

May 17, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

M. A.
M. J.
De la

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister sees President Mubarak for talks and later hosts dinner in his honour

Mr de Klerk, visits the UK (to May 20)

The Queen visits Royal Air Force, Lyneham and 5th Airborne Brigade, Salisbury Plain

The Duke of Edinburgh visits Washington DC (to 20 May)

EC: Health Council, Brussels

Association of First Division Civil Servants annual delegate conference, Conference Trust, London

Association of University Teachers biannual council, Manchester (to 19 May)

TUC Trades Councils' conference, Marina Centre, Great Yarmouth (to 20 May)

Advocate General due to give opinion of "Factor tame" case re fisheries quota hopping, Luxembourg

STATISTICS

DEM: Labour Market Statistics: Unemployment and vacancies (Apr-prov); average earnings indices (Mar-prov); employment; hours; productivity and unit wage costs; industrial disputes

HMT: PSBR (April)

HMT: Capital expenditure by the manufacturing industries (1st qtr-prov)

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Charity Commissioners' for England and Wales annual report (1989)

PAC: 14th report - National Energy Efficiency published at 12 noon

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Agriculture, Fisheries and Food; Prime Minister

Business: Employment Bill: Remaining Stages

Adjournment Debates: Open Spaces in Manchester (Rt. Hon G Kaufman)

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

Lords: Starred Questions
Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Bill (HL): Report (2nd Day)

Aviation and Maritime Security Bill: Report

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Labour lead falls 6 points over month as SLD rises 4 points - Tories remain on 32% - 50/32/8/44 - according to Guardian.

One Sergeant killed, another seriously injured, in second IRA "soft" target attack this week in London, this one, on a van parked behind Army careers office in Wembley.

Express leads with mainland Britain now in the front line of IRA's terrorist offensive.

Telegraph - Major alert.

Commons set up inquiry into BSE.

Southwood || Ch. Se. Ash
Tynock.

20 local authorities ban beef from schools; Meat & Livestock Commission publish advert: Beef is Safe.

John Gummer who has no fears about British beef to see leader of NFU today.

Opinion poll conducted for the Independent shows there is widespread scepticism towards MAFF's position on BSE, with 45/37% saying Ministry cannot be trusted to deal with issues like this, or to tell the truth 55/31%); 69% agree banning beef in schools is a sensible precaution. but British beef exports not yet severely damaged, Meat & Livestock Commission say.

Edwina Currie, writing in the Independent, explains why she is still eating beef. While praising MAFF Ministerial team, she says they should stop jumping around and stick to a sombre mien: if they calmly present the truth about BSE, they will be trusted to resolve the crisis in meat production.

Professor Lacey, who restarted scare, now pronounces lamb safe.

Sun wonders whether the whole country has gone cow mad. Beef is being banned without a shred of evidence it has harmed anyone. They will still carry on eating steak, sausages and burgers.

Today headline over picture of John Gummer giving hamburger to daughter: Please swallow this burger, darling, and help my career.

Malcolm Rifkind deplores threatened closure of part of Ravenscraig steel plant. Differences in Cabinet emerge - made clear Nicholas Ridley had nothing to do with wording of Scottish Secy's

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statement.

Telegraph headline: Rifkind at odds with party on steel cuts. His political future under renewed threat.

Mirror says you finally said goodbye to regaining support in Scotland. Furious political outcry in Scotland (Independent).

David ^{Lee}Butcher in the Times says Labour has taken remarkable strides towards presenting itself as a possible govt, but Tories will be skilled at pointing out that the men and the policies are untried. When it comes down to it, there is, perhaps, no enormous gap between what a Labour govt or a Tory govt will be doing in 1991-5. But the next two years will see some dedicated efforts by admen to suggest the chance is vast.

66 arrests in Newcastle upon Tyne as mob invades pitch and then rampage through town when Newcastle lose chance of promotion in match with local rivals Sunderland. Match delayed 21 minutes.

Estonians and Latvians convinced Moscow provoked the recent anti-independent demonstrations (Independent).

Bush says US/Soviet tensions will persist until Moscow eases its pressure on the Baltic republics (Independent).

Lithuanian olive branch on offer as Mrs Prunskiene flies to Moscow (Times).

US Secy of State deplores Kremlin's refusal to talk to Baltic republics and is to press Soviet leaders to explain why they have not begun discussions (Times).

