

October 15, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

- Commons returns
 - Prime Minister meets US Secretary of Defence
 - Foreign Secretary in Israel and Egypt (to Weds)
 - Anglo-Soviet Joint Commission meets (all week)
 - Gordievski book serialised in Times (from today)
 - EC Agriculture Council, Luxembourg (to Tue)
 - EC Industry Council, Luxembourg
 - Retail sales (Sept - prov)
 - CBI/FT survey of distributive trades (Sept)
 - Food from Britain annual report - 1989-90
 - MAFF: Radioactive monitoring report 1989
 - British Film Inst. seminar on drama documentaries
 - Consultation on council rents - guidelines
 - Press conference on testing in English, maths & science
 - Rents into Mortgages, Basildon: further details
 - Royal Trustees report published
 - Commons: Questions: Social Security; AG; ODA
Debates: 1992 and financial services: Adjnt:
haemophiliacs and AIDS
 - Lords: Environment Protection Bill, Report (D3)
 - Michael Howard launches Wolverhampton TEC; in West Mids
 - John MacGregor opens Festival of Education exhibition, Lincoln
 - Chris Patten addresses Public Policy Consultants' conference
 - David Hunt visits France - inward investment (to Wed)
 - Malcolm Rifkind at Heroes' Reception, Edinburgh Castle
 - Richard Ryder visits Bonn - EMU
 - John Patten addresses Crime Prevention Officers' Conference
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PRESS DIGESTGULF

Foreign Secy and Ted Heath row over whose idea it was Heath should go to Iraq. Heath says it was Douglas Hurd's who denies it.

Sun says neither emerges with much credit and Mr Heath should stay at home.

Kilroy, in Express, says it was a duplicitous and stupid idea and at the very best the Foreign Secy knew and approved of it from the outset.

Mail says leading (unnamed) Tories have branded Heath a mischief maker. Its Middle East expert warns Heath of the risks and says his mission is misguided.

Times leader, under heading "A trip best cancelled", believes Heath's mission will probably succeed but criticises him for his startling ineptitude. It questions his timing of last week's announcement to coincide with your speech and concludes that in context the case against the visit is strong. If it now takes place, Saddam could easily gain the wrong impression about Western unity.

Independent reports Ministers saying it would be difficult to sustain public support for military strike if Heath's visit inspired release of hostages.

Gen. De La Billiere warns Saddam Hussain he doesn't have a hope.

Sun says the Desert Rats should be let loose on Saddam Hussain.

German Govt working on new system to control export of defence equipment after reports that its nationals are maintaining missile systems for the Iarqis and working on board US aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean Times.

Paul Johnson, in Mail, in light of Bush's poor handling of a domestic budget crisis, says Parliament should this week ask British Govt two questions: who decides whether we go to war in Gulf? And who runs the war when it starts?

Bush plans more Gulf initiatives to divert attention from the budget mess and his growing unpopularity Independent.

British Muslims back Iraq's call for a Holy War against Western forces in Gulf.

PRESS DIGEST

Rosemary Righter in the Times considers the implications of the promised democratic reforms in Kuwait.

Iraq denies it was behind murder of Egyptian Speaker Independent.

Israel says it will neither receive nor co-operate with UN inquiry into Temple Mount shootings Times.

Foreign Secy seen to be flying into a row with Israelis over his remarks about need to solve Palestinian issue.

Robert Maxwell, in another forthright defence of Israel in Mirror says Foreign Secy understands nothing about Israel and bends over backwards to the Arabs. He utters not a word about the need for surrounding Arab states to allow Israel to exist in peace within secure borders.

Gen Aoun under seige in French Embassy in Beirut after surrendering his forces.

Lebanon's President Hrawi warns France that clandestine attempts to move Aoun would provoke a crisis in relations. Aoun's fall seen as victory for Syria, a blow to Israel and a humiliating defeat for Saddam Independent.

POLITICS

Cecil Parkinson's alleged remarks over dinner, printed in People, and denied by him and his hosts, treated lightly by pops. Star thinks it marvellous someone can still afford to spend £70 on two bottles of wine.

Sun thinks it is a pity Mr Parkinson didn't say Sir Geoffrey is going nowhere; it would have been the wisest thing he has ever said.

The incident, or alleged incident, gives the Mirror the excuse for a piece about Government "disarray".

Today suggests drink was at the bottom of it.

Express and Mail say Mr Parkinson wins your backing in "slurs row".

PRESS DIGEST

Express leader says the People has scored a seedy own goal. It condemns the People's political editor for his story. The blow, far from landing on Mr Parkinson and Govt, has landed on the newspaper profession.

Ian Aitken, in Guardian, says the People was always one of seedier institutions in Fleet Street, and says any room its political editor enters from now on will empty pretty damn quickly.

Ronald Butt, in the Times, says the object of a party conference is to strengthen confidence of the led in the leaders and to present a convincing prospectus to potential voters. Despite your deft display, the Conservatives at Bournemouth did neither. Something is now deeply wrong, and in their political bones most constituency representatives seem to sense it.

John MacGregor says on TV he is at one with you over education policy.

But FT says Mr MacGregor has distanced himself from the idea of education "vouchers" by claiming changes already underway go a long way towards meeting the aims of such schemes.

ECONOMY/PAY

After its first week in ERM sterling failed to fulfil bullish expectations but seems to have found a firm base on technical factors FT.

