

June 4, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

National Housing/Sleep Out Week
Princess Royal opens "British Days in Kiev" festival
Eisenhower centennial plaque ceremony (Lord President)
European Ministers of Justice conference (to Wed)
UN Development Programme Council, Geneva (to Wed)
Court proceedings and sentencing, 1989
New Vehicle registrations (April)
UK Reserves (May)
Retail sales and credit (April, final)
Launch, benefit inquiry line for disabled
Invest in Britain Bureau annual report
Government reply to Lords EC Committee on hill livestock allowances
Lords: Debate: 2nd Reading, War Crimes Bill
Question: NHS Trusts and ballots
BBC TV Panorama - State of Prison Service
ITV World in Action - Threat to Gorbachev from fascist groups
Yorkshire TV second instalment, Shoot to Kill programme

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Anniversary of Tiananmen Square. Some Western journalists beaten up by jumpy police.

You are personally briefed by Bush on Gorbachev Summit which ends without agreement on Germany and NATO.

Mail headline "The friendly Summit with the sting in the tail".
Guardian: "Gorbachev brings home the bacon".

Times says the summit ends with the personal relationship of the US and Soviet Presidents enhanced, but continuing disagreement on three of the major topics of discussion; the emigration of Soviet Jews, Lithuania and Germany (Times).

Independent says differences over Germany and Israel cloud summit success, as Gorbachev shocks Washington with spontaneous and unexpected warning that he will reintroduce curbs on emigration of Soviet Jews unless Israel provides guarantees they will not be settled in the occupied territories.

With opposition to his economic programme snowballing across the Soviet Union, Gorbachev is increasingly likely to sack Ryshkov on his return from the US (Times).

Yeltsin emerges as spectre at summit feast with Gorbachev having now to face the realities of domestic politics (Independent).

Marshall Yazov says a volunteer army could be created, following sweeping changes on the Soviet Union's existing defences (FT).

NATO in secret pact on naval cruise missiles with a secret Ministerial MOU providing for Cruise missiles on board US warships and submarines to be transferred to NATO command. UK defence ministers have avoided telling Parliament, although the vessels may use British ports (Independent).

11 British holidaymakers die and some 61 injured when a coach bursts a tyre - reports say at excessive speed - near Paris. Claims it was doing 80 mph - 25mph above limit.

Three Irishmen held in connection with murder on Friday of Lichfield soldier. Police said to be disappointed with response from public.

Today says the killings demonstrate the IRA's failure and cruel bankruptcy.

PRESS DIGEST

SDP winds itself up - gives up the ghost (FT) - amid recriminations by some who say party has served Owen's purpose.

Three SDP MPs to continue in Commons as independent social democrats and say they expect to fight next general election under that banner.

Sun says Kinnock faces a revolt over his willingness to take back Owen.

Today headline: Owen puts end to joke party. Elsewhere in the paper Paddy Ashdown opens doors to SDP members. Independent says the wind-up prompts a party scramble for SDP members.

Express forecasts a row over practice of Ministers taking lucrative jobs in City after Peter Walker joins British Gas.

Colin Moynihan makes it clear he will ask FIFA to pull England out of the World Cup if fans run riot.

Labour Party want passports to the confiscated rather than pass buck to Italians.

Express says Mr Moynihan is ready to step down or move to another Department.

Times says Lords are likely to dash plan for Nazi war crimes trials. Leader says the War Crimes Bill is 40 years too late and that it is not a sensible way forward in the lasting fight against anti-Semitism. The Bill would break the principle, hallowed in common law, that no man may be punished retrospectively for an offence for which he could not justly have been tried at the time.

A third have so far refused to pay community charge. Scots still owe £100million from last year.

Hammersmith & Fulham, first of the community charge appeal authorities to go to court, is facing cuts of at least £4million, which will affect front-line services such as education and community care (Times).

Labour says that four Ministers and 46 Tory MPs in marginal seats risk an embarrassing defeat as community charge bills in their areas rise with the withdrawal of the safety net grant (Times).

France and Germany thought unlikely to comply with EC ruling revoking their bans on British beef imports (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

John Edmonds, of GMB, rules out any form of pay agreement with a future Labour Govt (Times).

Good news: Institute of Economic Affairs, in survey of 1,000 economists, finds Govt is wrong to reduce spending; wrong to delay entry into ERM; wrong to put priority on fighting inflation; and wrong about community charge which will push up house prices. Their director, Graham Mather, says they are trapped in a '60s time warp.

Andrew Alexander, in Mail, asks why are Britain's economists so stupid. It has, of course, long been obvious some people never learn. So many of them are out of touch and resent the real world.

Assn of British Chambers of Commerce says fears of a rise in unemployment are wrong because of export boom. Far more plan to hire staff than lay them off.

Report says the company car retains its popularity as the chief employee perk despite increases in taxes of more than 200% in the past 4 years.

British & Commonwealth Holdings, the financial services group, collapses making the largest insolvency in British corporate history (Independent).

Series of confidential studies on recycling policy, seen by the Times, shows that the Govt is now addressing directly the widely discussed subject of environmental taxes (Times).

Solihull school offering pupils £5 a term for full attendance in effort to fight truancy.