Lord President gives strong indication Britain could join ERM later this year or early next year, in speech to British Property Federation (Independent).

Michael Binyon in Times says everyone knows that members of the European Parliament want ore power; the question now is how do they propose to get it? The first shots in their campaign will be fired in Strasbourg today when 12 MEPs confront the EC's foreign ministers.

John Biffen argues against joining ERM in Guardian.

David Trippier promises a comprehensive energy saving and anti pollution strategy in the autumn.

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Kohl warns his EC partners that unless they gave the European Parliament greater powers to exercise firm democratic control over the Community, Germany was unwilling to surrender any more national sovereignty to European institutions (Times).

The first state treaty to create a united Germany will be signed in Bonn tomorrow (Times).

Ministers from 34 industrialised countries agree at Bergen conference that they should not wait for final scientific evidence of environmental damage before acting to control pollution (Independent).

Britain to limit CO2 emissions by NOVember (Times). *Agree proposals*

Independent editorial welcomes the limited declaration of good intentions emerging from the Bergen conference on the Environment, where Ministers fired up to the need to spend huge sums of money on the problem. Saying you apparently recognised the global warming issue before most Western leaders, you now seem to have succumbed to schizophrenia: mindful of the duty of custodianship of the national heritage; but shrinking from controls and constraints.

John Hemming, Director of the Royal Geographical Society, writing in the Times under the heading "Exploitation will save the rainforest" sets a practical agenda for today's international conference in London.

"Rosebay" tanker oil spill reaches coast in South Devon; clean up may take a fortnight.

For third time in as many months the White House has increased its 1991 budget deficit forecast, and given a warning that firm remedial action must be taken if the relentless upward spiral is not to result in fiscal chaos (Times).

Express leader says France's refusal to pay back more than half £1.3 billion subsidy to Renault is "breathtaking way to play Europe by a nation which never ceases to preach its Euro credentials. What sort of row if Britain did same?

Britannia Airways to shed 250 staff because of a slump in package holidays.

Today says Lufthansa is ready to take over the troubled Dan Air.

Leaders of 25,000 manual workers at ICI reject 9.4% pay offer

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(Independent).

Lord President gives strong warning that industry will have to keep a tight grip on pay and other costs to avoid recession (Times).

Underground workers accept 9.3% pay rise.

Mirror, following up Times yesterday, highlights the "bonanza" for Ministers who have left your Cabinet.

Four railwayworkers killed by runaway truck on rail line in Herts.

Tiny Rowland sues Norman Tebbit for "substantial" damages for blocking them, as Minister, from bidding for Harrods.

An internal market in the health service would collapse within two years, with hospitals reduced to emergency admissions only, according to a simulation exercise conducted by health service managers and D/Health officials (Times).

→ Infant mortality rates fall to lowest level.

Lords Cttee report today will recommend that pupils of all abilities from primary school age should be encouraged to learn at least one or two foreign languages otherwise they will have little chance of competing on equal terms within the EC (Times).

John MacGregor launches £2.2million TV advertising campaign to get teachers back into the classroom (Times).

Tim Raison and Lord Joseph call on the Govt to give more help to couples with children, saying the Conservative Party's policies are inadvertently acting against the family, with Lord Joseph issued for the Council for Policy Studies, calling for changes to the tax system (Independent).

Govt fights off attempts from all sides of the House to extend Budget tax concessions on workplace nurseries (Independent).

13 lager louts from Liverpool told by judge they will not be freed until they pay £6,000 damages.

Bank of England say attempt was made to pass one of the £292 million haul of bearer bonds stolen on May 2 (Independent).

Report by Victim Support says families of murder victims are often neglected or treated with insensitivity by the police and other

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criminally justice agencies (Times).

Mail says the revelation that yet another local authority Merton employed a social worker with a string of convictions to work with children shows the continuing incompetence of most town halls. Home Office procedures are perfectly clear.

Another case of a community charge bill sent to family of dead person - for 96p, representing one day's liability before 78 year old-woman died.

You will chair today the first meeting of the group of Cabinet Ministers reviewing the operation of the community charge since the local govt elections (Times).

Two arrested following Trafalgar Square riot after newspapers published photos; a third identified and being sought.

Tories call on Scotland Yard to investigate allegations their supporters were left off electoral register in Haringey.

Tom King to be asked in Commons Question to identify which senior civil servants know the full details of the Wallace case (Independent).

