

June 6, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

- Prime Minister sees Premier of New South Wales
 - NATO Foreign Ministers meeting, Turnberry (to Fri)
 - ILO conference, Geneva opens (to June 27)
 - Lord Bruce-Gardyne memorial service - Prime Minister attends
 - COMARE meets
 - Building Societies conference - Richard Ryder
 - Merchant fleet statistics 1989
 - Training credits announcement
 - Overseas travel & tourism (Mar)
 - Treasury minute in reply to PAC reports 7, 8, 9
 - Final report, geography curriculum working group
 - HMI report on teacher education
 - Review of Council for National Academic Awards
 - Commons: Questions: Scotland
 - Debates: Opposition Day on child welfare;
Teachers' pay Order;
Adjt - Brymbo steel closure
 - Select Cttee: TCSC: National Savings officials
 - Defence: Eastern Europe - Lord
Carrington and Denis Healey
 - Lords: Questions: BSE
 - Debates: 3rd Rdg, British Ports Bill; 2nd Rdg,
Rights of Way Bill
 - Lord President speaks at greater London Alcohol Advisory
Service
 - Foreign Secy addresses overseas development conference
 - John MacGregor gives Bloomfield Memorial lecture, Portsmouth;
meets employers on teachers pay machinery
 - Kenneth Clarke speaks at provincial editors' conference
 - Nicholas Ridley opens London telephones computer centre
 - John Gummer opens National Sheep Assn event, Northumberland
 - Chris Patten at Royal Fine Arts Commission
 - Richard Freeman at Manchester Metro link tracklaying
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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Times leads with Gorbachev facing mounting troubles when he returned to the Kremlin last night, with more ethnic riots and economic disintegration hastening the rise of Yeltsin. Your visit is expected to give the embattled Gorbachev a boost, with Anglo-Soviet relations the best they have been since the Second World War.

Mail headline - Maggie off to fix face-saver for Gorbachev.

Guardian plays up "Soviet bid to end UK deterrent" - striking at the heart of the Anglo-American special relationship.

Times says that on the eve of your visit to the Soviet Union, astonished Russians were given the show business view of a British leader through the TV comedy "Yes, Prime Minister".

State of emergency and curfew imposed in Soviet republic of Kirghizia after 11 die in ethnic clashes (Independent).

Romania urged to devalue currency by half within 3 months as first step towards full convertability within 18 months (FT).

Soviet troops and families based in East Germany worried about cost of living in capitalist world as from next month they will have to pay for everything outside their bases and barracks in hard Western currency (Times).

Times leader says that events in Eastern Europe make it urgent to streamline COCOM procedures adding that COCOM should settle for the British scheme.

Efforts to find a face-saving formula for Moscow on German question shift to Copenhagen (Independent).

Roh-Gorbachev talks raise hopes for Korean unity (Independent).

Independent editorial says the British Council should be given extra funds to expand its services in Eastern Europe so that English-English rather than American-English is taught there.

Conor Cruise O'Brien in the Times urges the West to heed Soviet concern for its security over a unified Germany. If German membership of NATO remains a stumbling block, a united Germany outside NATO would be preferable to Soviet troops remaining on the soil of a united Germany while the argument drags on.

PRESS DIGEST

West German defence officials believe Soviet Union might accept a united Germany as part of NATO provided no nuclear weapons were based there (FT).

Britain threatens to ban French and German food if they do not unban British beef - first target will be French soft cheese.

French beef federation urge their Govt to maintain ban on British beef on the eve of critical EC meeting on the issue, as Saudia Arabia becomes first non-EC country to ban British imports (Independent).

Nicholas Ridley envisages vast single market including former Warsaw Pact countries, in a warning against rushing into economic, political and monetary union (Independent).

Police issue photofit picture of man they seek in connection with Lichfield IRA shooting.

Three suspects detained by police investigating IRA killings have been released; 3 others still being questioned (FT).

British soldiers in Europe being issued with German style car number plates on lefthand drive cars.

Sir John Hermon says Yorkshire TV's "Shoot to Kill" programme was inaccurate and without credibility and sought to give succour to terrorists.

Driver of coach which crashed in France, killing 11, likely to be charged with involuntary murder.

Newly qualified drivers face ban on drinking for first 2 years of driving and probationer identification - Robert Atkins, thinking aloud.

Today says this is a half baked idea; it wants an absolute ban on drinking and driving.

Express finds it overdue and sensible for new drivers, but wants a lower limit than now for more experienced drivers.

Mail - Tough but fair.

"Halifax" says house prices show no signs of recovering this year.

Interest rates to be raised by more than 25% on some National Savings' accounts to encourage the saving habit.

PRESS DIGEST

Plans for a special high-speed rail link with the Channel Tunnel could be shelved by the Cabinet because of a request by the developers for a direct grant, a significant loan, a guaranteed rate of return on investment and a call for the Treasury to meet the bill for cost over-runs: in effect a blank cheque subsidy which could run into a cost to the taxpayer of billions of pounds (Independent).

Lord King's pay rises 20% to over £515,000 from BA; total earnings put at near £1million.

Three draft directives on part-time employment expected to be adopted today by EC threaten the jobs of up to 5.5million British workers according to senior Whitehall sources (Times).