Britain's motives in joining ERM are being questioned by German politicians and Bundesbank officials who are expressing deep scepticism about the UK's willingness to play a constructive role in future negotiation on EMU FT.

Message of Conservative Party conference to Brussels was that UK could be heading for an EMU showdown with the EC FT.

Guardian leader, worrying about avoiding future devaluations, says to prevent disaster the economy needs soemthing of an economic miracle in wages.

FT leader on pay and ERM says it is not arguing for a govt-mandated wage policy. But it advocates the CBI and TUC agreeing on a "pay benchmark" for next year.

Adaptation of wage bargaining after ERM is most likely to come in the traded goods sector FT.

PRESS DIGEST

NAS/UWT wants 15% and 35 hour week; NUT seeks 10%.

Jaguar tells workers it can't afford 11%.

Nearly half firms in Britain are suffering from a shortage of skilled workers - worst in Wales and West.

Mail says unemployment is up for the sixth successive month as unions spurn Govt pleas for pay restraint.

Electricians' Union says Labour's plans for wage restraint are "undeliverable" Independent.

Today leads with a Tory plan to give mothers a 10p tax inducement to return to work.

Mail says Star Chamber is likely to be recalled in next few days.

Guardian says DES has warned Treasury that any cut in its bid for £1.5billion extra spending next year could leave Govt vulnerable to Court proceedings.

You put pressure on big spending Ministers warning them that they have little to gain from going to the Star Chamber Times.

Independent reports a severe blow to Govt's inner city strategy as Docklands Development Chief Executive resigns.

INDUSTRY

British lorries among those trapped on Franco-Spanish border caused by Spanish drivers' protest at refusal of Govt to subsidise fuel costs.

Today calls for a Minister for the Consumer.

British Rail, Mail says, is to shelve £1.5billion investment designed to speed services and cut overcrowding because of shortage of cash. British Rail senior staff press for Govt to allow commercial borrowing to finance big projects.

Law Society plans "kitemark" symbol for solicitors committed to quality control Independent.

Mail calls on Govt to let competition rip in telecommunications and book trades.

PRESS DIGEST

British Steel may build £300million plate mill on Teesside FT.

Union leaders divided over plans to create new civil service super union Times.

HEALTH

330 family doctor practices have applied to become fundholders under NHS reforms.

EDUCATION

John MacGregor puts career on the line by resisting pressure for vouchers and mandatory opt-out ballots Independent.

Express says parents will be given £1,700 a year vouchers to spend on secondary schools of their choice. John MacGregor, according to Mail, says he would not rule out vouchers.

John O'Leary in the Times says vouchers have been a recurring theme in Conservative education policy debates for more than 20 years, but no scheme has ever got off the ground. Even the greatest supporters of the ultimate free market in state education have been defeated by the practicalities of introducing vouchers once in office.

Fears that Wandsworth's plans to fund a pioneering nursery school scheme by abolishing subsidised child minding for many one-parent families will jeopardise welfare of hundreds of children in South West London Times.

Telegraph leader says there is a real need for higher spending in three areas: doubling nursery education provision; paying good teachers more; and tackling appalling backlog of repairs. There are more urgent and important ways of spending money than on vouchers.

Independent editorial says you are vulnerable to accusations that your Govt's education record is appalling, that John MacGregor has been uninspiring, and that the system is failing most disastrously among less academic children. If your response is to launch into a further round of under-funded ideological tinkering you will not win the argument. But Labour is still associated with a philosophy of education that is widely seen as lowering standards. It is also seen as in thrall to the unions.

Jack Straw says Labour would sack incompetent teachers.

PRESS DIGESTFOOD

Pregnant women warned not to eat large amounts of liver because of concentration of Vitamin A.

MAFF investigating suggestions that sale of condemned meat for human consumption is more widespread than previously suspected.

ENVIRONMENT

Kinnock today unveils Labour's programme for the environment in an effort to out-flank the Conservatives on a key issue for the next general election Times.

LAW & ORDER

Girl attacked by sex maniac in her bed at Carshalton Hospital.

Home Secy dismisses homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle; it is a deviance and he is against homosexual couples adopting children.

Gordievsky names John Cairncross, ex MI6, as 5th man.

Fraud Squad calls off inquiry into £100,000 given by Haringey Council to group trying to free Broadwater Farms killers of policemen; can't find out what happened to money.

MPs to get another vote on hanging, probably before Christmas.

MEDIA

ITN seeks injection of £6.5million from TV companies to keep it going until December.

Wendy Henry, sacked editor, to rejoin Mirror Group as contributing editor responsible for supplements.

RELIGION

The right of many vicars to a job for life could end within 5 years in one of the most radical proposed changes to the Church of England for centuries Times.

PEOPLE

Lester Pigott makes his comeback as a jockey today.

PRESS DIGESTINTERNATIONAL

Gorbachev due to present his economic plans today.

Kohl wins first free elections in GDR in 40 years.

8,000 arrested in crackdown against criminals in Moscow.

Gorbachev invites US network, ABC, to produce film on KGB because he doesn't trust Russian TV.

Mazowiecki makes rousing start to Polish presidential campaign against Walesa with inspired and triumphant speech Independent.

You and de Klerk agree that sanctions against South Africa have become a secondary issue Times.

NATO will start to convert the eight army corps in Germany into smaller, multi-national forces in about two years Times.

Chinese Govt to sell shares to breathe new life into loss-making State firms Independent.