

June 15, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

- Prime Minister's film industry seminar
 - Mandela in Rome
 - Index of Retail Prices (May)
 - HCDC Report on Defence White Paper 1990
 - BNFL pay talks
 - EC/Eastern bloc Ministers meeting on the environment (to Sun)
 - Judgment expected on charge capping
 - Commons: Private Members' Bills: 2nd Rdg, Safeguards for residents in homes
 - Lords: Debate: Teachers' pay Order
2nd Rdg: Employment Bill
 - Lord Chancellor visits Reading's new court
 - Lord President addresses United States and Europe conf, Paris
 - John MacGregor opens East Anglian Management conf. training
 - Chris Patten visits Bristol Urban Development corporation
 - Michael Howard visits Nottingham
 - Norman Lamont visits Toyota, Derby
 - Malcolm Rifkind addresses Scottish Fedn of Housing Assns
 - BBC Radio 4 Any Questions?: Richard Luce, Margaret Hodge, Edward Pearce and Pauline Perry
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PRESS DIGESTMain News

10,000 miners bring terror to streets of Bucharest with support of Govt who appeal for their supporters to help army and police restore order.

Times says that fear and menace, described by many citizens as worse than anything during the Ceausescu era, yesterday stalked Bucharest.

President Bush attacks "Govt-inspired vigilante violence". We express our "disgust".

Five deaths and up to 500 badly injured, according to reports. Iliescu sacks Interior Minister.

Bulgaria's former Communist party declared winners of the country's election, polling 47.15% of the vote (Independent).

Yazov calls for dissolution of NATO and Warsaw Pacts and united Germany to belong to "a bloc free European collective security system".

Soviet parliament postpones a decision on increasing the price of bread, giving a thumbs down to the govt's hopes of an immediate start to economic reforms. Meanwhile, the 3 Baltic states hold day of mourning to commemorate stationing of Soviet troops on their territories in June 1940 (Independent).

NATO thought likely to agree to a non-aggression pact with Warsaw Pact.

NATO and the Warsaw Pact announce a breakthrough in the CFE talks on cutting the number of tanks in Europe (Independent).

In an article in the Times, Sir Michael Howard, Professor of Modern History at Yale, suggests the defence limits Britain should seek as the NATO alliance redefines its role. He says that Britain's contribution to the alliance over the past 40 years has given us not only substantial weight in military decision making, but a status in the EC that we might otherwise have found difficult to sustain. Now that Europe is expected to take increased responsibility for its own defence a disproportionate reduction in the British commitment would further reduce our political leverage, leaving France and Germany the only major actors on the European scene.

PRESS DIGEST

You have signalled your support for smaller Rhine Army, in response to proposals put forward by Alan Clark which does not have Mr King's support (Independent).

IRA bomb wrecks British Army building in West Germany but no-one is injured.

DPP declares conviction of Maguires unsafe and unsatisfactory because of misleading forensic evidence.

Independent says this raises hopes for Birmingham Six.

Independent editorial reviewing the Maguire case says that in the age of genetic finger printing and of the Police & Criminal Evidence Act, more and more convictions will be secured on the basis of forensic evidence. It is important that those who provide this evidence should be of the highest calibre.

Nicholas Ridley, according to Independent, is fighting an increasingly bitter battle within the Cabinet against accelerating moves towards EMU, being pressed by the Chancellor and Mr Hurd. Your view will be decisive, and the Independent has learnt you wrote passages of Mr Ridley's recent speech to the Bruges Group.

EFTA says it is ready for talks with the EC on forging a new partnership in a joint economic zone (Independent).

Guardian says Labour Party is coming under growing pressure to abandon its opposition to a single Euro currency and central bank.

Governor of the Bank of England calls for thrift - and a clamp-down in advertising of credit.

Row over 32% pay rise for British Telecom chairman. Church of England clergy get average rise of 18% to cover community charge.

Michael Howard gives a warning about excessive pay settlements as unemployment rises for second month running.

Labour Party describes Govt as "Luddites of Europe" for refusing to subsidise Euro rail link.

Guardian says Britain's transport policy is in danger of becoming the laughing stock of Europe.

Telegraph says BR will now go it alone and have a fast link operating by 1998.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent says Govt in effect concedes that the high-speed Channel Tunnel rail link likely to be a public sector project in the future.

Independent says decision was greeted with dismay and anger, with the CBI, regional development organisation in the North and planning and environment groups ranked against the Govt's position.

Labour allege Skills Centre buy-out team had earlier handled sensitive information on privatisation (Independent).

Hanover to stage Expo 2000.

Express says you should send away today's begging film-makers empty handed. Films which appeal to a wide audience will have little trouble attracting investors.

Labour Party to return to rates. It also says it will abolish London Docklands Development Corp'n and 10 similar bodies in England and Wales.

