

May 15, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister attends Lord Rothschild Memorial Service
Foreign Secretary in Bonn for talks with opposite number
Chancellor in Paris for talks with French Foreign Minister
? Further voluntary repatriation of Vietnamese Boat People
The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh attend a private view of the
Paul Lamerie Exhibition, Goldsmith's Hall, London

EC: Political Committee, Dublin Castle (to 16 May)

Foreign Affairs Committee visits Bonn and Berlin (to 17 May)

Institute of Professionals, Managers and Specialists annual delegate
conference, Eastbourne (to 18 May)

Fire Brigades Union annual conference, Spa Royal Hall, Bridlington (to 18 May)

Society of Graphical and Allied Trades '82, biennial delegate council,
Scarborough (to 18 May)

Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen annual assembly,
Torquay, Devon (to 23 May)

2nd Anniversary and progress report on Scotland's four urban partnerships

Inquest on 11 Royal Marines killed at Deal, begins

Constantine Mitsotakis, Greek Prime Minister visits London (prov)

STATISTICS

CSO: Overseas trade figures (March)

OPCS: Mortality statistics by cause (1988)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Defence; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Control of Toxic Waste Residues
(Mr Frank Cook)
Finance Bill: Consideration in Committee
Motion relating to the Statement of Changes in Immigration
Rules (HC 251)

Adjournment Debates: The sale of skillcentres to Astra Training Services
Ltd (Mr B Cryer)

Select Committees: COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS
Midland Metro Bill
Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority Bill

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Lords: Starred Questions
Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions)(Scotland) Bill (HL): Report
(1st Day)
Computer Misuse Bill (V Colville of Culross): Second Reading

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Seven civilians injured in IRA bomb blast at Army Education Centre in Eltham - device buried in flower bed; 50 escape.

Predictable outcry from press over security. When will they ever learn? asks Star.

Fourth attack on soft target in UK in 20 months. MOD say they were about to erect a security fence. Sun says a National Guard force of 5,000 men is to take over from security men at military bases.

Foreign Secy increases British pressure on Gorbachev to compromise over Lithuania, warning that the West would be bound to apply sanctions if military action were taken. Saying that we wanted to help "perestroika", he added that such help could not be at any price (Independent).

Gorbachev declares steps by Latvia and Estonia to independence null and void.

Soviet Defence Minister Yazov warns that there would be little chance of a conventional arms treaty this year unless new Soviet military concerns were taken into account. This provides further evidence that the armed services are playing a key role in slowing down the CFE negotiations (Times).

Conor Cruise O'Brien writing in the Times under the heading "Moscow's unity price: a nuclear-free Germany" sees the hardening Soviet line as more than bluff - and urges Western sympathy. He says the Germans tend to assume that if they take a strong line, Moscow will have to cave in because of Germany's political and economic strength compared with Soviet weakness in the same domain. But there are signs that this comparison, when seen through Soviet eyes, actually makes for a hardening of the Soviet position. In political and economic terms the Soviet Union might be weak, but in military terms it is still a superpower.

Independent editorial on Romania's problems in advance of the election, concludes that Western powers should indicate, in advance of the ballot, that whoever is elected should adopt a democratic constitution and move towards a market economy, otherwise there will be no reason for the West to concern itself with the success or otherwise of the regime.

PRESS DIGEST

Times - Weakened politically by defeat in the CDU on Sunday, Kohl is ready to go for an early pan-German election before he loses the popular support he won through his initiatives to speed up German unity. Leader says Kohl's strategy for financial contributions from the Lander are so unpopular with several non-SPD states that the SPD might win defections, giving it the two-thirds majority needed to block Lower House legislation indefinitely. His only realistic alternative would be to raise personal taxes. Kohl will be treading on eggshells when he meets the Lander prime ministers tomorrow.

Guardian leader says it took only a 2% swing to puncture Kohl's Bismarkian balloon but it was a timely corrective.