Sir Leon Brittan to deliver verdict on BAe/Rover on June 20 (FT).

Local authorities likely to be more reluctant to seek convictions against Sunday traders following successful legal appeal against Sunday trading (Independent).

Telegraph says Commons should straighten out Sunday trading once and for all.

Guardian says the Govt for once is too timid.

Newly privatised Skills Training Agency to make 20% reduction in staffing less than four months after buy-out by civil servants (Independent).

Seaside resorts will in future have to proclaim their pollution problems as well as their traditional amenities (Times).

David Trippier says local councils will be asked to display levels of beach pollution (Independent).

Sun gets to work on Spain's "filthy" beaches - dozens of which, it says, have failed European pollution tests.

The "bank" of CFCs and halons trapped in products four and a half times bigger than 1989 consumption of CFCs (Independent).

Use of CFCs has fallen by 80% since 1986 (FT).

Brazil's President Collor sends troops to guard rainforests (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Survey for Govt shows few local authorities have schemes for recovering and recycling chemicals that damage the ozone layer in spite of a high awareness among councils of international obligations (Times).

Times says that Kenneth Clarke has submitted a bid to the Treasury for £3billion more to ease the introduction of the new reforms to NHS and prevent a cash crisis in general election year.

Teachers split over history reform with Historical Assn due to announce tomorrow that it is prepared to recommend its members to operate the new curriculum provided ministers are prepared to accept minor changes (Times).

Express says down and outs sleeping rough turned their fire yesterday on the "cheap publicity stunt" by celebrities during Sleep Out Week - "a pathetic and insulting gesture", they say.

Jean Rook says that if the self-appointed patrons of the poor were not prepared to do the rotten job properly, they shouldn't have done such damage to their own cardboard credibility.

According to new analysis of EC Commission study, the number of poor in Britain increased more rapidly between 1980-95 than in any other EC country (Independent).

Mr Clarke signals Govt determination to overturn Lords defeat over earmarked cash for community care (Independent).

Times leader discusses the problems facing the 1991 World Student Games in Sheffield saying that a third failure must deter such events coming to Britain again. Yet as long as they are planned by naive local councillors with stars in their eyes, such failure is unavoidable. The student games should be sent back to Duisburg.

Express - Thatcher to fight Lords over Nazis.

Wiesenthal, Nazi hunter, appeals to Govt not to drop War Crimes Bill.

Fresh Commons vote on war crimes likely as you signal your support for such action. Cabinet likely to reach decision after a further debate in the Commons (Independent).

Sun says you are ready to use Parliament Acts to overturn Lords' vote; leader says the peers are just silly old buffers and bloody old nuisances.

PRESS DIGEST

Mirror wants to know what kind of people are they who forgive or forget genocide? The second chamber should be more attuned to the deep feelings of the nation.

Independent editorial says there is no constitutional crisis over the Lords' decision on the War Crimes Bill: the Lords has exercised its residual powers in a proper manner, although the paper believes the decision wrong. The re-introduction of the Bill, if necessary over the heads of the Lords, would make a clear and timely moral statement that Britain will have no truck with anti-Semitism nor provide a haven for those who have committed atrocities.

Today says as a debating society Lords has no equal but it is a democratic outrage. They cannot be reformed; only abolished.

But Paul Johnson, in Mail, welcomes Upper House for once getting the upper hand, and Mail leader is no longer sure in its original support of the Commons. The court actions could degenerate into a farce. The Govt could be wise to think again.

Express writer wonders whether peers will pay price for defiance.

Times leader supports the Lords action saying they were right to use their constitutional power to reject the War Crimes Bill. The Lords have performed their existing function immaculately. The Commons should now reconsider the Bill in the light of sensible comments made on it by the Lords.

Andrew Adonis, Fellow of Nuffield College, Oxford, concludes that the peers' action on Monday may do more than anything else in recent years to put Lords reform on the political agenda.

Guardian says it isn't a constitutional crisis but a moral crisis. The Lords behaved perfectly properly but foolishly. They just got it wrong. It is a shameful message to the world and the Commons should not hesitate to put it into reverse.

ITN plans staff cut of 90 to save £2million as BBC raises pay offer to 9.4%.

Sun says BBC is a bad joke for giving impression in a programme that Hiroshima bomb began cold war.

Govt scientists may have misled jury in Maguire case (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Rome police deport English fan dubbed Britain's worst soccer yob as a result of his being recognised.

Express makes the score so far Hooligans 0 Law & Order 4 - highly encouraging to see international co-operation paying off.

Driver of Iraqi gun detained in Greece at last told he can go home - cleared.

Pan Am jet bound for US made emergency landing at Prestwick after a bomb scare. No explosives found (FT).

Iran's spiritual leader calls for Rushdie to be handed over to British Moslems to be killed for blasphemy - a setback to hopes of a better relationship between Britain and Iran.

Walesa's attempts to fire one of Solidarity's leaders threatens break-up of Solidarity team (Independent).

Eritrean rebel movement agrees to a US-Soviet plan for a relief operation (Independent).

Malta to seek EC membership (FT).

Mitsotakis - first Greek Prime Minister to visit US in 27 years - rebuilding foreign relationships (FT).