

PRESS DIGESTPRIME MINISTERMain News

Your speech in Finland well received apart from Guardian and Mirror.

FT is the only one to concentrate on real point: Thatcher calls for NATO role outside Alliance borders.

Iraqi jet preparing to fly home 134 British women and children from Baghdad.

28 British wives refuse to leave without their husbands.

Branson holds Virgin aircraft in readiness after claiming he was cleared to fly out today to bring out hostages. Express says Saddam Hussein has hijacked airlift.

Parliament recalled next week.

Rulers of Gulf States pressing for Western military action to topple Hussein.

Express leader fears that the smell of Munich is in the air; West should stop dithering.

Little expected from UN Secy General's delayed talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister.

President Bush calls on other countries to share burden of Gulf operation and helping states worst affected.

Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan urges conciliation in Times article.

Benn explains in Independent why a Stop the War Movement is being launched today.

FT claims sanctions-busting Iraq is likely to shrug off the trade embargo. Cyprus and Lebanon at heart of attempt to beat the blockade.

Texaco puts 8.2p and Shell 4p on a gallon of petrol.

Today claims an Iraqi woman and her five children were shot dead for hiding a Briton in their home.

PRESS DIGEST

SLD say Britain could slash defence spending by half in next 10 years.

Gorbachev sacks man blamed for cigarette shortage.

Babangida replaces Finance and Foreign Ministers.

YOUR SPEECH

Sun p2 - Pull your fingers Kraut, Maggie tells Europe. Leader says you are asking our Europartners "what did you do in the war?". When the Gulf crisis is over Britain must reconsider her attitude to EC. Trade, yes. But unite, and bury our national identity? We would be safer in a sack of puff adders.

Mirror leader says you are the bossy boots visitor no-one wants, more than once. You were at your worst in Finland, blaming everyone but yourself for Europe's less than united response to invasion of Kuwait. You should have called EC leaders together.

Today p2 - Thatcher shames Germany. Leader says your disappointment with Europe's performance is one we should all share. Germany and Japan should contribute in hard cash.

Express buries it in general Gulf story.

Mail - Maggie rounds on the Germans.

Times p1 lead - Thatcher hits at European's Gulf efforts. Leader says your talent for raising your allies' blood pressure was well in evidence in Finland. Your criticisms were correct in the case of the principal, though unnamed, targets - Germany and Japan. The central theme was valid and frankness justified.

Telegraph p1 - Thatcher attacks allies' slow response to crisis.

Guardian p1 - MPs recalled as Thatcher scorns Europe for Iraq stance. Leader says the really distressing miscalculation in Helsinki was the resumption of European nitpicking and the mindless chipping away at the consensus which encircles Saddam Hussein. It is galling to see the task in the Gulf made harder by politicians unable to resist the cheap shots of self-justification and gratification.

Independent p9 - Thatcher attacks hesitant EC allies.

PRESS DIGESTIndustry

Today says if Mitterrand won't guarantee safe passage for British food exports we should stop French produce from coming here.

Express wonders where Ted Heath and other Europhiles are at this hour.

Rash of strikes, mostly in Yorkshire, help to turn British Coal profit of £66million into loss of £441million; high interest charges another cause.

Another 9,500 miners jobs to go by 1993.

Rover workers asked to work through holidays to meet demand.

Commons catering threatened with strike on Queen's Speech day because of poor pay.

Mirror says business bankruptcies have soared to new heights because of interest rates.

Alan Tuffin, postal workers' leader, says on eve of TUC conference that survival is now the aim of the trade union game - TUC membership down 247,491 to under 8.4million.

Crime and Punishment

Criticism of soft treatment of Guinness prisoners - moved to open prison within a day.

Mail says that if ever there was a case of porridge with a cherry on top this is it.

And Liverpool MPs discuss as "white wash" decision by DPP not to prosecute anyone over Hillsborough. Telegraph says private prosecutions now seem likely.

NHS/Social Security

Criticism of NHS bosses - and Prince Charles - for the amount being spent on medical centre in Nottingham where he is to have an operation. A 28-bed ward, furnished from a Department store, at his disposal. Star says we are being forced to dip into our pockets to treat Royal sports injuries.

Legless IRA bomb victim told if he manages to walk he will lose mobility allowance.

PRESS DIGESTEducation

Eighty times as much being spent on City Technology Colleges as on ordinary schools, according to Labour Party.

Environment

Labour Party pledges to open up privately owned countryside to public.

Times has a feature on John Sununu, White House Chief of Staff.