Ruling West German Christian Democrats come out in favour of holding early all-German elections (Independent).

Increasing concern over BSE - though Sun says you are sticking to beef.

MAFF says there is no danger to humans but Humberside Council bans beef from school meals; other education authorities considering doing so.

Beef boycott has so far cost farming industry £120million. Butchers to launch an advertising campaign to counteract effects of scare.

Labour accuses the Govt of trying to hide the true extent of BSE (Independent).

Independent advocates appointment of a Minister of Food, in light of the concern over BSE, and says meantime Mr Gummer should cast what light he can on the safety of beef.

Owner of cat which goes down with feline BSE says it was fed on beef.

EC scientists, says Today, is convinced outbreak was caused by undercooking cattle food containing offal.

Sun thanks God for Swedish scientists who, when it is difficult to know what to eat safely, have discovered chips are the perfect food.

Child sex abusers, posing as social workers, move from North to London. Police engaged on nationwide hunt for perverts hold conference in Sheffield.

PRESS DIGEST

Express wants a nationally recognised identity card for bona fide social workers.

Times leader, discussing the case of the bogus social workers, says the crime would not be possible if members of the public were not either extremely trustful of social workers, or at worst intimidated by them and by their enormous power to cause the most painful disruption of family life. The Cleveland sex abuse affair casts a long shadow.

Outlook for inflation worsens as factory gate prices index leaps 1% in April, taking annual rise to 6.1%, the worst since December 1982. Retail sales also rose a surprisingly high 1% last month (Independent).

Marks & Spencer increases its profits by 14% - and stock market puts on £8billion.

Bryan Magee, former Labour MP, in 2 page feature in Express, tells people to stop moaning, it is the Good Life, today. Britain is enjoying a period of unprecedented peace, health and prosperity.

Peter Lilley warns everyone earning £18,000 a year, or more, will be required by Labour to pay 59p in the £ in tax and NIC.

Labour confirm pledges to increase pensions and child benefits would cost at least £3.3billion in their first year of office (Independent).

Labour Party policy paper today will make curbing inflation No 1 election priority. Guardian says it will try to persuade voters of its centrist credentials.

Peter Jenkins, writing in the Independent, looks at the dilemma facing Labour over their attitude to taxation. He concludes that the only route for them to promise increased social spending without inflation is to promise to raise taxes as necessary. But Kinnock is not that brave - nor foolhardy.

A clear commitment to early negotiations to enter ERM, tough rules on secondary picketing and a distinctly warmer stance towards Europe likely to be adopted by Labour soon (Independent).

Peter Shore bitterly criticises Labour's growing enthusiasm for the EC and its institution (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

A Cabinet Cttee, chaired by you, has firmly rejected proposals for a major increase in the powers of the European Parliament (Independent).

Norman Tebbit says Britain will be on the train to disaster if it backs moves to a United States of Europe. Sun says he is one of the few outstanding politicians today and he should not retire.

But some Ministers say Mr Tebbit's speech was less than helpful.

You are to reshuffle Ministers in July, but close colleagues say reshuffle will be restricted to middle and junior ranks (Independent).

Simon Heffer, in Telegraph, says you ought soon to be introducing new young talent into the Cabinet to prepare for next General Election.

Express says you plan a major shake up of middle rank and junior Ministers before summer recess and lists those on the way up, in and out.

Tory MPs call on BBC to investigate a report on suppression of poll favourable to you.

Express leader says Harris gave BBC a bigger sample than they asked for. Did the BBC expect a different answer and ditch it when it did not emerge?

Mr Speaker warns scruffy tendency in House - smarten up and wear a tie if you want to be called.

Employers to reject flat rate pay claim of £1,500 (14% on pay bill) from NALGO.

Brymbo steel plant near Wrexham to close because of fall in orders - notably from car industry.