Assn of Christian Teachers say teachers with strong Christian beliefs are being driven out of religious education by schools who treat them with suspicion and even hostility (Times).

Child Poverty Action Group claims poor are getting poorer because of holes in safety net. It says some social security claimants are much worse off under the new social security system than if they were still paid under the old rules (Independent).

Today claims Whips have dropped their opposition to women Whips and Edwina Currie is in line to be first in Office.

PRESS DIGEST

Wakefield Prison Governor, after Home Office bars Times from visiting his prison, accuses his superiors of renegeing on staffing agreements. Manpower shortages were holding back the development of therapy courses there for murderers and sexual offenders (Times).

Key witness refuses to give evidence to May Inquiry into Guildford Four (Independent).

Times says Iranian Govt appears to have adopted a conciliatory tone towards the Rushdie affair, which remains the biggest stumbling block in resumption of diplomatic relations between Britain and Iran.

You welcome Tehran's bid to heal rift with Iran - and your hopes rise for release of hostages.

And you are a great fan of Gorbachev's in your BBC broadcast.

Today says Britain and Iran have moved a step closer to a deal to free hostages.

You defend Govt's target for controlling emissions of CO2 in BBC World Service phone-in (Times).

Sun attacks Yorkshire TV's "Shoot to Kill", first part of which was screened last night. It says that, like Thames over "Death on the Rock", YTV are prepared to weep buckets of tears for terrorists. Sun readers believe the only good IRA man is a dead one.

Ivor Stanbrook says the programme is pure propoganda for the IRA. Michael Brown MP says we have to accept that the BBC and ITV are as irresponsible as they like.

Over 800,000 homes now have satellite dishes (FT).

Mandela has cyst removed from bladder; has talks with de Klerk just before leaving on 6 week world tour.

6 US warships standing ready to evacuate Americans from Liberia (Independent).

Washington DC Mayor Barry's trial on cocaine charges opens today (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Middle East impasse a danger, says Foreign Secy, who calls for the US to maintain its constructive engagement in the search for peace (Independent).

Bulgaria's largest opposition party, the Union of Democratic Forces, has accused disgruntled Communists of intimidating voters (FT).

King Olav of Norway, 86, has a stroke.

SUMMIT COMMENT

Mirror enthusiastic. The participants, it says, struck deals when they could agree and agreed to differ when they couldn't. A remarkable performance.

Independent editorial says, compared to expectations, the Bush-Gorbachev summit has been disappointing. It looks at the Soviet problems which led Gorbachev to be more of a demandeur, rather than equal, at the Summit. As the political will to work for radical political change diminishes, in the not too distant future there may be no superpowers. Saying the Bush administration recognise this and are settling down to manage the sudden collapse of Soviet power and the gradual recession of American power that goes with it, the paper advocates greater Japanese and European involvement in global diplomacy.

Mary Dejevsky, in Times, writes that abroad Gorbachev's emotional spontaneity may be an endearing characteristic and a political asset. In the Soviet Union, however, it has been a recurrent weakness which has aggravated and increased his original difficulties, weakened his position, and may yet bring his downfall.

FT leader on Washington summit, says bilateral is beginning to look rather artificial. It marks a stage, but only a stage, in a drama which now has many actors. Whatever degree of gratitude, admiration or sympathy the West may feel towards Gorbachev, it is not with him personally but the USSR and its component peoples that relations have to be conducted. It is in no one's interest for the West to prolong his rule by sacrificing the right of Soviet citizens to decide their own destiny.

Guardian says Gorbachev's journey was necessary. He is right to stress that the German problem can only be solved with the agreement of those who won the last war.

PRESS DIGESTSDP COMMENT

Star - What a humiliating come down for Owen. He will be remembered only for his monumental arrogance.

Today leader says the SDP has not been a complete waste. It has played an important part in shifting Labour from extremism to electability.

Express feels some sympathy for Owen and his brave followers at the failure of their enterprise. But Owen's analysis is correct: the SDP lacks the base to be a credible political force. It hopes he is not ready to join the Labour Party - and Nelling and Pat Wall - after all the adventures of the last nine years.

Independent says Owen has no reason to feel that the great crusade was a failure, with all their objectives, save on electoral reform, to some extent embraced by the Labour Party. Because Owen's influence in a number of key constituencies, Labour would be wise to treat him with respect.

Times leader says Owen's fall from grace demonstrates that politics in Britain is robust against mavericks, be they benign or dangerous. But his fall is sad for all that.

Writing an epitaph for the SDP in Times, William Rodgers says the sad end of David Owen's little adventure will make no significant difference to the current scene, although his personal endorsement of Labour could be his final gesture.

Guardian says yesterday was no more than the formal turning off of the Sainsbury life support system for the SDP. But there are permanent gains from a failed experiment - rescuing Labour from collapse.

CHINA

Times leader says that since Tiananmen Square, the gulf has widened between China's stubborn old men and the rest of the formerly communist world. A country which a year ago took pride, on the economic front, in being in the vanguard of communist reformers has nurtured all its formidable apparatus of revolutionary justice to compel an alienated population to bow to one-party dictatorship. Ironically, the armed suppression of Tiananmen Square's demonstration can now be seen to have hastened the dissolution of the communist monopoly in Central Europe and the Soviet Union itself.