

3 September 1990

PRESS DIGEST

PRIME MINISTER

Gulf

The continuing plight of those hostages still "guests" of Saddam Hussain is well brought out in the coverage of the return of women and children.

Foreign Secretary demands all hostages, including men, should be freed.

Boy whose head was stroked by Saddam becomes pawn in another publicity game when Jesse Jackson carries him down the aircraft steps at Heathrow. Today says Jackson should have known better. Mail says Jackson was nauseating; it is also critical of William Waldegrave carrying a child out of the aircraft.

Hussain halts three flights, apparently insisting Iraq Airways aircraft should be used.

Your warning that those perpetrating crimes against British hostages could be brought to Nuremburg-type trial described as "insensitive and uncaring" by Gulf Support Group spokeswoman. Paul Johnson in Mail says Saddam must be made to pay for his crimes.

Iraq, stunned by your criticisms, calls you, according to Mirror "a grey haired old hag with a canine voice, spewing poison like a spotted serpent".

Kuwaitis start informing on Westerners for fear of execution for harbouring foreigners, according to Independent.

King Hussein to have talks with Gorbachev in advance of his Summit with Bush.

Perez de Cuellar says the situation is now "very explosive" after the failure of his diplomatic mission.

You tell Frost sanctions must be given time to work. Daily Star says Bush is set to give Hussain a two week ultimatum of war.

Mail says hopes of a diplomatic solution now rest on Bush-Gorbachev Summit.

Guardian claims US-Soviet detente is in jeopardy, citing a warning by Pravda over the use of force.

Guardian claims Kuwaiti resistance fighters have joined forces with those in Iraq to open up a second front inside Iraq. It adds that Baghdad is rationing bread and tea.

Independent says Iraq offered Kuwait a non-aggression pact which was rejected in what is seen in Iraq as a series of massive miscalculations.

Hopes rising for release of British hostages in Lebanon.

#### Gulf Comment

Express says no slackening of your resolve was evident in your Frost interview. Government concern must go beyond today's hostages to limit the risks to thousands of Britons abroad.

Robert Kilroy-Silk, in Express, says there can be no durable peace in the Middle East while Hussain rules Iraq.

Daily Star says you came out fighting in the interview. The only way to fight force is with force. Sun considers the tyrant to be doomed.

Sun wonders when West Germany will respond to Bush appeal for financial help with the Gulf operation. The German contribution has been negligible.

Today calls on Allies to keep faith in sanctions. You are right in saying they must be given time to work. War is the ultimate sanction.

Mail says the prospects for families being reunited are not reassuring. Mr. Gorbachev is the one man who could make sanctions work by calling home the experts who are working in Iraq.

Guardian says the purpose of sanctions is to enforce negotiation. And these are early days.

Independent on hostages as media weapons says Hussain's fall will ultimately be determined either by the effectiveness of UN sanctions or military action. You are right not to be deflected by the taking of hostages.

Times says the taking of hostages is a crime under international law. It is not a nicety to be pored over by diplomats. Your analogy with Nuremburg is well founded. Gorbachev must now allay suspicions that Moscow is sheltering behind legal arguments to distance itself from the USA and to avoid antagonising an old ally, Iraq.

### Politics

Kinnock likely to suffer a setback at TUC which is all set for a row today over repeal of trade union legislation. Express says it is clear too many union generals still hanker to fight yesterday's battles.

Mirror leader describes Ron Todd, Scargill, Ken Gill and Tony Dubbins as "the original dinosaurs and posturing dodos" who have learned nothing. News story says 66% of unions are in debt.

Sam McCluskie, National Union of Seamen leader, seriously ill with gangrene and diabetes.

Scargill excluded from the NUM Executive meeting to consider evidence on use of strike money from abroad. Meeting with Scargill today to clarify points.

### Foreign

Yeltsin says Ryzhkov must go to facilitate economic reform.

Libya signs agreement with Sudan to integrate their countries within four years.

FT says the EC budget is being threatened by rising agricultural surpluses, especially beef and butter.

Cost of reunification likely to become a significant issue in the German election campaign.

### Environment

Greenpeace gets hold of confidential World Health Organisation report which claims, according to Independent, thousands of Europeans are dying prematurely because of air pollution.

### Industry

Death of Robert Holmes a Court, 53, of heart attack leaves huge deals hanging in the balance, including control of 13 West End theatres.

Today calls for leadership by Government in campaign against smoking at work.

CBI says the docking of community charge from pay of non-payers could cause huge administrative problems.

Chairman of Nissan receives honorary knighthood.

Vauxhall sets pace with 12.4% pay rise.

Inquiry into Kegworth air crash calls for research into rear facing seats.

Airbus expects to make first profit in 20-year history.

Education

Mirror says as a new school term begins heads are still desperate to find teaching staff.

Law and Order

Daily Mail reporter dressed as American policeman with fake gun, apparently in preparation for stunt with Zsa Zsa Gabor at Heathrow, arrested by airport police. A stunt by a paper which claims to have clean hands, says Today.

Homosexual campaigners plan a "kiss and cuddle" demo in Piccadilly Circus, led by Peter Tatchell; Sir John Stokes MP calls on police to intervene.