Today says Mitsubishi wants to build a £750million factory in Britain, creating 3,000 car jobs.

British Airways expected to create 1,200 jobs in South Wales by opening a maintenance base there.

Govt considering a significant change to its £10billion power industry privatisation because of advice that certain sectors should be sold only to the "sophisticated" investor (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Commons Services Cttee highly critical of architects, builders and PSA over year's delay in renovating £18million offices opposite Parliament.

Fifteen Councils seek £3.25billion in compensation over water reorganisation in 1974 (Independent).

Tories to close Ealing Civic Centre because they say it is a waste of money (£18million in rent over last 3 years).

Keva Coombes ousted as Liverpool City Council leader by moderates.

Bruce Kent, CND, selected to fight Oxford West and Abingdon for Labour.

British conference on ozone layer may be boycotted by some countries because US has refused to guarantee aid to poorer countries to develop alternative to CFCs.

UN report says world population is increasing faster than ever before with a billion extra people likely by the end of the century (Times).

Jonathan Porritt says time is running out for the Govt in terms of establishing its green credentials (Times).

Strange case of boy - identified, aged 4, whom Leicester headmistress asks mother not to send him back after his first unruly day. Police left holding the baby.

Mr Clarke pressing the Treasury for extra cash to bail out a land sales crisis in NHS, which is halting hospital building and leading to curbs in services (Independent).

More than 11% of inner London hospital beds (979) have closed in last 6 months because of financial difficulties (Times).

Eight prison officers hurt quelling mutiny of prisoners in Belfast jail; prisoners at Winchester break out on to roof in brief protests.

Mirror welcomes wide ranging nature of Woolf inquiry.

Govt announces radical proposals to give inmates in Scottish prisons greater responsibility over how and where they serve their sentences (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Lawyers oppose move to end legal aid choice in Crown Court cases under an amendment to the Courts and Legal Services Bill (Times).

Five brothers from Liverpool told to pay for damage to Majorca flats they did, along with 8 other hooligans, or stay in jail.

Jack Charlton, Eire manager, says football authorities are inviting every hooligan to go to Sardinia by panic measures.

Cable TV to offer free local phone calls in competition with BT.

Rupert Murdoch gives Oxford University £3million to found a new chair in language, media and communications.

Edwina Currie somewhat uncomplimentary on radio about Poet Laureate.

Today very sympathetic to her in saying "Sod, Poet Laureate". It thinks he should write an Ode to Wealth creation instead of decrying it.

Select Cttee says ground attack training at 100ft can no longer be justified in report on low flying.

Ministers misled the Commons over the Wallace case in spite of the fact a handful of senior civil servants had full knowledge of his job specification. MOD report published yesterday said officials drafting Commons replies had been working in relative ignorance, but in 1974/75 full knowledge of the case was held by only a limited number of senior civil servants (Independent).

German Customs seize another 37 tons of machinery bound for Iraq, suspected of being parts for Supergun.

Britain's Ambassador to Iraq to return to his post this week (Times).

Mitterrand and Opposition leaders join silent march of 100,000 in Paris in protest against desecration of Jewish cemeteries.

Jordan riot squads fire shots in the air and use tear gas to fight demonstrators attempting to storm the Allenby bridge, which divides Jordan from the occupied West Bank (Independent).

UN predicts world's poor and hungry will increase into the next century (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Confidential UN reports details brutality and humiliation inflicted on Vietnamese boat people by Hong Kong authorities (Independent).

Pretoria tries to defuse tension amid war threats from militant Afrikaners who are preparing for war because they are appalled by the disintegration of apartheid and perceived threat of black majority rule (Times).

ELTHAM BOMB COMMENT

Star says it is no wonder the IRA keep hitting targets in Britain. Time after time we insist on being sitting ducks.

Sun uses the attack to call on "odious" Irish Premier to change extradition laws. Will it take a bomb outside his house before he shows any sense of justice and decency?

