

May 16, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Constantine Mitsotakis, Greek Prime Minister visits United Kingdom

Presentation to mark Nottingham University Professor in MRI

Cecil Parkinson opens refurbished Terminal 3 at Heathrow Airport

Michael Howard visits Copenhagen

Teacher recruitment campaign begins

James Baker, US Secretary of State visits Moscow for talks with Eduard Shevardnadze (to 19 May)

National Association of Co-operative Officials annual general meeting, Stanford Hall, Loughborough

National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shotfires annual general meeting, Loughborough

PUBLICATIONS

DES: HMI report on teacher measures on Maths, Science and Craft Design and Technology

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Trade and Industry

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Amusement Machines (Protection of Children)
Finance Bill: Consideration in Committee
Motion relating to the Personal Equity Plan (Amendment)
Regulations

Adjournment Debates: Government assistance for victims of flooding in North Tayside (Mr B Walker)

Select Committees: ENVIRONMENT
Subject: Indoor Pollution
Witnesses: Department of the Environment officials

WELSH AFFAIRS
Subject: The Supply of Starter Homes in Wales
Witnesses: Council of Welsh Districts; Welsh District Planning Officers' Society

DEFENCE
Subject: Implications for UK Defence Policy of Recent Events in Europe
Witnesses: Admiral of the Fleet, The Lord Lewis; Field Marshal The Lord Bramall; Marshal of the Royal Air Force, Sir Michael Beetham; Sir Frank Cooper

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)Select Committees
(Cont'd)

ENERGY

Subject: Energy Efficiency

Witness: Association for the Conservation of Energy

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: Science Policy and the European Dimension

Witnesses: Science and Research Engineering Research Council (4.15 pm); Natural Environment Research Council (4.45 approx); Medical Research Council (at 5.15 pm approx)

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Support for Lone Parents

Witness: M J A Partridge, CB, DSS

TRANSPORT

Subject: Eurotunnel

Witnesses: Mr A Morton, Chief Executive, and officials, Eurotunnel

TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE

Subject: Eastern European Monetary Arrangements

Witnesses: H M Treasury officials

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS

Midland Metro Bill

Tees and Hartlepool Port Authority

Lords:

Starred Questions

Short Debate to call attention to the case for European co-operation in matters cultural, humanitarian and spiritual

Short Debate to call attention to the case for eliminating all nuclear weapons by the year 2000

Consumer Guarantees Bill: Second Reading

Agricultural Holdings (Amendment) Bill: Second Reading

PRESS DIGESTMain News

As hysteria grips some sections of Britain, John Gummer says: "Beef is not a public health risk and can be eaten with complete confidence".

Today is the most hysterical of all. It claims evidence that BSE can be passed on to humans - or at least apes.

Star headline: "Mad cow stampede". Express p1 lead - "Mad cow madness".

Mail leads with "Beef disease: who is right?"

Eight Councils ban beef from school menus but Westminster reverses an earlier decision; one million children deprived of beef.

Tyrrell Cttee advises against killing calves from affected stock.

But Labour's agricultural spokesman calls on John Gummer to resign.

Meat trade says BSE fear has not hit demand. MAFF compensating farmers about £650,000 a month for infected cattle slaughtered, with 13,000 having so far died (Independent).

President Bush urged to carry out military strikes against terrorists to protect air travellers - by US presidential task force. Hostile reaction in Britain.

Guardian - Pre-emptive strikes is headline hysteria and has to be rejected.

Pan Am criticised for Lockerbie disaster - as well as Federal Aviation Authority.

Express says our sub judice rules are designed to protect the rights of any future accused, but there must be no suggestion they are being used to cover up awkward questions.

PRESS DIGEST

Times leader says the lessons of Lockerbie should not be lost in anger against both the terrorists and those whom they have successfully made their scapegoats. Anger should be tempered by caution. The key to a sensible response to outrages is restraint. The IRA and other like-minded groups are contained not just by sound police and military intelligence but also by a refusal to let civil and political life be undermined. At Lockerbie, terror scored a partial hit. A cautious response will show who really won.

More than 1,000 BA staff have written to Secy of State for Transport saying the airline's new working patters will compromise safety (Independent).

Labour Party's manifesto plans get a mixed reception but generally they are felt to be liberally applied with cosmetic. Most of policies opposed by Left.

