

October 17, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

- Prime Minister holds talks and then hosts lunch for the Thai Prime Minister
 - Chemical Ind. Assn seminar on Environmental Protection Bill
 - Launch of Westminster "Recycle a Can" scheme
 - Survey of Microcomputers in Welsh schools
 - Advisory Council on Race Relations (Angela Rumbold)
 - HMI Report on construction courses in Polys
 - Launch of personal social services key indicators
 - Food Safety Act explanatory leaflet launched
 - Ministerial Group on Energy Efficiency - press conference (photocall 2.40pm, H/C; meeting 3pm; press conf 4.30pm)
 - Report on energy efficiency in public estate
 - Commons: Questions: Scotland
Debate: Rmng Stages, Law Reform Scotland Bill; 2nd Rdg, Heathrow Express Railway Bill
Select Cttee: DSS: NHS ophthalmic services
 - Lords: Debate: Environmental Protection Bill, Report (D4)
 - John MacGregor on the Jimmy Young show; opens research building, Dagenham, for Rhone-Poulenc
 - Home Secy addresses Met Police Fedn, AGM
 - Chris Patten visits Braintree
 - Lord Chancellor addresses Nat. Family Conciliation Council
 - Cecil Parkinson addresses British Property Fedn dinner, Welwyn
 - Michael Howard speaks to Industrial Society lunch
 - Kenneth Clarke meets Health Reform Group
 - Wyn Roberts opens TV-AM studios, Cardiff
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PRESS DIGESTGULF/MIDDLE EAST

You and President Bush warn Saddam Hussain of war crimes charges.

Mail wonders what the point of this is. If it is to goad him into striking the first blow it won't work. Can it be policy is adrift?

Britain is drafting a new UN Security Council resolution aimed at charging Iraq for losses and damages caused by the invasion of Kuwait and using seized Iraqi assets to pay compensation
Independent.

Independent editorial says there can be little doubt that a Nuremberg-style trial would be justified for what happened in Kuwait, although such proceedings would be bound to prompt demands for the same criteria to be applied to other conflicts, and discourage Saddam Hussain from suing for peace. It goes on to welcome therefore James Baker's switch to calling for compensation, rather than reparations, which it believes sounds more positive and would help keep the anti-Saddam coalition together, and would remain operative even if the Iraqis withdrew peacefully.

Primakhov goes to Washington, Paris and Rome in effort to resolve Gulf crisis.

Telegraph says Bush's rating in poll nosedives as support for Gulf strategy fades.

Japanese MPs argue other troops going to the Gulf.

The US wants Pakistan to send more soldiers to the Gulf.

King Hussein claims that you told him during a recent meeting at Chequers that US troops were "halfway to Saudi Arabia" before they were formally invited to come to protect the desert kingdom Times.

Customs have raided Matrix Churchill offices near Coventry and questioned 3 directors over the illegal export of machine tools to Iraq FT.

Foreign Secy fails to persuade Israel to co-operate with UN inquiry into shooting of 21 Palestinians. Israel tells Britain to mind its own business Mail.

Jerusalem's mayor agrees to meet UN investigation Times.

PRESS DIGEST

Under the heading "No need for bribes, our Gulf allies are sure to stand firm", Conor Cruise O'Brien, in the Times, sees no reason for Douglas Hurd's hard line on Israel since the Arab nations opposing Saddam know where their interests lie.

Times leader discusses possible further UN sanctions against Iraq saying the only argument against tightening the noose is that such a resolution would impose penalties even if he retreated voluntarily, lessening the chances that Saddam will retreat rather than fight. It adds that nothing but total firmness will drive him out concluding that the UN now needs to begin laying the diplomatic and legal ground for military action.

Syrian soldiers massacred 80 of Aoun's soldiers after their surrender Independent.

Today says Princess Diana wants to visit troops in Gulf.

Secret preparations are underway in Iran to organise new parliamentary elections in order to strengthen the positions of President Rafsanjani and also the country's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Khamenei Independent.

Times says that the Libyan Govt has taken on a sharply more radical, not to say, sinister look with the inclusion of a hanging judge and several men who have been expelled from European countries.

Comment

Star says after atrocity revelations it is time for jaw jaw to stop and war war to start.

Sun says it is not surprising Foreign Secy got the Order of the Foreign Mitt from the Israelis since he delivered a scathing attack on their treatment of Palestinians before he got there. Diplomats are supposed to make friends.

Express says wives applying for visas to join hostage husbands in Iraq are misguided. It makes no sense to walk back into the lion's den.

PRESS DIGESTSOVIET UNION

Gorbachev unveils his compromise programme to switch the Soviet economy on to a market basis within 2 years. But Yeltsin's attack on what he called the sabotage of the Russian Federations radical reform programme could spark a constitutional clash Independent.

Times - Gorbachev will announce on Friday the demolition of the centrally planned economy and the severing of many of the ties binding the Soviet Union's 15 republics to Moscow.

70,000 students gather in Kiev to demand the resignation of the Ukrainian Prime Minister Independent.

SOUTH AFRICA

Sun leader praises de Klerk and says that instead of just cheering him on West should end sanctions and invest in the new South Africa.

Times says a bitter struggle by right wing town councils to keep blacks out of swimming pools, libraries and public halls is the tip of the iceberg of white fear which could wreck South Africa's transition to multiracial democracy.

FOREIGN

Police attempt to raid Mrs Bhutto's Karachi home after the Govt accuses her of harbouring criminals Independent.

ECONOMY

Recession fears rise as output falls again for third successive month: truck sales down 40% on 1989; ICI to cut capital spending by 10% FT.

