

July 18, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

- The Queen at parade of Dunkirk veterans, Aldershot
  - Prime Minister speaks to 300 Group on the family
  - Kinnock meets Senate Foreign Relations Cttee; returns to UK
  - Ivory trading in Hong Kong ends
  - Vietnamese Boat People voluntary repatriation
  - Post Office annual report and accounts
  - ? Report of Firearms Consultative Cttee 1989-90
  - Pesticides Incidents report, 1989
  - Serious Fraud Office annual report
  - Report of Data Protection Registrar 1989
  - Report of Horserace Betting Levy Board 1989
  - Report of Broadcasting Standards Council 1989
  - HMI of Prisons reports on three prisons
  - HM Constabulary report on Leicestershire
  - Teacher appraisal announcement
  - PAC report on Gibraltar
  - Govt response, Select Cttee report on disposal toxic waste
  - Treasury reply to PAC reports
  - Commons Statement on community care
  - Commons: Questions: DTI (Peter Lilley)  
Debates: Opposition Day on community care  
Select Cttee: Emp: HSE on Channel Tunnel safety
  - Lords: Debate: Broadcasting Bill Cttee (D3)
  - Home Secy addresses AMA policy cttee; at Regional Crime Squads national conference
  - Chris Patten addresses Water Services Assn
  - Tony Newton meets Nat. Council of Voluntary Child Care Orgs.
  - Malcolm Rifkind meets Scottish fish merchants
  - John MacGregor addresses Council of LEAs, Bradford
  - Kenneth Clarke press conference on defibrilators for ambulances
  - BBC Radio 4 - Lord President on democracy
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PRESS DIGEST

Chancellor in a stark message to Tory backbenchers that inflation is now near its peak but possibly not at it. His speech is an indication that the timing of the next election is slipping away from next summer and is not now likely until autumn 1991 at the earliest Times.

Major rules out pre-election spending boom Telegraph.

Guardian says October is emerging as best month for British entry into ERM.

You tell peers Tories will not win the election unless they get mortgage rates and public spending down.

Independent describes this as a sombre background to tomorrow's Cabinet meeting on public spending.

Mail says your talk to the Lords was an early indication that the Tories are beginning to clear the decks for a possible election next year.

Community charge dodgers will wreck early hopes of cuts in interest rates and taxes because they boost borrowing; Law Lords reject final appeal by councils against capping.

Today says councils should not appeal to Euro Court and spare their voters the extravagance. If they have any decency members will pay legal bills so far out of their own pockets.

Independent says in the wake of the "German affair" Douglas Hurd has evolved as the new player in the manoeuvring to succeed you.

You put the Ridley affair behind you with help of Kohl who, as Sun puts it, says Brits are right to worry about us. Mr Ridley had been punished enough. Express describes it as a remarkable gesture of friendship. Its leader says his response puts the whole Ridley affair into proper context - a teacup.

And Ted Garrett MP tells Commons Europe splits Labour too.



Times leader discusses the leaked seminar paper on Germany saying the idea that democratic Govt invariably means open Govt is an illusion. Newspapers know that a degree of confidentiality is important in any organisation if colleagues are to talk frankly with each other. The leaking of a memo purporting to give an account of your meeting is regrettable. It adds that you should ensure that your aides, if they must put their thoughts on paper, do so accurately and with common sense. Had it not been for the Ridley affair, the memo might have been disregarded as an aberration.

Robin Oakley, in the Times, discusses how you welcome advice from outside the Civil Service saying that you reach for professors and think-tankers as other people might pluck dictionaries. Presented with a problem or intrigued by an idea, your reaction is to ask associates "Do you know a good academic on that?"

Dennis Skinner attacks his party's stance on Germany Independent.

Kohl sets December 2 as election date for united Germany.

The accord reached in Moscow between Kohl and Gorbachev produces a surge of optimism in talks in Vienna on a pact to reduce conventional forces in Europe Times.

As 2+4 Group clears way to German unity as wartime allies settle shape of frontier with Poland and agree on framework for draft treaty that will lead to creation of a sovereign Germany Independent.

FT leader on German unity says Gorbachev has shown again he has an unrivalled talent for bowing to the inevitable. By dropping objection to German membership of NATO he has extricated himself from an impossible diplomatic position. Now seen to be no obstacles left to German unity - fellow Europeans should congratulate Germans and work with them in CSCE to ensure a new era of secure peace and prosperity for the whole continent.

In a startling show of irritation at feeling unfairly upstaged in the international arena, George Bush lays claim to substantial US credit for the Soviet Union's agreement to a united Germany remaining in NATO Independent.