Optimism after your meeting with Mr Mitsotakis that the Iraqi gun lorry driver will soon be free.

Bernard Levin in the Times sees human intelligence, and a noble discipline, betrayed in the drive to build a supergun. He says that Dr Bull epitomises the corruption of science that has gone on with ever-increasing speed since the Second World War. the corruption has nothing to do with ~~backbenchers~~^{handlin} or falsification of data; it is the principle that so much of today's science lives by: if it can be done, it must be done.

90 leading liberal figures of the Iranian revolution have written to President Rafsanjani denouncing what they see as a new tyranny in the country, and demanding restoration of constitutional freedoms (Independent).

EC/Iran Dublin meeting signals new hope for hostage talks as Iranian diplomat appears to offer a new chance of dialogue over British hostages (Independent).

times says hopes for British hostages in Beirut suffered a serious setback yesterday when Iran refused to meet a British official in Dublin and set a tough new pre-condition for talks, demanding that

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Britain should issue a statement confirming that it would refrain from insulting Muslim and Islam (Times).

Swedish branch of Save The Children Fund report accuses Israelis of killing 159 Palestinian children (Independent).

Britain Govt to challenge Bush to take responsibility for build up in overcrowded camps in Hong Kong (Independent).

BBC turns down Kenneth Baker's request to publish suppressed poll favourable to you. Mail says this refusal fools no-one. Does anyone imagine results would have been withheld if they had shown Tories wanted to ditch you? After years of denying anti Tory bias the BBC has been caught out.

Anglo-Catholic leaders in Church of England make it clear they would not welcome the appointment of Habgood as the next Archbishop of Canterbury (times).

Senior Cabinet Ministers are prepared to risk a constitutional clash by reintroducing the War Crimes Bill and forcing it through under the Parliament Act of 1911 during the next session of Parliament if Lords throw out Bill (times)

Independent in a surprisingly responsible editorial looks at Genscher's comments on the progressive removal of all nuclear weapons from West German soil. Saying a minimum level of deterrence will remain an essential part of the NATO armoury, it concludes that if Germany did not accept its share, it would be less amenable to a NATO discipline. NATO membership cannot be a la carte.

Lord Lewin, former CDS, warns Soviet arms could be sold off to unstable regimes, in a new threat to peace, as a result of scaling down of military power (Independent).

South African Govt abolishes racial segregation in most state hospitals with immediate effect, and says an announcement will be made soon concerning 44 other hospitals for whites (Times).

Eric Heffer recovering from serious operation for stomach cancer.

Bob Hawke to have prostate operation today.

Sammy Davis Jr, entertainer, dies of cancer, 64.

IRA

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Star - Why did they get away with it? There must be no soft targets any more.

Express - There is neither the means nor the manpower to make any but the minority of 2,000 military establishments secure against terrorism. It is pointless to blame the authorities for failing to take proper precautions. To do so is to play into the hands of the IRA.

BSE

Mirror says John Gummer is Corporal Jones of Dad's Army Cabinet. Faced with conflicting opinions he flaps around shouting "Don't panic". What is needed is a new Minister of Food whose only duty is to consumers.

Today says Ministers have been recklessly foolish in heaping blame on press for whipping up storm over BSE. But this is no flim-flam sensation. Mr Gummer has been exceedingly economical with the truth.

Times leader, under heading "Mad cows and Englishmen" says a categorical assurance from Mr Gummer that no parts of any British animal known to be affected - or its offspring - are being consumed in any way, even as pet food, and even abroad, is now necessary. If he gives that assurance, he is entitled to be believed. What worries the public is a total lack of confidence in ministerial assurances to date.

Express says there has been an excessive public reaction which is easy to condemn as unjustified but is largely spurred by the fear of the unknown. The Select Cttee inquiry is therefore welcome.

RAVENS CRAIG

Times says during DTI Questions it was noticeable that Douglas Hogg was much less inclined to condemn British Steel than was Mr Rifkind. Leader says that Thatcherism has come to Ravenscraig and some would say, not before time. The writing had long been on the wall. It points out that British Steel has no explaining to do. Its function is to present competitively-priced, high quality steel. That is not a role it could long sustain if investment were to be misdirected to unprofitable enterprise. All over England, former steel workers understand this point. Has 10 years of Conservative Govt still not brought it home to Scotland, nor even to the Scottish Office? It adds that a return to Govt intervention that characterised Labour's last period in power is unthinkable. Messrs Rifkind and Forsyth should not, by their

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words, offer encouragement to such reaction.

