

PRESS DIGESTPRIME MINISTERMain News

Claims that police have smashed the Ian Gow IRA murder gang by the arrest of two men and a woman - Times says 5 altogether - near Stonehenge. Another man still on run.

Germany unites with a party in Berlin; you send congratulations to Kohl.

Express says Germany and Japan have been given clearance to re-arm; leader says Germany must now be ready to contribute a proper proportion of its vast resources to fulfilling its international responsibilities.

Mail hails a great day for all of Europe.

FT describes it as Germany's third chance.

Labour Party conference off most pop front pages.

Kinnock's speech gets a poor reception, except from Mirror and Guardian and to some extent Today.

No tax cuts for years to come, Kinnock pledges.

Labour Party £1million in red; poll of polls cuts Labour's lead to less than 8%.

BBC accused of bias by Tories for appointing Peter Mandelson as publicity consultant. It retorts that it also employs Tim Bell. Today says it should employ neither.

Price of oil plunges \$4 a barrel - and press want to know why petrol price cuts are delayed. Today attacks the oil companies for their "creed of greed". Express says prices are set to fall by 3p a gallon.

FT says President Ozal has intervened personally with you over Polly Peck.

Gerald Ronson fails to get his £5million Guinness fine cut and to be given more time to pay.

Directors of large companies raised their salaries by 12.5% in year to July.

PRESS DIGEST

Bruce Gyngell, TV-am, dismisses Broadcasting Bill as a missed opportunity.

Sun's account of Islington Women's Therapy Centre, supported by council grant of £6,884, which encourages women to become lesbians.

Ex Beirut hostage Brian Keenan embraces IRA's Gerry Adams. Express sees this as a gruesome irony, taking a drink with someone no better than the terrorists who caused his agony.

Buthelezi says he won't meet ANC to end township fighting.

ANC withdraws opposition to rugby tours to South Africa - will this open up sporting links generally?

Mitterrand makes Mme Guigon Minister for European Affairs in place of Mme Cresson. Agriculture Minister moved sideways.

76 Romanians apply for asylum after holiday in Portins.

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

Star p6 - We're ready and waiting - Kinnock's election warning to Maggie.

Comment: Headed "It's promises, promises ..." leader says if Labour don't want to lose yet another General Election they will have to come up with more than Kinnock's dog eared sack of promises they can never hope to fulfil.

Sun p2 - Kinnock on Frog march - he'll copy French lefties; huge rises in State spending.

Comment: On issue after issue Kinnock is defeated and humiliated. Delegates at Blackpool speak far more accurately and truthfully than ever Kinnock did. He can appear as moderate as he likes but at heart the Labour Party is still extremist, doctrinaire and Kinnock will do as he is told.

Mirror p1 panel - picture of Kinnock with caption: Come in, No 10. Pages 4 & 5 - Ready and Waiting: I'm all set to be new Prime Minister, says Kinnock.

Comment: Kinnock offers the workable alternative to the corroding selfishness and cynicism of Thatcher years.

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Today p2 - The promised land - Kinnock pledges home loan cuts, nurseries for every child, better schools and high speed rail links. Sketch writer says Kinnock's delivery was a cross between the righteous indignation of a hell-fire Welsh preacher and the hard man posturing of a night club bouncer.

Comment: Kinnock's speech was a triumph. He spoke like a Prime Minister in waiting. But we have yet to be convinced he could fulfil his promises.

Express p5 - No tax cuts for years to come, says Kinnock.

Comment: Headed "Great show of Kinnock cheek" leader says this reached virtuoso levels when he talked about education. He says Labour would encourage parents to get involved yet Labour bitterly opposes every Tory measure to increase parent power. On all the important issues Kinnock is desperately trying to steal Mrs Thatcher's clothes. The electorate will surely think they look much better on her.

Mail p2 - Watch his lips ... no income tax cuts.

Telegraph p1 - Kinnock rules out tax cuts for years.

Comment: Much of what Kinnock said was assertion rather than argument; too broad a brush was used. The electors will want more detail before they trust Kinnock and Labour.

Guardian p1 - Determined Kinnock says party is ready to govern. Political editor says speech contained little new of substance and hints of costly spending programmes.

Comment says the essential and binding theme of Kinnock's speech was liberation. But it is not entirely clear how Labour plans to make the fundamental changes in education and training that lie at the heart of liberation. Still a performance of genuine power and authority.

Independent p1 - Kinnock says Labour ready for Govt.

Comment: leader headed "All talk, but little action" says there has been no public pronouncement so disappointing as Neil Kinnock's speech to the Labour Party conference since Chris Patten's White Paper on the environment. He failed to demonstrate he knows how to carry his aspirations into effect and he thereby failed to give any new momentum to his party.

Times p1 - Kinnock's education pledge wins ovation.

PRESS DIGEST

Comment: headed "Public sector party", leader says the one question worth asking of the Left is what is its real response to your 10 years of economic reconstruction after 20 years of abject failure. Discovering Kinnock's answer is near impossible. But Labour is first and foremost the party of the public sector. It is also still a trade union party. And it is not yet a mass party - a party still largely bound by the public sector and to the interests of pressure groups operating in it. The enterprise of Britain, in which prosperity must be rooted, will never grow from that source. That is what Kinnock does not understand.

FT p1 - Kinnock says Labour fit to govern.