

October 30, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

- Prime Minister's Statement on European Council
 - Polish-German conference on border treaty (to Wed)
 - CBI quarterly trends (Q3)
 - UK-Irish Attorneys-General meet on jurisdiction
 - EC Transport Council
 - Social Action Programme conference
 - Launch, new ethnic benefit information system
 - Urban Development Corporations' conference (FT supplement)
 - National Housing & Town Planning conference, Brighton
 - Education research project on in-service teacher training
 - NSPCC child protection training pack (Virginia Bottomley)
 - Equal Opportunities Commission on plan for childcare
 - Vehicle registrations (Sept)
 - Govt's response to Defence Select Cttee report on low flying
 - Govt's response to MAFF Select Cttee report on BSE
 - British Deaf Assn publish manifesto 2000
 - Commons: Questions: Defence; Prime Minister
Debate: Environment Protection Bill, Lords' Amdmts
 - Lords: Debates: Broadcasting Bill, Commons Amdmts; Hong Kong selection scheme Order
 - Lord Chancellor speaks at Victim Support AGM
 - Chancellor at Business in the Community dinner
 - Home Secretary addresses Twenty Club (retailers)
 - Kenneth Clarke chairs GPs' fundholding conference, Bristol
 - Michael Howard addresses CBI conference on EC
 - David Hunt launches NE Wales TEC; meets farmers
 - John MacGregor addresses Royal Inst. of International Affairs
 - Peter Lilley presents Better Made in Britain awards
 - John Gummer at British Meat Manufacturers' lunch
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PRESS DIGESTMain News

UN adopts resolution providing for compensation claims and War crimes charges against Iraq.

Gorbachev calls for Iraq/Kuwait to be ended peacefully by Arab nations.

But James Baker appears to bring military action nearer with warning that force cannot be ruled out.

Mirror says Mother Teresa is set to go to Gulf to try to free hostages as nearly 300, mostly French, fly into Paris; 4 Britons believed to be on board.

EC talks on GATT negotiating hand postponed to next Monday.

Signs of regret in several EC countries over outcome of Rome Council.

Bruges Group attacks Sir Geoffrey Howe's "irresponsible, unstatesmanlike and unconstitutional" talk about catching the European train.

Foreign Secy's supporters left with impression Britain's interests have not been served by your outspokenness Guardian.

Sir Leon Brittan said to have given the pro-Europe game away by saying Britain's joining in integrated Europe could await your departure.

David Owen says a single currency would mean crossing a threshold on United States of Europe. This is an issue on which Britain has to be ready to stand alone.

Norman Tebbit says you have support of many Conservatives and Labour.

Govt wins dog registration vote by a whisker - a majority of 3. What would Lords do now? Express: Maggie wins a dog fight.

Picture of you with Paul Gascoigne at last night's reception in most of the pops. He says you were nice and cuddly.

Clare Short accuses Tory MPs of fathering children they don't know about.

PRESS DIGEST

Sir Peter Imbert, Met Police Commissioner, in hospital after suspected heart attack.

EC

You will refuse to apologise for your stinging attacks on Euro leaders on Sunday.

Hugh Dykes claims a free Commons vote would show a huge majority for EMU.

Danes blame Italy for calling an unnecessary meeting.

Star says you outsmarted leaders of Italy, France and Germany in their efforts to hoodwink you in backing a single currency and Bank.

Sun says politicians of all parties rallied behind your pledge not to scrap the pound. And pro-Europe Tories say the attempted ambush by Italy, France and Germany bullied you with a strong stand. Leader headed "Time for this cuckoo to clock off" says you are right that Common Market leaders are living in cloud cuckoo land. Only backward cuckoos would imagine Britain will abandon the pound. Sadly we have one example of cuculus canorus at Westminster - the greater spotted Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Sun also has a feature on 10 reasons why we'll have to break Delors - 10 "appalling" things you didn't know about "the man who believes he's the uncrowned king of Europe".

In another leader Sun, commenting on the Chunnel link up, welcomes Europeans back to civilisation.

Today finds 6 out of 10 youngsters it questioned - and it asked only 100 - believe a common currency is the way forward into the next century. Feature on "disco playboy" - ie Italian Foreign Minister - who tripped you up.

Today leader says you appear a lonely figure weighed down by the past - a spoiler not a creator. For more than 30 years now Britain has persistently missed the European tide.

Times says that an unrepentant Margaret Thatcher will today insist to MPs that the Rome Summit altered nothing, and that the battle for a central bank and introduction of a single currency has yet to be fought. Douglas Hurd and John Major furious at Italy's tactics.

PRESS DIGEST

FT - You will today vigorously defend your opposition to a single European currency - although it could cause a serious split in the Tory Party. It reports acknowledgement from "Whitehall insiders" that EC leaders are now looking beyond your hold on government - perhaps after the next Election.

Express - Maggie goes on attack to face her angry MPs.

Mail pl lead - Maggie's TV plea (over heads of divided Cabinet) in Commons today for public support in fight to save pound. Your message: who rules? Wave of sympathy for you over the way you appeared to be ambushed in Rome.

Hugo Young, in Guardian, says Rome opens a question which has been dead for months: is this the leader the Tories still want?

Guardian leader says you are weary and ragged. The Thatcher factor is now resoundingly negative switching off floating voters by the million. In Rome you were a peripheral figure - a comic turn.

Ministerial sources tell Independent your EMU language was "unhelpful" because it pointed the Govt into a non negotiable corner. Senior Ministers distance themselves from the Rome furore and talk of a New Year compromise, but Bernard Ingham briefs that you will offer no apologies.

