

October 26, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

- CBI seminar on EMU
 - New vehicle registrations (Sept)
 - Scottish Tourist Board industrial tourism booklet
 - Conference of Chairmen FE College Councils, Stirling
 - National Crime Prevention conference, Scotland
 - Commons: Debates: Lords Amdnts Courts & Legal Services
and Broadcasting Bills
 - Chancellor speaks in Lincoln
 - Foreign Secretary visits Bonn
 - Lord Chancellor opens Wolverhampton Crown Court
 - Home Secretary visits NACRO project, Birmingham
 - Malcolm Rifkind addresses Scot. Coun, Development/Industry
International Forum
 - Chris Patten visits North West
 - David Hunt launches Texaco road safety campaign
 - Norman Lamont speaks in Chesham & Amersham
 - Richard Ryder speaks on EMU at CBI conf.
 - BBC Radio 4 Any Questions? with George Walden, John
Harvey-Jones, Joan Lester and Douglas Mason
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PRESS DIGESTGULF

America announces it is ready to send another 100,000 troops to Gulf. This gives sharp boost to oil prices.

British hospitals on alert to take casualties from a Gulf war.

Express says military chiefs want authority to launch a nuclear first strike against Iraq if they believe Hussain is about to use chemical weapons.

Saddam Hussain flooding Kuwait with Palestinians.

Today says sanctions are grinding Hussain into the sand.

Military advisers of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to meet, in another sign of the international community's stiffening resolve against Saddam Hussain Independent.

Mirror says MPs were disgusted with you yesterday for failing to praise Ted Heath's mercy mission.

Ted Heath has 30 minute meeting with Mr Hurd at which he passed on warning from Saddam Hussain that he would use chemical weapons. At a meeting later with backbenchers Mr Heath described Hussain as ruthless and calculating but not mad FT.

Iraq invites group of MPs to Baghdad after talks between Ron Brown and Iraqi Ambassador.

Mail says you will urge your EC partners tomorrow to stand four square behind President Bush in readiness for a showdown with Iraq.

France at pains to reassure allies of firmness over Iraq with 300 French hostages expected to be flown home at the weekend Times.

Israeli committee of inquiry is expected to severely criticise the police for the Temple Mount shootings Independent.

IRELAND

Irish police charge six following human bomb attacks on Army checkpoints - one of them brother of Martin McGuinness.

Four young Irish students in Stafford arrested in inquiry into shooting of Sir Peter Terry.

PRESS DIGEST

SDLP leader says anger at latest IRA atrocity is far deeper than anything he has seen since 1972, with the one word on everyone's lips being "coward". And the British and Irish Govts express "Absolute abhorrence" at the "appalling inhumanity" of the proxy bombing, in a joint statement Independent.

Mr Brooke announces he is launching a renewed round of talks with Northern Ireland political parties in an attempt to break the deadlock on moves towards devoluted power for the province Independnet.

Mail says after the human bombs incident, we have surely now arrived at a turning point in relations between Britain and Eire. This must surely be the last chance to show that the South really means to make the Anglo-Irish agreemeent work.

Security forces believe the IRA carried out several rehearsals before bombing checkpoint Times.

ECONOMY

The White House and Congress appear to have agreed on tax rises and spending cuts to reduce the US budget deficit over 5 years. But Democrats 9 points ahead in the polls before next month's election Independent.

US fighting to stave off collapse of Uruguay round by asking for more time for EC to come to a decision FT.

TUC offer to talk about pay if Govt will protect jobs - will be put to Neddy on Wednesday.

Times says the threat to jobs is clearly real enough for the TUC to propose responsible pay bargaining - the first time it has ever gone so far as to accept that it has responsibilities over pay.

Personnel managers who are being urged by the Govt to reach pay increases with employees at less than inflation rate, are seeing their own earnings rise at almost 50% more than the inflation rate Times.

B/Telecom unions recommend 10% rise.

Decline in home loans FT.

Mirror leader takes Chancellor to task for refusing to acknowledge in House we are in recession and for failing to bring in measures to end it.

PRESS DIGESTEC

A serious dispute between Britain and its EC partners at the Rome Summit looks inevitable after Italy says it will push for a commitment to the goal of a single currency and will try to set a date for starting the second stage of EMU. You oppose both moves Times.

Leaders of six EC countries agree 1 January 1994 should be launch date for 2nd stage of the Delors plan on monetary union, but back away from forcing a decision on the date at this weekend's EC summit.

Guardian forecasts a politically bruising Rome Council this weekend.

Michael Heseltine says that time and again the Govt has resisted closer links with Europe only to be forced into adopting them later. He suggests a common Euro currency with each country retaining its own name for unit.

Robin Leigh Pemberton warns against rushing into "premature commitments" on road to EMU FT.

With unification under his belt, Kohl's grand mission has now become European union Independent.

Independent editorial says Mr Kohl is putting his farmers' votes before his credibility as a European statesman. Reviewing the current dispute on agriculture, it concludes the only real answer is to progressively dismantle the whole appallingly protectionist apparatus of the CAP. A 30% cut in subsidies would be a modest but useful start, and the Germans must accept it.

Mail, commenting on a survey showing that a large majority of British exporters are in favour of a single Euro currency and Social Charter says it is not surprising in terms of a currency. But we might have expected them to be more cautious about a minimum wage and workers on the board.

Farmers rally calls for radical changes in EC policy to avert rural dereliction FT.

Row looms as spokesman for Andreotti makes clear that it should be possible to fix explicitly 2 crucial points of principal: the date when stage II would begin and a single currency at Summit this weekend FT.

PRESS DIGEST

Robert Maxwell appeals to world to help Gorbachev with food and drugs.