Independent editorial says while Kohl can be proud of having won Gorbachev's agreement to a united Germany in NATO, such assent was inevitable. There is now no significant obstacle to German unification. What no one can tell is whether, 10 years hence, the new Germany will essentially be a larger version of the FRG; or whether the addition of the predominantly protestant Lander and restoration of Berlin as capital will produce a significantly more Prussian Germany.

Labour defence spokesman, Lord Williams, calls for Govt plans for diversification by UK defence industries, to safeguard jobs Independent.

Czech Govt in trouble after six weeks because of austerity measures.



1995 is Hungary's target for EC entry. Hungary's financial crisis easing with release of bridging loans from IMF FT.

Times leader says that you have long pressed upon Gorbachev and Bush the right of the Poles to enjoy secure borders and that, thanks to you, Warsaw's interests have not been forgotten. Many Germans fear a further huge influx of Polish immigrants after unification. The long term answer is to make Poland a member of the EC, so that migrant Poles are evenly spread throughout Western Europe.

Mail readers raise £1million for Romania orphans appeal.

Peter Jenkins, writing in the Independent, says the moment has come when Kinnock should dare to bring you to the dispatch box to answer for your European policy. Despite its risks (for example, exposing Kinnock's own inadequacies), a censure motion is the only means of drawing you into a full scale parliamentary encounter of the kind you assiduously avoid, and put you on the spot. Against the fast-moving backdrop of world events, you have come to look out of date and out of place: it is time for someone to "speak for England". Could Kinnock do it? He should try.

Under the heading "Rise to the challenge or retire to the doghouse", Leon Brittan, in the Times, urges a more positive British contribution to Europe - and defends the role of the Commission.

Kinnock gets 35 minutes with Bush; Kaufman says meeting was "extremely useful and amicable".

Times says the Lord Trefgarne is expected to resign next week to pursue a business career. His decision to go has been influenced partly by the dispute over compensation for public house tenants.

Previewing your 300 Group speech, Express says you will reveal today that couples will not be allowed to divorce until they have agreed on children's future.

You will today outline Govt plans for enforcing the payment of maintenance to deserted single parents in a speech to reinforce Conservative commitment to "the family" Independent.

Times says you are to announce today a national child support agency to enforce maintenance orders on the behalf of single mothers.

Kaunda blames British Govt for execution of Bazoft in Iraq after release of Mrs Parish; Bazoft would have lived had we not criticised Hussein. Mrs Parish says Bazoft was innocent.

John Banham, CBI, says Britain's pay bill will be £4billion more than it should be next year because of way inflation is calculated.

Local authority manual workers offered 9.4%.

Civil Service unions accept 8.5% for Grades 5-7; MPs will get same.



Post office profits fall by more than £40million to £130million because of inflation and cost of pay deals.

Rolls-Royce to shed 700 jobs following Govt's cancellation of Tornado orders.

Small firms created at record rate last year.

Mirror says NUM is set to sue Scargill for £1.6million as Certification Officer begins inquiry into cash.

French state controlled companies have made many more cross border mergers and acquisitions in Europe since beginning of '89 than nationalised groups from any other European country FT.

Labour says Govt cash cuts undermining a vocational training scheme for teenagers Independent.

Liverpool's two leading churchmen, Archbishop Worlock and Bishop Sheppard, asked Kinnock and Ashdown and Chris Patten to help prevent the risk of financial chaos in the city during a meeting in London last week. The move came after a cross-party alliance defeated the Labour Council's move to raise council rents by £3 a week Independent.

Today says Labour is prepared to use Green Belt for housing - only way to meet needs.

BMA to campaign against self governing hospitals Independent.

South London GP, James LeFanu, writing in the Times, considers that the NHS reforms are cumbersome and far removed from Tory philosophy. He says that the reforms disregard three fundamental Conservative principles: that institutions are not perfectible, that it is a mistake to try to fix something that is already working, and that throwing money at problems is no solution. No wonder Mr Clarke's leaflet on the NHS reforms is so lacking in detail.

Duncan Nichol tells hospital managers to cut waiting time for operations - otherwise they will be financially penalised.

Mirror leads with 62 year old patient who went on 3 day hunger strike to force doctors to carry out heart operation - 2 specialists disagreed over treatment.

Alzheimer's patients being refused medical care at Sheffield hospital because health authority has to save £300,000 Independent.

Teacher shortages in England have risen by 50% in the past 2 years Independent.

HM Inspectorate say children are learning little or nothing in Hackney's worst schools. John MacGregor orders Hackney to draw up a plan of remedial action by end of November.



Sun, commenting on lowest learning standard among young children in decades, notes the response by the two biggest teachers unions - starting a series of strikes. How shameful!

