

June 11, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

- First public hearing, Woolf inquiry into Strangeways
 - Mandela in Bonn (to Wed)
 - EC Agriculture Council, Luxembourg (to Tue)
 - ECOFIN, Luxembourg - Chancellor
 - Euro Parliament (all week)
 - NALGO conference (all week)
 - Merchant Fleet stats 1989
 - Hosiery workers' conference (to Thur)
 - National Graphical Assn conf (all week)
 - Consultation results on NHS reforms
 - Retail sales (May - prov)
 - Producer price index (May - prov)
 - Commons: Questions: Transport; Arts; Civil Service
Debates: EC Affairs; PSA & Crown Suppliers
Bill
 - Lords: Debate: Report, Social Security Bill;
2nd Rdg, Young horse riders' Bill
 - Lord Chancellor addresses Backbenchers
 - Lord President addresses National Drinkwise press conf.
 - John Wakeham signs Memo of Understanding on energy R&D, Canada
 - Michael Howard speaks to ILO, Geneva
 - Malcolm Rifkind at destruction, Wester Hailes flats
 - David Hunt meets Welsh LAs on finance
 - Kenneth Clarke gives interview to FT
 - Chris Patten lunches with Unilever
 - Robert Jackson speaks at 25th ann. SERC; visits Student Loans
Company
 - John MacGregor on Panorama "Selling our Schools"
 - World Cup: England v. Republic of Ireland, Sardinia
Scotland v. Costa Rica, Genoa
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PRESS DIGESTMain News

Reports that Soviet Union is to trade united German membership of NATO for economic help. Mail puts price at £12billion.

Times p1 lead says Soviet request, considered to be near-unrefusable, is being dealt with by West Germany although they refuse to see it as part of a deal on NATO membership.

Bernard Levin in the Times thinks a united Germany should join NATO regardless of Gorbachev.

Independent says you are convinced that Gorbachev is ready to drop his demand for a neutral Germany. Britain is to back measures to raise Soviet confidence after re-unification.

Soviet economy in dire straits with overall production down 1.1% over same period in 1989 and oil production down 5% (FT).

Plenty of coverage of your visit to Leninakan - welcome to the world's most beautiful Prime Minister (Express).

You get agreement to our Moscow Embassy staying in existing building (Times).

Troubles deepen in Russia as Yeltsin announces his plan for economic reform saying he will go to the people directly if thwarted by Communist hardliners (Times).

Vlaclav Havel's Civil Forum wins half the vote in resounding victory in Czech elections. Bulgarian appears to have elected Communist Govt.

Lord Carver, in Independent, says that NATO will soon be "totally inappropriate" and suggests that the RAF should be abolished. The US should disengage from Europe and the EC should take on a security function.

Hungary to withdraw forces from Warsaw Pact (FT).

NATO concludes plans for complete restructuring of forces in Germany, with smaller British Rhine Army broken into multinational units (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

FT leader on NATO says your blunt statement that modernised nuclear weapons must continue to based forward is out of touch with the need to take account of the new situation in Germany and the common desire to offer assistance to the Soviet Union. To rekindle the nuclear argument now at the time when Moscow appears to be close to accepting the West's reassurances on arms control and political co-operation risks upsetting both the Germans and the Russians. If a delay in the whole unification process is to be avoided more restraint is in order.

Death toll from Khirghizia and Usbekistan clashes rises to 115.

You call on America and Canada to form closer financial links with EC.

West German Social Democrats split over economic union with the East as some members worry about hidden costs of unification (Independent).

A weekend of great escapes - convicted murderer who was one of Strangeways ringleaders escapes from police station; the pilot of a British Airways jet who was half sucked out of the cockpit at 23,000 feet when window shattered; and 13 month-old baby boy, operated on for shrapnel in his back when Animal Rights explosive detonates under passing car.

And IRA injure 17 when bomb in roof of TA Club in London goes off at birthday party.

Star says if there are loonies to rival IRA they are Animal Rights activists.

Mirror says the fanatical supporters of Animal Liberation Front have been treated with kid gloves for too long. Today writes of a new breed of criminal terrorist to join IRA swine.

Express says there is no doubt about the objective of animal liberationists - it is to murder someone.

World Cup

41 Germans arrested on violence charges, 10 police injured; riot police charge 20 drunken English fans after fight with locals.

