

PRESS DIGESTMain NewsGULF

Iran turns - apparently - as Ayatollah calls for holy war against Americans in Gulf.

Fears Iran will take Iraq's oil as payment for food and medicine.

Returning hostages say food and water shortages in Kuwait are acute.

Euro Parliament votes against use of force; only diplomacy to be used.

UN struggling over emergency humanitarian supplies of food to Iraq.

French Navy intercepted an Iraqi ship of Cherbourg to verify it was not breaking sanctions Mail.

Guardian poll reports overwhelming support for deployment of British forces in Gulf, though Labour's lead rises 2% to 13%. 71% support sending British forces; 19% oppose; 10% undecided.

President Bush tapes a TV message to Iraqis explaining why US is in Saudi Arabia - but will it be shown?

Germany and Japan come under "withering attack" (Telegraph) from all sides of the US Congress for the "paucity" of their contributions to Gulf crisis measures.

Delors returns to the charge - Gulf crisis makes need for closer political and economic union in Europe more urgent.

Terry Waite's mother attacks you for not caring about him.

Telegraph, changing its tune, says historically there are good historical reasons why Britain should be the fore in resolving a crisis in the Middle East. In the meantime priority must be given to making sanctions watertight.

Guardian counsels patience.

PRESS DIGEST

Conor Cruise O'Brien, in Times, says if Americans attack Iraq with British support Labour Party now seems committed to opposing the Govt. Kinnock could hardly survive as leader if he failed to oppose military action without UN approval. He will therefore probably oppose and Labour will then be hit by the Falklands factor, appearing unpatriotic. All in all, he concludes, it looks like a political windfall for you.

MAIN NEWS

51 years and 12 days after WWII began it ends with a Treaty signed in Moscow reuniting Germanys.

Ryzhkov warns that Soviet Union is risking break up as some republics test Kremlin's tolerance.

ECONOMY

Phillips & Drew say big pay rises will put 500,000 out of work by end of next year.

Weetabix workers get 12.5% pay rise.

155 to be made redundant by Pirelli; another 250 by English China and 70 from coach builders, Plaxton. BBC to shed 1,400 jobs by 1993.

Sarah Hogg, in Telegraph, thinks John Major was right not to go into ERM last week but he should not delay past December. If mortgage and exchange rates win or lose elections he should next October score on both.

INDUSTRY

Today leads with launch of Frank N Stein electricity privatisation promotion with "monster discounts" for investors. Leader says there are huge advantages to switching power out of public sector.

Stock Exchange investigating whether Tottenham Hotspur has breached its rules in delaying its announcement it would give Robert Maxwell a stake of at least 25%. Guardian claims Maxwell secretly loaned £1.1million to Spurs.

Lords EC Cttee wants training or education up to 18 made compulsory.

PRESS DIGESTUNIONS

NUR claim Scargill took them for a ride over a £300,000 loan; Fraud Squad asked to investigate why money ended up in IMO account in Dublin.

Mail says police are to drop their inquiry into missing £1.7million Russian money; no evidence of wrong-doing.

LAMB WAR

Prospects of what is described as a truce in lamb war with farmers' leaders jointly proposing short term aid for those who are hard hit.

Express on "our shifty and unreliable ally" says French official who has suggested to British farmers should avoid France is really saying his own farmers should get victory through aggression - which is what we are trying to deny Saddam Hussein. His words betray the real feelings of the French Govt. Leon Brittan, who is quick enough to blow the whistle on Britain, should intervene. After all he is competition Commissioner.

POLITICS

Liberal Democrats launch a new logo - after Labour's red rose now a bird; and much ridicule.

Sun says seats of MPs killed in war have never been contested by political opponents. Opposition parties should not stand in Eastbourne in honour of Ian Gow's memory.

John Stradling Thomas, described by Today as our laziest MP, to stand down at next election.

SOCIAL WELFARE

28 children in care after police intervene in suspected Satan cults in Lancashire. But no charges so far. Star, mindful of what happened in Cleveland, calls for a Govt inquiry.

British Govt opposing EC plans to improve rights for working women who become pregnant. Michael Howard says the inevitable result of the higher cost will be more unemployed.

Telegraph says inflation of 10% will add £5billion to cost of pensions and welfare.

PRESS DIGESTNHS

National Assn of Health Authorities & Trusts says NHS will be short of £806million by the end of the year because of inflation.

LAW & ORDER

Internal report to Home Secy, commissioned by Douglas Hurd when he was at the Home Office, says police are failing to give public value for money.

Times, on 10 years after closure of Consett Steelworks, says unemployment is numerically below that before closure.

FT says businesses face arise of at least 10% in April after decision by Govt to reject pleas to hold increase in uniform business rate to below rate of inflation.

ARTS

Royal Opera House appealing for more State aid after loss of nearly £3million last year in spite of record audiences.

Independent says it threatens to drop its £200 redevelopment scheme unless Govt comes up with more funding.