

June 14, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

- Prime Minister's dinner for Sonny Ramphal
 - Trevi Group meeting, Ireland - Home Secy (to Fri)
 - Unemployment figures (May)
 - Result of NALGO Admin & Clerical (NHS) ballot
 - Average earnings (April)
 - Social Services Cttee report "Community Care: Choice for Service Users"
 - Wire workers' union conference (to Fri)
 - HSE press conference on first aid at work
 - British adults dietary and nutritional survey
 - Prison Officers Assn ballot closes
 - ? Channel Tunnel rail link decision (possible statement)
 - Commons: Questions: Home Office; Prime Minister
 - Debates: Training/Low income stats
 - Lords: Debates: Report, NHS Bill; 2nd Rdg, Traffic Temp. Restrictions Bill
 - Foreign Secy visits The Hague (to Fri)
 - Chancellor speaks in Christchurch
 - Norman Lamont speaks in Sutton
 - Michael Howard at Prince of Wales Youth Business Trust reception
 - Cecil Parkinson addresses Travel Trade Gazette
 - David Hunt addresses Euro trade event, Cardiff
 - Kenneth Clarke meets Anglo-German journalists
 - Chris Patten visits Building Employers' Confed; meets Foreign Press Assn
 - Stephen Dorrell at NHS trust managers' conf.
 - BBC TV Question Time: Chris Patten, Tony Benn, David Blake, Ann Burdus
 - Angela Rumbold on BBC Radio 4 "File on Four" about voluntary aided schools
-

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Labour's ICM poll shows Labour's lead recovering to 19%.

Romanian troops fire on rioters in Bucharest as authorities try to clear demonstrators' camp in University Square; up to 12 killed, and 93 injured.

Express says Romanian people will have to endure further agonies before they fully win freedom.

At least 20,000 pro-democracy supporters demonstrate in Belgrade against Communist party's monopoly on power (Independent).

Moscow agrees to restore some supplies of fuel and raw materials to Lithuania.

Supreme Soviet approve economic reforms, although only as a statement of intention, but the main practical proposals including steep rise in food have been postponed (Times).

Gorbachev comes up with a new formula to hold his disintegrating country together, whereby it could be transformed into a loose confederation (Independent).

Gorbachev and Yeltsin have agreed to work together, but Gorbachev not well enough yesterday to meet Lithuanian leaders.

Independent editorial says power seems to be passing with great rapidity from the Soviet Govt to the republics. Yesterday's Soviet Parliament decision to defer the proposed package of economic reforms, increases the incentive for the republics to attempt their own reforms. It concludes that as a pragmatist, Gorbachev may now decide to be more liberal in his economic and constitutional policies or else the other republics will follow Lithuania and push ahead without him.

Bruce Kent, chairman of CND, writing in the Times, says the present discussion about the future of Europe is in difficulty because of disagreement about fundamental assumptions. Many see NATO not as an effective peace-keeping shield but a symptom and contributory cause of the cold war.

PRESS DIGEST

Peter Jenkins, writing in the Independent, says that on reading through the debates on the War Crimes Bill, he is persuaded the Commons is right and the Lords wrong. On the controversy surrounding the Lords' role, he comments that as Kinnock is not enthusiastic for reform, nothing is likely to happen in a hurry. He concludes that a difference of opinion on this matter should be perfectly acceptable, and there is no need to elevate it into a constitutional crisis.

Transport and Environment groups bemoan the expected death today of the Euro link - will mean even more congestion in South East.

Conflicting views from press. Sun says you are right to resist demands that taxpayers' money be poured into the project.

Express says Govt is considering a compromise, spending millions on SE network to provide a fast link for Chunnel passengers and a super service for commuters.

Chris Buckland, in Express, wonders why Prescott is calling on Govt to fund the high speed link when Labour joined the Govt in 1987 in banning any such aid.

Telegraph leader says somehow this link must be built if the Tunnel is to make sense. It seems reasonable Govt should meet environmental costs. Prescott has sounded more convincing than Parkinson in his analysis of transport issue.

Guardian leader says that unless the Govt swallows pride and dogma it may find the electorate's reaction will make the revolt of the Kentish middle classes look tame.

Trafalgar House set to embarrass the Govt by pulling out of bidding to build Britain's first major private toll road - the Birmingham northern relief road (Independent).

Shares at record levels in anticipation of entry into ERM.

Mirror claims Cabinet is in disarray over what to do about community charge.

Times says you and Chris Patten are at odds over community charge review as they interpret "lively discussion" as meaning something more tempestuous.

NALGO leader says poll tax-capped councils could be affected by industrial action if they cut jobs (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Labour moving towards general election commitment to bring back rates within a year of coming to office but divisions remain over how they will meet commitment to make its alternative reflect ability to pay (Times).

Teachers in Barnsley expected to take unofficial strike action today over charge capping although NUT leaders have told them that it would be irresponsible (Times).

Express wants to know what John Smith is talking about - "we shall not spend what, as a nation, we have not earned" when the lowest cost figure put in their plans is £12billion in first year.

Sun sets out contrasting views of Kinnock - and shows sympathy with him against the intellectual elite who snipe at him.

Lord Ponsonby, Labour's Chief Whip in Lords, dies, 59.

Haughey optimistic about Northern Ireland after his meeting with you.

EC Commission proposals to harmonise conditions for part-time and temporary workers angers Michael Howard who calls them unnecessary and misguided and deliberately designed to discourage part-time work (Independent).

Express says Govt is ready to go to court to challenge charter - it could threaten 5million workers.