PRESS DIGEST

Sun, commenting on the fact that 14 English fans face charges in Sardinia this week, hopes Italians will be as tough as they can with them if they are found guilty. Mirror says 92 English fans have so far been arrested.

Express says Midland Montague have costed Labour's programme at £50billion on top of current spending levels - equivalent to doubling basic rate of tax.

Mirror claims Jeffrey Archer has said community charge was a bad mistake.

Independent on Sunday poll claims one in 8 say they will never pay the charge.

This week's figures on inflation and trade could dampen market euphoria about an early ERM entry (Independent).

Institute of Fiscal Studies says UK inflation rate would fall 3 points to 6.4% if it were calculated on same basis as Europartners' rate. Building a house is an investment.

Rodney Lord, in the Times, looks at Labour's planned tax reforms believing they are on the right lines but says they must still try harder. He adds that Labour will need to be careful if it is not to trip on tax reform as it did in the last General Election.

Oxford Economic Forecasting says economy is on brink of a dramatic comeback because of rising world demand for our goods.

Labour Party claims average family is £300 a year worse off because of total tax changes since Govt came to office.

Conflicting claims from pay surveys about pay trends for managers and white collar workers - Incomes Data says they are rising faster; Telegraph index shows rise is slowing.

Paul Johnson, in Mail, on Kinnock "the invisible man of politics" - a reference to his reluctance to give media interviews. (He is on Panorama on June 18). Tories are right to drag him back to centre stage.

Hardline Muslim Manifesto will reject integration into British way of life (Independent).

Kenneth Clarke, in BBC's On the Record, confident he will get more money for NHS in this year's PES round.

PRESS DIGEST

Guardian says Govt is in a pickle. It cannot launch a restructured NHS next April, so watch out for bold words and extremely cautious policy changes.

Tory dominated Commons energy committee will censure Cecil Parkinson, as Energy Secy, for failing to determine the true costs of building Sizewell B nuclear power station and for mishandling electricity privatisation (Times).

Lord Young to set off another "jobs for the boys" row when it is announced this week he is to become chairman of Cable & Wireless. Labour will urge you to block job.

Coloroll to cut its labour force by 1,000, but 8,000 will keep their jobs.

7,500 miners to lose jobs in 15 months instead of over 3 years.

Guardian claims hundreds of flasks used for transporting nuclear waste have safety defects.

Tory nice guy David Hunt making an impact in Wales (FT).

Industrial Research & Development spending hardly grew in real terms between 1985 and 1988, DTI advisers say (Independent).

Today says Govt is to scrap Chunnel link and spend money on improving commuter services.

Mail leader says we are not raring to go. To turn down underwriting high speed link would be tunnel vision of the worst kind. Govt will not be thanked by posterity for ducking it.

You intervene to try to bring MCA theme park to Rainham Marshes instead of Paris - but Govt aid could run into EC problems (Independent).

FT says an interdepartmental committee has been set up in Whitehall with your support to help produce a financial package to persuade MCA to build a £2billion complex including Universal Film Studios and a theme park at Rainham Marshes.

TV Wales appeal for Towyn flood victims raises only £900.

Times says the Govt is to scrap the Press Council and replace it with a new body as Home Secy accepts main thrust of the Calcutt Cttee report.

PRESS DIGEST

ITN "massively overspent" and in "a rather serious financial position".

Sun rejects idea being canvassed that Govt will drop War Crimes Bill - no way, it says. House of Lords must not be allowed to stand in the way of justice.

Robert Kilroy-Silk, in Express, also says war crimes should not go unpunished. He says there is a condescending anti-Semitism in Westminster, especially among older Tories.

Times says that Home Office officials are examining the prospects of extraditing suspected Nazi war criminals from Britain back to their homelands in the Baltic republics as an alternative to reintroducing the war crimes legislation.

Today claims 32 Chief Constables would lose their jobs in plans for a national police force.

NACRO report says 10 prisons in England and Wales are more than 50% overcrowded, while several hold almost twice as many inmates as they should (Times).

Govt likely to delay completion of Cttee stage of Courts & Legal Services Bill for a week while it seeks a compromise with the legal profession over proposals to restrict a client's right to choose a barrister or a solicitor to represent him in the county court (Times).

Labour poised to back incorporation of European Human rights Charter into British law (Independent).

Govt's programme for building rented property severely disrupted by cash crisis at Housing Corporation (Independent).