Times leader says Labour is a long way from office, but on the community charge at least it has come to a thoroughly responsible conclusion. It adds that the only sensible basis for truly local revenue is one based on a fixed, truly local asset, namely property. It describes Labour's decision as a victory for sound pragmatism over political expediency and cleverness.

Wandsworth Council, surprised at the scale of resistance to the £148 community charge, withdraws summonses for non-payment sent to 4,800 people because some had not been given 14 days notice. Summonses now to go out later (times).

Peter Kellner, writing in the Independent says Chris Patten will not produce any fundamental changes following the current review of the poll tax. But what should concern Mr Patten is whether what is agreed will be anything more than a brief respite from his problems: the Govt risks a repeat of the poll tax disasters of the past 12 months. Kellner concludes that the outcome of this month's Cabinet cttee skirmishes will be far from the end of the saga.

Labour Party plan to create two energy agencies in addition to the 27 other ministries and bodies proposed in its agenda for govt (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

George Gale, in Mail, thinks all the jobs for ex-Ministers stink a bit.

Malcolm Rifkind at centre of political dispute after revolt by Scots Tory MPs over Scottish Law Bill (times).

TB hits cancer children in Liverpool hospital.

Mirror claims Tory cuts in social security have saved £27billion in 10 years.

Princess Anne says "mad cow" is not a very accurate description of BSE but probably an accurate description of people's reaction to it.

Mirror reports a third cat - the second in Bristol - with feline equivalent.

Professor of zoology tells Commons Select Cttee that the likelihood of humans having BSE is remote (Times).

Two out of three Britons have an unhealthy diet, according to Govt survey.

Britain has been putting pressure on the US to save an international ozone layer conference in London next week from breaking down. Main problem is US unwillingness to fall into line on funding compensation for Third world countries who set up alternatives in industry, which are less damaging to the environment (Independent).

Escaped convicted murderer, at centre of Strangeways revolt, recaptured.

Court of Appeal calls on the Govt to legislate to restrict the powers of Customs to seize passenger aircraft found to be carrying prohibited goods such as drugs (Independent).

Sir John Nott joins Sunday Correspondent as business strategy adviser.

ITN board to hear complaint that Alastair Burnet has been disloyal by criticising way company is run in letter to John Greenway MP.

Advertising on TV may be extended from 7.5 to 12 minutes per hour.

PRESS DIGEST

The Bishop of London, writing in the Times on the challenge facing the next Archbishop of Canterbury, says he will preside over a church in a state of crisis. He says that the crisis concerns the question of authority and is to be found in one form or another throughout the Christian world.

Mail claims bogus refugees from Zaire are flooding into Britain and cheating us of millions of pounds in social security payments.

South African Govt indicates it would welcome European govt funding for the ANC to help it re-establish itself as an organised political force in the country, in yet another dramatic volte-face (Independent).

The Archbishop of Canterbury has tried to warn off the Bishop of Oxford, who is suing the Church Commissioners over their investment policy (Independnet).

Thousands of Liberians demonstrate demanding US intervention to end the country's six month old civil war (Independent).

ROMANIA AND EAST-WEST

Star says it didn't take long for Romania's new masters to show their true colours.

Sun leader says Russia is in turmoil. It hopes a peaceful, democratic and prosperous society will emerge. The West should do what it can to help within reason but we should remember there are still hard men in the Kremlin and Gorbachev's objective remains the preservation of Communism ahead of the welfare of his people.

Today says that by denouncing the protestors as "fascist" Iliescu sounds far too much like the old regime. There can be no aid or trade deals with a Govt which shoots down its opponents.

Mail says the future of the Romanian people now looks extremely bleak, and Iliescu more and more like a dictator in the Peronist mould.

Independent editorial says the recent action of the Romanian authorities has confirmed all the worst fears and Illiescu's true colours. Praising Mr Waldegrave's strongly worded reaction, it concludes that Romania cannot expect the Western world to invest in or to aid a country where Govt does not begin to understand the meaning of plutalistic institutions, political tolerance and social stability.

PRESS DIGEST

Times leader says that if Western govts treat Romania's govt as no less deserving than those of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and East Germany, Iliescu will have no incentive to change course.

Telegraph says doubts whether National Salvation Front is committed to a pluralistic, market-oriented society have been greatly reinforced by its brutal handling of dissent. It strengthens the suspicion that what took place at the end of last year was not a revolution but a coup d'etat.

CHUNNEL

Today says the Govt's decision may be the first smart decision it has taken in the whole worry saga. The Chunnel will most likely go down in history as a monumental blunder and by refusing a subsidy you have unintentionally exposed the essential weakness in your whole design.

Express says Govt's decision is short-sighted and misguided. It seems depressingly consistent with Govt's unwillingness to think big about Britain's transport needs.

Mail says it is the Govt which has made the project unprofitable by imposing restrictions to protect the environment. It seems only fair therefore that the Govt should bear the additional cost. This ill-considered decision shows that the Govt does not have a transport policy.