Sun: Extra pickets back to wreck jobs: Kinnock on the rack.

Mirror gives it only half a column under heading "Kinnock promise on tax freeze" for most wage earners.

Peter Hain selected as Labour candidate for Neath.

Times feature looks at what former Cabinet Ministers are doing today, many of them having gained lucrative posts.

Your call to parents and others to support the police in trying to smash paedophile rings posing as social workers; be vigilant.

Moscow expected to present new conventional arms proposals today to meet the increasing concerns of the Soviet military (Times).

Guardian says Vilnius signals a readiness for a deal with Gorbachev.

Pro-Moscow demonstrations in Latvia and Estonia capitals try to storm Parliaments to halt moves towards independence.

Washington may delay signing Soviet trade pact because of concern over continued sanctions gainst Lithuania (FT).

First directly elected Russian Federation Parliament meets today in what is seen as being a trial of strength between conservatives and radicals (Independent).

Gorbachev may call on Reagan while he is in USA (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Mark Almond, lecturer at Oriel College, Oxford, writing in the Times, sees Romania falling victim to all the ills that beset Latin America.

New president of Yugoslavia says country is close to civil war.

Food prices likely to rise 30% on July 1 in Czechoslovakia because of a £1billion cut in subsidies (FT).

Mr Shevardnadze maintains the Soviet position over a unified Germany's joining NATO, during meeting with Mr King (Independent).

Foreign Secy plays it cool with Genscher, saying Britain did not want to get into an argument at this stage over nuclear missiles (Independent).

MEPs hunger for more power for European Parliament (Independent).

David Buchan and Edward Mortimer look at the competing blueprints being studied by EC member states for political union (FT).

Martin Jacques column in the Times says there was a strong sense of deja vue about the latest retail price figure. Somehow nothing is more symbolic of the unravelling of Thatcherism than the return to the issue of inflation that it pledged to remove from the economic landscape. The Thatcherite vision may be fraying at the edges, but there is as yet no new one to take its place.

Freeze on spending at MOD, while officials conduct a review, because of higher than expected inflation and the fact that less money was carried forward from last year (Independent).

Britannia Airways face job cuts after 20% drop in package tour bookings this summer (FT).

Nicholas Ridley gets it in the neck from unions for urging Japanese to invest here because we have one of the lowest labour costs in EC.

Mr Ridley has told Japanese Britain will do all it can to ensure cars made in UK by Japanese companies will not be included in any transitional EC quota on Japanese car components (FT).

Sainsbury to give 51,000 employees £33million share of record profits.

900 jobs to go at British Home Stores in rationalisation (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

France will refuse any EC demand to reclaim more than half of the £1.28 billion state debt write-off accorded to Renault (FT).

EC has blocked Lufthansa attempt to use controversial tactics aimed at discouraging cheaper fares on the London-Munich route (FT).

Heseltine's ideas that councillors who vote for budgets that breach Whitehall spending budgets should face immediate re-election is one of the things being considered by ministers studying the community charge (Times).

Express says Govt is considering the case for unitary authorities and that many councils face the axe.

Court of Appeal has overturned temporary orders stopping the capping of poll tax levels set by 12 councils (FT).

Police furious that rent allowances are to be cut and that they will not be exempt from community charge.

Two surveys say employers who undervalue educational qualifications are partly to blame for the fact that fewer teenagers stay on at school after 16 in Britain than in any other European country (Times).

Labour say there has been a decline in Oxbridge graduates going into secondary school teaching (Independent).

Plans to replace GCSE exams in the sciences with "balanced science" win backing of Association for Science Education, which represents major companies and science institutions (Independent).

Jonathan Clark, fellow of All Souls College, Oxford writing in the Times under the heading "What we lose by neglecting the special relationship", regrets the decline of American studies in Britain - and with it transatlantic understanding.

Prince Charles says elderly should get more help from society.

Times leader supports Prince Charles' thought-provoking speech in which he invited healthy retired people to ask themselves what contribution they might still make to society. The prodigious range of accumulated experience and talent among the retired on which the arts, charities, schools and churches may draw is still under-exploited.

PRESS DIGEST

NHS porters refused to carry a girl 15 feet back into Chelmsford hospital after she had collapsed in the grounds because they were not qualified.