Guardian says EC is on standby to send large amounts of emergency food and medical aid to Soviet Union this week.

Times leader discusses the latest problems facing Gorbachev and how the West can help. It adds that a reform and stabilisation programme under the aegis of Gorbachev could be more tolerable if it were backed by a large dose of conditional Western aid. To this extent the West has real influence over Gorbachev's hold on office.

Primakov: a new Godfather of diplomacy. More than a touch of Henry Kissinger about the Soviet Union's special envoy to the Gulf. Washington ponders what he is and what he's about FT.

Conor Cruise O'Brien argues in the Times that a continued Soviet troop presence in Germany is dangerous saying that continued Soviet occupation of the eastern provinces will exacerbate a revival of German nationalism.

POLITICS

Clapdown on overseas travel by MPs likely to follow criticism of Select Cttee tours abroad in scrutiny of their operation. Express says MPs can find out all they need to know without leaving Westminster. Cttee should not be given more power.

Kinnock splits Gould's environment job after Shadow Cabinet elections.

Express commenting on Shadow Cabinet elections, says the Kinnock team is determined not to allow principle to get in the way of power. Ideological turncoats can now thrive in the Labour Party.

Small group of dissident backbench MPs canvassing for a candidate to challenge your leadership of the Party next month Independent.

Telegraph leader headed "Tories still have all to play for" says Conservatives at Westminster have quickly rediscovered their edginess after Recess. Any renewed doubts over your leadership would be very foolish indeed, it says, issuing a call to self interest. You should assert yourself more strongly and Ministers and Backbenchers should be more vigorous in your support. The challenge now is for you to demonstrate that you have new things to say, a fresh vision to expound.

PRESS DIGEST

Peter Kellner, writing in the Independent, examines the theory that a Liberal revival could be good for the Tories. He concludes tactical voting plays a part in by-election results. A combination of this in general elections, combined with a Liberal Democratic revival could prove fatal to your hopes of re-election.

ENVIRONMENT

Sweden bans rain forest wood imports.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Councils are making millions of pounds from charging double community charge on second homes and empty houses Times.

INDUSTRY

Polly Peck boss faces bankruptcy, as Nadir's empire placed in hands of administrators with debts of over £1.3 billion Independent.

450 jobs to go in Staffordshire with the closure of Reliant car firm.

Cutbacks in Dutch firm Philips threaten thousands of jobs.

500,000 jobs - a third of workforce - could be lost in European arms industry over next 6 years because of cuts in equipment according to SIPRI FT.

VSEL issue redundancies for 144 staff workers FT.

Report on the Piper Alpha disaster, due next month, will set new code for oil platform safety Independent.

Row over DTI spending £2.25 million on German furniture.

UNIONS

Leaders of dissident Soviet miners call for the return of the £1.5 million sent to Britain's pitmen in 1985 Independent.

EDUCATION

The Govt's strategy for expanding higher education was thrown into chaos yesterday when the new funding system for universities collapsed Independent.

PRESS DIGEST

Nearly every head teacher in Britain says A-level system is outdated; 80% want sixth formers to study a wider range of subjects.

Express agrees with Govt in not messing with A-level system which is good.

George Gale, in Mail, commenting on more money for school buildings and teachers, says it is the system - the comprehensive system - which is the trouble.

LAW & ORDER

Cocaine worth £3million seized at Heathrow from 4 men from Antigua.

EC Court of Human Rights rules that prisoners jailed for life are entitled to a public hearing to decide whether they get parole
Independent.

Sun attacks Euro Court of Human Rights - international busy bodies - for agreeing to release sex offenders early. Whose country is Britain anyway?

Mail says the Euro Court's decision does not accord with common sense.

Commission says UK Govt was wrong to block Peter Wright's book.

Guardian says not until Euro Convention is incorporated into British law will free speech be adequately protected in Britain.

Home Office to block repeal of 1824 Vagrancy Act in a move that dismays reformers Independent.

Today says Govt's attempts to buy off dog registration are pathetic. Registration is the minimum control.

Second Tory backbench rebellion in favour of a compulsory nationwide dog registration scheme expected, despite compromise proposals by Ministers to appoint wardens to round up loose dogs
Independent.

Number of people killed by drunk driving drops by half since 1979.

PRESS DIGEST

Times - National Assn of Probation Officers say the Govt's plans to curb the courts use of custodial sentences will increase rather than decrease prison population. Leader says that if sentencers do not change their ways the Home Secretary will have to consider whether they should retain so much discretion in sentencing - they could be advised by sentencing councils composed of lawyers and laymen.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Sun thinks £1 on child benefit, while being an attempt to be generous, shows meanness to larger families most in need of help.

MEDIA

All commerical TV programmes except news and current affairs can be sponsored from January under IBA code.

PEOPLE

Mark Thatcher has paid £2.1million for a London house in Kensington.

FOREIGN

Mrs Bhutto charges that election had been "massively and blatantly rigged" but lacks proof Independent.

Times leader has no doubt that there was ballot rigging in the Pakistani election but for miss Bhutto to say it was stolen is plainly untrue. It calls on the military to leave Govt and opposition to nurse Pakistan's fragile civilian institutions back to health.

The Soviet and Russian parliaments are embroiled in a "war of laws" which could soon lead to a showdown between Gorbachev and Yeltsin. Meanwhile the opposition movement in the Ukraine calls for independence Independent.

Independent editorial says that it would be in Pakistan's best interests for her own party and her own political ambitions if Mrs Bhutto accepted the election results and concentrated on the future. At 37, she is down but not out of the game. Now is the time for her to prepare for future office Independent.