Chancellor's PPS resigns "over joining ERM" (Star); attacks Govt's policies on Europe. "Tory split grows", says Mirror. Today: "Major's top aide quits to lead Euro war".

Independent p1 - Kinnock taunts you over ERM, saying you caved in over the Madrid conditions and that you are frightened of facing him in next week's debate.

PRESS DIGEST

Labour MP Campbell-Savours calls for an inquiry, alleging that a senior Minister had discussed the interest rate cut with a director of a major bank on the eve of the announcement Independent.

Telegraph expects public spending to top £200 billion for first time following PES round.

Independent editorial looks at Mr Major's dilemma on spending, saying the scope for additional investment is the most vital supply-side reform of all - improved education and training - has become slim indeed. It asks if the Govt retains the vigour to redress the scales in the most important battle, between consumption and investment, and concludes that after 11 years in power this must be doubtful. But Labour's capacity to cope looks even more questionable.

Cost of petrol falls again - Esso and Jet cut by 4p.

Michael Howard will argue today not just that pay deals are too high but that wage bargainers have a wider obligation to the economy Times.

Rail unions reject 25% for 6,500 technicians and engineers; they complain it cuts overtime.

Union leaders urge McDermott oil rig workers to accept 16.6% and 4-day week.

IBM cutting out 1,200 admin jobs in Portsmouth.

Times leader discusses the effect the housing market has had on the economy over the years and looks at ways how this might be avoided in the future. It suggests that housing might be subject to capital gains tax or encouraging banks and building societies to restrain re-mortgaging.

EC Agriculture Ministers fail to reach agreement on farm subsidies and EC meeting breaks up in disarray FT.

INDUSTRY

Food for Britain call on food manufacturers to drop Union Jack from packaging because it has become a symbol of poor quality; MPs up in arms.

PRESS DIGEST

MMC says plans for Courage to acquire breweries owned by Grand Met and the two to pool over 8,000 pubs in a new company would be against the national interest.

FT leader on beer accuses DTI of confusion and delay and concludes that if the development towards large brewing and retailing concerns does not fit some ideal model of the industry it should be of no concern.

National Power to build 2 gas-fired power stations costing more than £1 billion to reduce dependence on coal FT.

Mr Portillo criticises the press for "insulting" people and companies in Teesside for re-publishing the picture of you walking across a derelict site 3 years ago Independent.

ENVIRONMENT

Two leading environmental experts warn that the world's planned action against global warming is not tough enough and will not avert catastrophe Independent.

Sir James Goldsmith gives up business to concentrate on the environment Times.

Report prepared for world climate conference in Geneva says CO2 emissions can be cut by a quarter by 2005 and by 40% by 2020 if international action is taken now FT.

EDUCATION

John MacGregor to see you today - amid reports, Mirror says, he is about to get the sack.

Times says the talks will cover the whole future of Conservative education policy. You will ask him about progress of key reforms introduced under the 1988 Act and address further radical changes, such as the introduction of vouchers.

Today says he will issue a "Back me or sack me" ultimatum to you. Mail - You have ordered MacGregor to crisis meeting.

Employers renew their attack on falling standards in reading and arithmetic with a survey indicating that many businessmen believe that comprehensive schools should be abolished times.

PRESS DIGEST

Express welcomes desire of Nat Assn of Head Teachers to get to bottom of 3Rs teaching instead of asking to be hosed down with more money. Teachers and their methods are crucial.

Mail says that as basic standards show, comprehensive schools are a flop.

Express says 7 out of 10 children play truant at least once a month.

Peter Jenkins, writing in the Independent, comments that this year's party conferences usefully pushed education towards the top of the political agenda. But the story of British education is the story of a failure of the State. Yet even now the abdicating State stands back: everything that has been tried before and failed is to be tried again, everything other than establishing the national education system we have never had and so desperately lack.

British Library says it may cease to be a proper library because of underfunding Independent.

HEALTH

Sun agrees there is cause for concern about AIDS among heterosexuals. But the fact remains the vast majority of AIDS cases are homosexual. Out of fear of the gay lobby we could be condemning more homosexuals to death by conceding the truth.

Mirror leader says Kenneth Clarke is a fool if he doesn't understand haemophiliacs with AIDS got the disease only because they were given contaminated blood.

Tory dominated Social Services Select Committee poised to demand more money for the NHS, facing the Govt with a severe setback in its health service strategy Independent.

BMA calls for new Govt agency to monitor people's exposure to pesticides Independent.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

More than 150 social services posts might be lost in Southwark as part of package of measures to some £2million Times.

PRESS DIGESTLAW & ORDER

Sun each offers £5,000 reward for capture of man who raped 11 year old girl patient in Carshalton hospital. Every man in hospital to be questioned.

Turkish driver arrested after record £10million worth of heroin found in textiles lorry at Dover.

Peter Brooke, in speech, condemns IRA as parasites.

Hit and run gangs kill two men - one Catholic and other Protestant - in Northern Ireland. Elsewhere, a priest persuades two IRA men to drop bombing mission after police surround house they have hijacked. Men get away.

Today calls on Govt to put more money into marriage guidance counselling because of our high divorce rate.

Lord Griffiths chosen to chair the committee that will play a central role in implementing plans to give solicitors equal rights of audience in the higher courts Independent.

MEDIA

Editors propose plan for self regulation of press: cttee of editors would assess complaints against other editors.

Times says a hotline is to be set up to allow those whose privacy has been infringed by the press to lodge a complaint with the new Press Complaints Commission before an article or photograph is published.

PEOPLE

A S Byatt wins Booker Prize.

Today says Royal Family spends too much of our money and too little of their own.