Chairman of CRE says moderate Muslims, who have a clear majority in Britain's Islamic communities, should exercise their moral authority to silence Kalim Siddiqui and other extremists Times.

Sun features on its front page violence against police - 87 beaten, bitten and booted in one 24 hour period; 19 in first hour.

Six men charged with drug smuggling after raid in cruiser at Skegness.

Privately provided security at Royal Marines' School of music at Deal strongly criticised by MOD inquiry.

Scottish long distance lorry driver being questioned over deaths of 3 schoolgirls in England.

In an interview in the Times the Met Police Commssioner says the creation of a national police force for Britain will be under serious discussion within 10 years and there will be some form of countrywide system early in the next century. Leader says he has done a significant service by his suggestion in the interviews that the French prosecution system may have lessons for England and Wales.

Independent editorial looks at how we should deal with young offenders, in light of the suicide of a 15 year old boy in Swansea prison. While Magistrates are trying harder not to incarcerate young people, there is a vast amount to be done. The sine qua non is a continued drop in prison population and here the Home Secy should not shrink from hastening this trend by use of executive power. A civilised country ought to do all it can to prevent cases like that in Swansea. The UK doesn't.

Peter Brooke fails to break the deadlock on Ulster talks, but he says he still hopes to announce a start date for talks in the Commons by the end of this Parliamentary session Independent.

Mail says a 24-hour nationwide hotline is to be established to curb noise pollution - local authorities will be obliged to respond to complaints.

Brian Close, Yorkshire cricket chairman, claims in Mirror he was "stitched up" and accused of being a racist by BBC, using hidden mike.

Avalanche sweeps 43 international climbers to death in Pamir mountains.

Phillipines earthquake death toll may reach 300.

Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, threatens the Gulf states if they continue to produce above OPEC quotas Independent.



Hizbollah's battles with Shia muslims in the Lebanon mar hostage hopes Independent.

Previewing your interview with the Johannesburg Star, to be published in South Africa today, the Independent reports you as painting a vision of a new South Africa and seeing light at the end of the tunnel. You say that no constitution for South Africa will survive unless it is based on the principle of one person one vote, with protection for minority rights.

Chief Buthelezi says Britain should exert its continuing influence to bring about a Westminster-style democracy in a post-apartheid South Africa. Meanwhile the Times says that when Mandela returns today after six weeks he will be required to kick start back into life the transition to democracy which has stalled in his absence.

Crucial talks between India and Pakistan to defuse the tension over Kashmir begin today in Islamabad Independent.

Last night Hong Kong introduced tough new restrictions on the export of ivory: residents must have licences to export worked ivory as personal effects in loads over 5 kilograms (roughly equivalent to 1 carved tusk) FT.

Morocco to move 100,000 people out of crowded city of Fez so urgent restoration work can be done FT.

#### KINNOCK'S VISIT

Star p2 - Neil's Oval cuppa.

Sun p2 - Bush knows he can trust us, says Kinnock. But Labour's defence policy was not discussed.

Mirror p2 - Kinnock and Bush are great buddies! Americans can work with Labour Govt. Red carpet treatment at White House.

Today p2 - Kinnock 11-plus blunder; meeting gets off to shambolic start as Kinnock is kept waiting 10 minutes.

Express p2 - First night nerves took the shine off the meeting with Bush - kept waiting by Japanese politician. Had his aides wincing when he called Bush "the most courteous man in the world".

Mail p10 - A shaky start but Kinnock earns his White House hearing.

Independent p8 - Kinnock has meeting of minds with "most courteous man in the West" .

Times p1 - Kinnock hails "mutual trust" after Bush talks.

Telegraph p2 - Kinnock takes cue from Bush in friendly White House talks.

Guardian p1 - Kinnock US visit success. Reports bring agreement after first White House meeting with Bush.



FT p11 - Kinnock strikes common ground. Kinnock warmly welcomed by Bush - in contrast to his cool reception by Reagan.

ECONOMY

Sun leader says govt was not elected to raise taxes but to cut and cut again. It would be sheer madness for Chancellor to concede increases in public spending - state spending is already far too high and remains the chief cause of inflation.

Express City Page says ironically Nigel Lawson's shadowing of the Deutschmark to demonstrate we could slip easily into the ERM has delayed our entry.

Times - Business comment says 15 years or so have elapsed since govt finances last deteriorated as fast as they have been damaged during the first quarter of the current financial year. But then there was a Labour Govt which put a balanced budget firmly low on its list of priorities. Now we have a Govt which sets great store by housewifely economics, and the apparent loss of control will be as damaging to Govt morale as it is to the gilt-edged market, perhaps even more so.