Mail leader says in fighting EC proposals you are not intent on grinding down part-timers. You understand that if you suddenly make it more expensive for firms to take on part-timers, they will make do with full-timers.

David Winnick introduces Bill to prevent Ministers from going into industry for five years after leaving office - Lord Young becomes chairman of Cable & Wireless in October. Gordon Brown wants an inquiry into appointment.

Norman Tebbit suggests Lord Young has behaved badly.

Mail says Norman Tebbit pushed the stiletto between the shoulder blades of his old rival - he thinks 2 years should elapse before Ministers take outside jobs.

Senior Civil Servants call for former Ministers to be subject to similar rules to civil servants over joining business after leaving office (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Times leader calls for a one year ban on ex-ministers taking jobs in industries with which they have had dealings while in office. It adds that some ministers (particularly those who sense they are on the way out) may resist the inducement to offer patronage now for reward later; others may, or may not, escape suspicion. Corruption is a beast that feeds on innuendo as much as fact.

UDM invited to assist in Soviet miners' inquiry into where millions of roubles, contributed to NUM strike funds, went; Mirror asks who can now trust Scargill. He needs to speak up and explain.

NAO to find out if all potential Skills Training Agency purchasers had equal information (Independent).

More people expected to go on holiday this year in spite of high interest rates.

Times says Peter Walker's Welsh valleys initiative is in doubt as many commentators feel that the new Welsh Secy David Hunt will not be committed to such an interventionist scheme.

Two English soccer fans blasted with shotgun and another knifed in bar brawl in Corsica with locals.

Mail feature on John MacGregor's visit to Germany says it has been instructive and depressing. While our system is crippled by poor teaching, discipline problems, falling academic records and torpor, Germany is turning out youngsters highly trained in industrial skills.

Sun writer says rents into mortgages is the big idea that can win the next election.

Distinguished US scientist, William Niesenber, says global temperature rise may be natural (Independent).

Express says the ITV Assn is to bring in strict new rules to stop advertisers making bogus claims about the environment-friendly nature of their products.

Plans for a "community forest" east of London launched by local councils and Countryside and Forestry Commissions (Independent).

Professor Richard Lacey, food fanatic, given a grilling by Select Cttee. Sun says he was branded "a silly burger" - MPs accuse him of sensationalising.

PRESS DIGEST

Mirror prints all kinds of alarmist views about sausages as a safe food.

Robin Cook says most regional health authority chairmen will be sacked if Labour wins office.

Dept of Health says new restrictions on use of heart drug "Corwin" are adequate (Independent).

GPs threaten to stop carrying out minor surgery if the Govt insists on introducing regulations restricting payment to them (Times).

Diets high in fruits, vegetables and whole grains may be as important in protecting against heart disease as reducing the levels of fat people eat, recent studies indicate (Independent).

Scientists in the US claim to have developed a vaccine which protects chimps from HIV (Independent).

IRA bungle bomb attack on Lord McAlpine's home - he'd left it a month ago; house empty and he is in Australia. Independent suggests this is a switch by IRA to attacking non-military targets.

Chris Mullin says in the House he would supply the names of the two IRA members who informed the police that they had arrested the wrong people for the Birmingham pub bombings (Independent).

Under the heading "Only tortured minds can perpetrate such infamy", Bernard Levin in the Times finds no logic in the animal liberation bomb attacks, and believes that worse is on the way.

Today praises idea of merit pay in police forces - experiment to begin in London.

Mirror claims racial hatred is rife in Britain; racists daub comedian Lenny Henry's home.

Commission for Racial Equality says race bias laws should be tougher (Times).

Independent editorial says the CRE gives every sign of having lost its way and can no longer define coherent priorities, it advises the chairman to concentrate on education and exhortation.

PRESS DIGEST

Today calls on motor industry to spend more time and care on making cars thief-proof.

Crown Prosecution Service is winning recruitment campaign with vacancies dropping to below 20% for first time (Times).

ITV faced with 10% pay claim; heavy redundancies threatened unless there is pay restraint.

Chris Patten has eased planning requirements for TV dishes - Express says you can have two without planning permission.

In a move certain to worsen US-Israeli tension, Bush Administration steps up pressure on Israel to set up talks with the Palestinians, with Baker telling Shamir "when you're serious about peace, call us" (Independent).

Mandela says your efforts to have sanctions against South Africa reduced are "a stab in the back". He appeals to European Parliament to persuade EC leaders not to lift sanctions against South Africa at their forthcoming Dublin summit (Times).

Conor Cruise O'Brien in the Times is critical of you for saying last week that "we have the greatest respect for Islam" and asks whether the Iron Lady is suffering from metal fatigue. In his view Rafsanjani is a leader not to do business with.

Hardline Moslems sweep to power in Algeria.

Govt pressing ahead with new rules to allow ritual slaughter of livestock for religious groups.

Penguin Books confirm they still intend to publish Rushdie paperback, but they are "waiting for a quiet time" to do so. They deny they have bowed to pressure from FCO to delay publication (Independent).

Mail leader says for the sake of the four British hostages it would surely be helpful if Rushdie and his publishers could orchestrate a public announcement not to bring out a paperback.

90 police massacred by Tamil Tigers in Sri Lanka as fears of civil war mount.

Britain and six Asian nations warn Vietnam that they will abolish the right of boat people to land in Hong Kong and other parts unless Hanoi agrees to allow other countries to use force to send the would-be refugees back (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Express says Kinnock is showing distinct signs of backtracking on pledge to return Elgin Marbles to Greece.