Times leader discusses the Bergen conference and the proposals put forward by Norway's Prime Minister for European govts to take immediate steps to improve their global stewardship. It concludes that you could give Britain's claims to international leadership on the environment a needed boost by giving the proposals a fairer wind than your minister David Trippier. Green police could be as useful, and come to seem as natural a form of co-operation, as Interpol.

US warns that the global cost of stabilising emissions of carbon dioxide could run into trillions of dollars - at Bergen conference (FT).

Oil comes ashore on South Devon beaches from tanker.

BBC again refuses to publish opinion poll favourable to you; rejects Kenneth Baker's call.

ITV considering separating ITN (FT).

Rowan Atkinson and Harry Enfield win top two comic TV awards at Montreux.

Thomson & Phillips have announced £2.14 billion plan for high definition TV for Europe in attempt to beat Japanese (FT).

Star says God knows what the widows of IRA victims think about the presence of Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness at Cardinal O'Fee's funeral.

Reports from pro-Iranian sources say Terry Waite has been ill.

British and Iranian officials expected to meet in Dublin today at EC meeting.

Swiss Customs now checking machine parts believed to be part of Iraq supergun.

Iraq has demanded compensation from Italy for the 100 tonnes of steel parts seized on suspicion they were for a supergun (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Mirror leader welcoming Mitsotakis to Britain says he would have been more welcome if he had brought the detained lorry driver with him. It hopes he will tell you that charges against him have been dropped and he can come home.

British lorry drivers threaten to boycott Greece.

Church of Ireland to admit women priests.

Winnie Mandela may still be prosecuted over death of Stompie Moeketsi, South Africa's Acting Attorney-General says (Independent).

Bush to meet de Klerk on June 18 a week before he sees Mandela (FT).

FT leader on sanctions against South Africa says so far the South African govt has delivered promises. It would take an enormous leap of faith to withdraw official sanctions on that basis. The sanctions of the market place will remain in force until there is an assurance of political stability. de Klerk's aim is to lead his country on a trek back to the world community. EC should signal its aim is to welcome a properly democratic South African just as soon as it can.

El Salvador peace talks reconvene in Venezuela (Independent).

Bhutto seeking Islamic states support over Kashmir (FT).

Britain pressing George Bush to set up a new regional holding centre for boat people in one of the Pacific territories of the US; possibly Guam (FT).

BSE COMMENT

Star - Whatever the truth, people just don't believe the assurances coming from the Govt and the meat trade. Nothing short of an immediate public inquiry will do now.

Today says MAFF has treated public like fools over BSE. It accuses Govt of bloody minded arrogance and mind-numbing complacency. John Gummer should resign.

Times - Fear of the unknown feeds public concern over BSE safety.

PRESS DIGESTLABOUR PARTY POLICY

Sun leader headed "Ugly truth about life under Labour" says its mini manifesto was an appalling sight. It means in reality nationalisation, return to secondary picketing, punitive taxation, soaking home owners by giving town hall loonies a free hand.

Today - Labour to soak high fliers with extra 19p in £ on tax.

Express - Kinnock's manifesto of empty promises. Concentrates heavily on what Labour would not do and refuses to spell out what it would do in key areas of policy. Leader says Labour's latest attempt at an election manifesto is a masterly exercise in what to leave unsaid. The biggest blackout is on expenditure plans. Kinnock knows that if ever he revealed the real cost of a Labour Britain he hands the Tories the very ammunition they need to blow Labour out of the electoral water.

Mail - Kinnock turns "Tory" to win middle ground. Takes up torch of Thatcherism but it is vaguely worded. Leader says your thinking continues to dominate the British political scene. Kinnock's more cerebral minders know that the only hope they have of turning you out of No 10 is to parrot the profound revolution in attitudes you have brought about. But their counterfeit Thatcherism would melt like waxwork as they faced their first major crisis in office. Most socialists are still pyromaniacs posing as firemen.

Telegraph - Kinnock's curbs on pickets thrown into confusion - move to tighten policy rejected, but Kinnock to try to overturn it. Leader says what we are being asked to accept now is not a transformation of policy but of image. Labour cannot be blamed for wanting to conceal its true intentions until the last possible moment. It is up to the party's opponents to ensure their bluff is called before the chance of office for Labour presents itself.

