information Centre; later opens Tourist Information Centre, Hayling Island
- DEM: Mr Nicholls addresses launch of YTS Equal Opportunities Tool Kit, Whitbread Breweries, London
- DH: Mrs Bottomley visits Norwich District Health Authority; later (with Mrs Rumbold) co-hosts meeting with Kid Clubs Network; later gives the Joshua Bierer Memorial lecture organised by the British Association of Social Psychiatry
- DH: Lady Hooper greets Minister of Health of Brunei, Dr Dato Johar; later attends Alcohol Concern seminar on reducing alcohol misuse, London; later attends launch of Kiev British Week
- DOE: Mr Moynihan visits Tower Hamlets Action Resource Centre; later attends Sport 90 exhibition, Design Museum
- DSS: Mrs Shephard meets Mr Soar, Canadian Deputy Minister to discuss frozen pensions
- DTI: Lord Trefgarne visits Isle of Man (to 15 May) and addresses British Institute of Management 1992 conference; later meets Mr Kedikilne, Botswanian Minister of Commerce and attends launch of Kiev British Week
- DTI: Mr Hogg addresses Chemical Industries Association, London
- DTI: Mr Forth addresses Eurofinas conference on the economic situation up to the year 2000; also visits Association of Independent Radio Contractors, London

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

- DTp: Mr Atkins visits Freight Transport Association
- DTp: Mr Freeman opens Norway Docks, Dockland
- HO: Mr Patten accompanies Princess Royal on visit to Durham for Criminal Justice seminar
- MAFF: Mr Curry visits Hastings Market; later meets Local Sea Fisheries Committee
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses opening of Royal National Theatre exhibition, Upper Waiting Hall, House of Commons
- SO: Mr Lang addresses Local Authority Energy Efficiency conference, Sheraton Hotel, Edinburgh; later addresses conference of Centrally Funded Colleges, Queen Margaret College, Edinburgh
- SO: Lord Sanderson re-opens Glasgow University Visitors Centre
- WO: Mr Roberts opens Power of Wales exhibition, Llanberis
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DEM: Mr Howard signs agreement of co-operation with the Czech Minister of Labour in Prague
- MOD: Mr King visits Soviet Union (to 18 May)
- DOE: Mr Trippier attends Sustainable Development conference, Bergen (to 16 May)
- DTI: Mr Redwood attends Internal Market Council, Brussels
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TV AND RADIO

- "You and Yours" BBC Radio 4 (12.00)  
looks at transport policies, railways in particular
- "Horizon - Legacy of a Volcano" BBC2 (8.10 pm)  
Ten years on from the eruption of Mount St Helens
- "Cutting Edge - Comrade Philby" Ch 4 (9.00 pm)
- "Panorama - The Crimes of the Comrades" BBC1 (9.30 pm)  
looks at crimes against the people in eastern Europe
- "The Struggle for Democracy" The Rule of Law ITV (11.20 pm)
- "Advice Shop" BBC 1 (11.30 pm) Employment training
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