Ravenscraig steel mill to close - 770 jobs to go. In an uncharacteristically interventionist statement Mr Rifkind clear annoyance at the decision appeared to put him at odds with ministers who stressed it was a purely commercial judgement. Prompted speculation on Rifkind leaving Cabinet before next election.

Telegraph leader says the immediate questions are political and concern the position of Mr Rifkind and Govt's attitudes to privatisation. His saying the decision was deplorable was to turn back Conservative industrial policy 20 years.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr MacGregor opens Junior House at Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh and visits Edinburgh University
- DH: Mr Clarke receives courtesy call from Zimbabwean Health Minister, Dr Timothy Stamps; later attends dinner hosted by Yorkshire Regional Health Authority chairman, Yorkshire
- DOE: Mr Patten visits Tyne and Wear UDC
- DTI: Mr Ridley meets members of National Trade and Industry Forum; later meets Czechoslovakian Ambassador, London; later meets Soviet chairman of State Science Committee
- DTp: Mr Parkinson opens new exhibition at London Regional Transport Museum
- HMT: Mr Major addresses CBI annual dinner, London
- MAFF: Mr Gummer addresses the Framlingham Farmers' AGM, Framlingham
- DEM: Mr Nicholls attends CBI annual dinner, London
- DEM: Mr Eggar visits Leeds and Bradford City Action Teams
- DEM: Lord Strathclyde visits Cumbria and addresses Cumbria Tourist Board commercial members; later meets Cumbrian TEC board members
- DES: Mrs Rumbold speaks to the Choir Schools Association, St William's College, York
- DES: Mr Howarth addresses the Industrial Managers Award lunch, House of Commons
- DH: Mr Dorrell meets All-Party Disablement Group
- DOE: Mr Trippier addresses National Parks conference, Newcastle
- DOE: Mr Moynihan attends Company of Constructors Masters dinner, London
- DOE: Mr Heathcoat-Amory addresses NRA dinner, Taunton
- DOE: Mr Spicer visits Threshold Housing Association, Wandsworth
- DOE: Mr Chope addresses Age Concern conference on report on Very Sheltered Housing, London
- DTI: Lord Trefgarne hosts dinner for European Trade Promotion Organisation
- DTp: Mr Freeman addresses Moving to Docklands seminar, London
- DTp: Mr Atkins addresses Institution of Civil Engineers conference on "congestion in London"
- HMT: Mr Lilley addresses the East/West conference
- HO: Mr Patten addresses CBI Council on Payroll Giving, London
- HO: Lord Ferrers addresses Association of Charitable Foundations

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

ANNEX

- OAL: Mr Luce unveils statue of Zarub Tzereteli at Speyhawk PLC's new head office, London
- ODA: Mrs Chalker addresses Friends of the Earth conference, London
- SO: Mr Lang addresses CBI annual dinner, London
- WO: Mr Roberts attends CBI annual dinner, London
- WO: Mr Grist addresses Mental Health Commission meeting, Cardiff
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DH: Lady Hooper attends EC Health Minister's Council and meeting, Brussels
- OAL: Mr Luce attends two day EC Cultural Ministers meeting, Brussels (to 18 May)
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TV AND RADIO

- "Somebody's Children" ITV (1.30 pm)
Examines the issue of adopting children from abroad
- "Woman's Hour" BBC Radio 4 (2.00 pm)
Jenni Murray meets the Prime Minister
- "The Kingdom of Fun" BBC 2 (2.20 pm)
Looks at John Hall's personal crusade to regenerate north east
- "Public Affairs" BBC Radio 4 (7.20 pm)
The Oz Trial: Innocents Defiled
- "Analysis" BBC Radio 4 (8.00 pm)
- "Yes Minister" BBC2 (8.00 pm)
- "This Week" ITV (8.30 pm)
- "KYTV" puts the microscope on environmental issues BBC2 (9.00 pm)
- "Clive James - Postcard from Miami" BBC 1 (9.30 pm)
He sets out to discover the truth about Miami
- "Question Time" BBC 1 (10.20 pm)
Panellists are: Paul Foot, Dr Sheila Lawlor (Centre for Policy Studies), Jack Straw MP and Rt Hon David Waddington MP
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