Independent - Kinnock gives tax pledge as Labour's outline agenda for govt is agreed at party meeting virtually unamended.

Independent, in its editorial, says the Labour Party has put on a prettier face as a result of the voters worries about their position over economic and defence issues. Despite Kinnock signalling as hard as he can that it is safe to vote Labour, his party still lacks its big idea, and the latest policy document combines dullness with the occasional reminder of the party's unhappy past.

PRESS DIGEST

Peter Jenkins, writing in the Independent, also looks at Labour's policy paper, saying the party is attempting a similar change as the SPD in West Germany 30 years ago, and abandoning the Bennite policies of the 1960s. He too concludes that while the campaign document is for the most part reassuring, it is too redolent of the past to make a compelling prospectus for the 1990s.

FT - Labour says most wage earners would not pay higher income tax under them. Their new policy platform is presented as pro-European centrist, with a new set of social priorities ready to support the market economy but willing to intervene when necessary resumption of credit controls, full membership of EMS and a commitment to invest in a high productivity low cost economy (FT).

Guardian says that until Labour explain how they will pay for their programme Kenneth Baker will make sure it becomes the Achilles' heel of the election campaign.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr MacGregor and Mr Howarth launch Teacher Recruitment Campaign; Mr MacGregor later addresses the Standing Conference on Schools, Science and Technology annual conference, Institute of Education, London University
- DH: Mr Clarke receives a courtesy call from the Indian Health Minister, Nilomani Routry, London; later gives opening speech at the BDA conference reception, Barbican Centre, London
- DTp: Mr Parkinson opens new Heathrow Terminal Three
- HO: Mr Waddington receives courtesy call from Lieutenant Governor of Jersey
- LPC: Sir Geoffrey Howe attends opening of London Docklands Business and Property exhibition, London; later attends Service of Thanksgiving for Lord McAlpine of Moffat, London
- MAFF: Mr Gummer opens East Coast Boat Show, Ipswich
- DEM: Mr Eggar visits Merseyside and Runcorn (to 17 May)
- DEM: Mr Nicholls addresses Buckhaven 'Fit for Work' awards presentation, Fife
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses Age Concern Resources Project, London
- DH: Mrs Bottomley addresses National AIDS Trust conference on 'Women and Aids'
- DOE: Mr Chope visits houses in Brentwood and Ongar
- DOE: Mr Moynihan attends Trout Fishing competition, Rutland Water
- DOE: Mr Heathcoat-Amory addresses Local Government conference; later visits Kent Hospitals Recycling Initiative, Margate
- DSS: Mrs Shephard addresses the East-West conference of the British Atlantic Group of Young Politicians about the social impact of economic change
- DTI: Lord Trefgarne meets Japanese delegation; later meets Ms Kylczicki, Director of International Relations from Polish Policy Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations
- DTI: Mr Forth attends launch of Pedal Cycle Helmet Video, Pimlico, London
- DTp: Mr Atkins addresses Council for the Protection of Rural England, House of Commons
- HO: Mr Patten presents Good Neighbour/Crime Concern prizes, House of Commons
- HO: Mr Mellor addresses International Broadcasting Confederation on "Talking Radio", London; later launches Satellite UK course, Central London Polytechnic

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

MAFF: Baroness Trumpington meets Mr Kyczyk, Director of Internal Relations, Polish Ministry of Foreign and Economic Affairs

MAFF: Mr Curry visits Shropshire and West Midlands Agricultural Society Show, Stafford

ODA: Mrs Chalker addresses the Overseas Development Institute, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DH: Lady Hooper attends the EC Health Ministers' Council and meeting, Brussels (to 17 May)

DTI: Mr Forth attends Cannes Film Festival, France (to 18 May)

TV AND RADIO

"Yes, Mr Churchill" Radio 4 (11.47 am)

"Worlds Apart" BBC 2 (6.50 pm)
Asks if state funded schools should be allowed for Muslims

"Face the Facts" BBC Radio 4 (7.20 pm) new series

"Antenna" BBC 2 (8.10 pm)
looks at insect life and transplant donors

"Forum on Democracy" BBC Radio 4 (8.15 pm)

"Dispatches" Ch 4 (8.30 pm)
Are Romanian elections a real return to democracy

Inside Story BBC 1 (9.30 pm)
Looks at the convictions following PC Blakelock's murder