Today says IRA injured 7 because with characteristic cowardice it chose a soft target. But there should be no soft targets now. Tom King must put all of them behind barbed wire and trenches.

Express says the blast highlights faults in the Anglo/Irish agreement. The Eltham outrage is as good a time as any to remind Haughey that the first priority of that Agreement is to halt terror attacks. If his Govt cannot provide effective legislation the conclusion can only be that the Agreement is a useless and outdated document.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr MacGregor meets NAS/UWT, London
- DSS: Mr Newton holds a press conference to announce the appointment of Chief Executive to the Benefits Agency
- DTp: Mr Parkinson addresses Road Haulage Association annual dinner
- LPC: Sir Geoffrey Howe meets Kozo Watanaba, Sec General LDP, Japan; later attends launch of Portman Group Proof of Age Card, London
- SO: Mr Rifkind launches New Life for Urban Scotland, Forum Hotel, Glasgow; later addresses Institute of Civil Engineering Contractors dinner, Hilton Hotel, London
- WO: Mr Hunt presents Engineering Education Scheme Award, Cardiff; later addresses Wales Adult Literacy and Basic Skills Unit conference, Cardiff; later opens Wicker Group head office, Cardiff; later presents Development Funding Certificate to Gwent Training and Enterprise Council, Newport
- DEM: Mr Eggar makes presentations and addresses Prize for Enterprise event, London; later attends Big 9 accountants small business dinner
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde addresses London Tourist Board and makes presentations to 20 senior directors from London retail stores
- DEN: Mr Morrison visits Northampton
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses CBI conference on "Getting the Most from Graduates", London
- DH: Mr Dorrell visits Royal National Orthopaedic Hospitals, Stanmore
- DH: Lady Hooper meets Vitamin Forum, London
- DOE: Mr Chope addresses Boodle Hartfield seminar, London
- DOE: Mr Moynihan attends National Childrens Play and Recreation Management Committee dinner
- DOE: Mr Heathcoat-Amory addresses Brunel University International Symposium
- DOE: Lord Hesketh attends United Newspapers lunch
- DSS: Mrs Shephard visits Sheffield North West ILO; later visits a careers offices at AEU, Furnival Gate, Sheffield
- DTI: Lord Trefgarne meets John McCrae, HM Ambassador Designate to Rabat
- DTI: Mr Forth addresses Association of British Insurers, London
- DTp: Mr Freeman marks completion of electrification of line from Kings Cross to Leeds

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

- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington addresses Straw conference, Peterborough
- MAFF: Mr Maclean opens the 5th International Chilled Food Fair, Birmingham
- OAL: Mr Luce speaks at presentation of the Artist at Work awards, London; later hosts performing arts dinner, London
- WO: Mr Grist launches "Cardiff - Recycling City", Cardiff
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DEM: Mr Howard visits Bratislava Czechoslovakia and Denmark (to 16 May)
- FCO: Mr Hurd visits Bonn and Rome (to 16 May)
- HMT: Mr Major visits Paris for talks with French Finance Minister
- DES: Mr Howarth attends a trade fair in Basle, Switzerland with the British Educational Equipment Association for Education Equipment across the Curriculum
- DTI: Mr Hogg attends cornerstone ceremony for European Transonic Wind Tunnel, Cologne
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MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- DES: Mr MacGregor gives profile interview to Education Magazine
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TV AND RADIO

- "File on Four" BBC Radio 4 (7.20 pm)
Care in the Community
- "The Television Village" Ch 4 (8.00 pm)
Looks at the unique experiment of Waddington Village Television
- "Black in Blue" new series BBC1 (8.30 pm)
Desmond Wilcox looks at black and Asian recruits to the police
- "Check Out", new consumer series Ch 4 (8.30 pm)
- "Viewpoint 90: Ivan the Terrible" ITV (10.35 pm)
Looks at the prosecution against John Demjanjuk
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