Gallup Poll in Telegraph shows low confidence in Govt's policies for the family. Telegraph leader wants more money spent on marriage guidance and industry to spend more on nurseries.

Ronald Butt, in the Times, says reflection on the impact of the EC on BSE has cost a shaft of new light on the argument over the sovereignty of the member nations. The difference of opinion over the risks to human health arising from BSE also illuminate the relationship between the pronouncements of the "experts" and the rights of public opinion.

PRESS DIGEST

Professor Richard Stacey will tell Commons inquiry into BSE on Wednesday that methods now being used to protect humans against possible infection are "fundamentally nonsense".

Institute of Economic Affairs report says the £3million of taxpayers' money devoted to combatting the salmonella-in-eggs affair has been a waste of time and money. It argues that poor standards of hygiene, particularly in the kitchens of public institutions, and not contaminated eggs lie behind the sharp increase in salmonella food poisoning over the past few years (Times).

Junior hospital doctors to ballot on strike action in shorter hours campaign (Independent).

Dr Sheila Lawlor, of the Centre for Policy Studies, says teacher training is failing to produce well-educated teachers and concentrates too much on "modish" educational methods. Her report goes on to say that all graduate teachers should be trained on the job and university education departments closed (times).

5,000 adults with social and physical disabilities lose training places as Govt cuts funding (Independent).

Ramblers' Assn attacks MOD for grabbing training land and blocking public access (Independent).

Ten days before Mandela arrives in the USA, the Bush administration has indicated it is considering lifting sanctions against South Africa (times).

Pakistan govt paralysed by tension between Bhutto and her army chiefs over the crisis in Sind (Independent).

Alberto Fujmori, son of Japanese immigrants, has claimed victory in Peruvian elections over novelist Mario Vargas Llosa (FT).

YOUR TOUR

Star p11 - Maggie in quake shaker. 100,000 ecstatic Armenians give you an astonishing welcome.

Sun p4 - Maggie's fury as KGB thugs trample kids. She is mobbed by Soviet fans.

Mirror p4 - Thatcher in demo scare. You had to obey order from badly rattled KGB general and abandon walkabout.

PRESS DIGEST

Today p2 - 100,000 in Maggiecrush. Virtually entire population of Leninakan turns out.

Express p7 - Welcome to the world's most beautiful Prime Minister. Robert Kilroy-Silk says it is a big mistake for you to have gone overboard for Gorbachev, the ex-KGB man. He needs watching, Kilroy-Silk never expected you to fall for his charm.

Mail p16 - Maggie conquers. Thousands fight for glimpse of Premier as Armenia goes wild.

Independent p1 lead - "Moscow" will accept a NATO Germany. Thatcher flies home convinced Gorbachev will back down.

Times p1 - Armenia Quake city fetes Thatcher - You cut short your visit to Armenia on security advice as thousands of exuberant well-wishers seemed likely to mob you.

Under the heading "'Loyal Thatcher may be backing a loser" Robin Oakley in the Times says if you had any suspicions that in backing your old friend Gorbachev up to the hilt you were supporting a loser, you did not show them. The visit was quite unlike the triumphant occasion of 1987. This time, with you as far behind Labour in the polls as you were then ahead, and with Gorbachev beset by troubles, it was low-key group therapy for world leaders running short of time.

Times leader says as you return from Moscow, your antennae must be telling you that two strands in British politics are fast coalescing. One is a widespread expectation of lower defence spending. The other is a demand by ministers for more money for health, education and transport. The MOD's heavy overspending in the current financial year indicates how far it is still no-go territory for Thatcherism.

Guardian p6 - Armenians seek solace from Nanny Thatcher. You have become a revered symbol of envied Western values.

Independent editorial asks whether former Iron Ladies possess political skills to bargain and cajole the military alliance of NATO into an association with a much vaguer aim. The answer is "Surely not". You must now seek to advance the British interest in an increasingly secure, capitalist continent. That means playing the part of a cog - no more - in the diplomatic, commercial and military circles now spinning.

PRESS DIGEST

FT - You set out to sell Ukraine the British way of life as even hard bitten Westminster journalists accompanying you began to look a little bemused as the entourage swept into an expensive recreation of a 3-bed 1970s semi.

FT - Huge crowds cheered you in Leninakan - nationalists waved anti-Gorbachev placards.