FT - whole page of articles on aftermath of Rome:

- cool response fails to deter Britain on hard ECU plan.
Treasury officials put on brave face;

- conclusion seems to be that EC politicians have leaped ahead of the technicians by getting their institutional oranges mixed up with macro-economic apples.

In article in International Affairs, Sir Geoffrey Howe again highlights divisions within Govt over the EC by questioning the validity of the sovereignty argument used by you and others to oppose closer EC union Times.

Flushed with pride at the array of Summit agreements on European integration, the Italian presidency is calling meetings of special representatives of the 12 EC Govts to prepare the agenda for December's conference on political union Times.

PRESS DIGEST

German Govt is supremely confident now that whether or not you are Prime Minister on January 1, 1994, Britain will not veto the move to the next stage of European economic and currency union then Times.

Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Editor of the Times, says if there was one lesson for the British Govt in the European reaction to the Rome Summit, it was that English metaphors do not translate easily, and your criticisms of your fellow leaders lost almost all their force because of your choice of phrases.

Sir Michael Butler in Independent explains how Britain's hard ECU and EMF ideas could be used to bring about full EMU. This would be seen as constructive rather than destructive and we would be far more likely to get our way at the IGC. The right policy is to seek a sensible route to EMU not to reject the aim.

Telegraph leader says there is a larger difficulty in isolation - weakness. Britain's arguments are powerful - its position is not. You need to find a style of argument which is more effective. You need to convince voters this is an issue of statesmanship and not a prolonged shouting match.

Guardian claims senior Ministers were struggling to hold Conservative Party together.

Peter Jenkins, in Independent, suggests that Britain could compromise by ratifying an EMU treaty, and set off down the road towards implementation, while reserving to a future date the final act of sovereign resignation.

An Independent editorial backs EC entry for EFTA and Eastern European countries. Negotiations with would-be EFTA entrants should begin in 1993, with an assurance to the Poles and Hungarians that their own membership will not be far behind.

FT leader on EC says Sweden's application to join sounds the knell for EFTA and the European Economic Area, now under negotiation. EC can only be strengthened by admission of Sweden and Austria and should be expedited. Thereafter attention should be given to defining and implementing a form of association which will enable the new democracies of central Europe to participate.

PRESS DIGEST

Euro Ministers agree to freeze CO2 levels at present rate for 2000 - Britain will fall in by 2005. Times leader says there is a world of difference between giving undertakings which will not have to be honoured for a decade, and imposing measures here and now which will reduce industrial competitiveness with countries that are less scrupulous about keeping their word.

Norway's Conservative-led coalition resigns because it was unable to resolve an internal dispute over Norwegian relations with the EC Times.

Dublin coalition in the balance as talks founder Times.

GATT

Series of crisis meetings scheduled by GATT will begin on Friday to try to avert breakdown of Uruguay Round. John Crosbie, Canada's trade minister, in blistering attack on EC, says failure to agree Round could spark an economic depression similar to the 1930s FT.

Franco-German roadblock on unwillingness of Italian presidency to outvote Community's two most powerful members on GATT from support will appear to many in Britain and some in smaller EC states as an unpleasant contrast to the seemingly lighthearted way in which yet again last weekend your partners put you in a minority of one. Technically France and Germany could be outvoted on a majority vote - but no-one believes they would allow themselves to be FT.

GULF

Express says Gorbachev's call for an inter-Arab meeting to solve Gulf crisis must be his idea of a joke. It is wishful thinking. It will take something far more concrete to make the world safe from Hussain.

James Sherr, lecturer in international relations at Lincoln College, Oxford, explains in the Times why we cannot count on Gorbachev in the Gulf saying that Moscow is guided only by territorial interest.

Iraq Airways make a bizarre offer to British Airways - "Give us our spare parts and we will let you have your aircraft back" Times.

PRESS DIGEST

Aid windfall for Egypt: creditors have written off £7.1 billion in debts (one-third of Egypt's foreign debt burden) in last week in gratitude for the role in Gulf crisis FT.

INDUSTRY

Barclays Bank to shed 1,800 jobs, closing 110 of its 2,600 branches.

Thames TV cutting 300 jobs - blames Govt for insisting 25% of work goes to Independents.

Labour claims interest rates are closing 300 firms a week.

US Federal Reserve moves to ease interest rates.

British Rail introduces £10 on the spot fines for fare dodgers.

Sir Kit McMahon under increasing pressure to stand down as chief executive of Midland which drops plan to sell consumer credit arm after failing to get a good offer.

Airlines calling for fare increases of 12% to meet higher fuel costs.

Govt have issued writs against Legal & General and Citicorp over Barlow Clowes FT.

Mail feature on Nissan, Sunderland, factory, which put British pride back on the road.

Japanese company PIONEER has agreed single union, no strike deal with EETPU FT.

Robert Maxwell in joint venture to take over Berliner Verlag, a publishing house owned by PDS, successor to Communist Party of East Germany FT.

EC agreed in principle to a directive which will make it easier for gas utilities in one country to transport gas through pipelines in neighbouring member states FT.

LOCAL GOVT

Dave Nellist MP vows to go to jail rather than pay community charge, when court orders him to do so.

PRESS DIGEST

Community charge staff in Haringey go on indefinite strike in protest at plans to make 9 colleagues redundant. Labour council plans to cut 650 of the 9,000 jobs in the borough Times.

Wimpey chairman to lead inquiry into alleged payments to Militant Derek Hatton.

LAW & ORDER

Court punishments to be linked to ability to pay.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Unpaid fines to be docked from State benefits - Meacher says it could be the final straw which drives families under. Rejecting CPAG criticisms that it might leave families short of basics, Express says all the more reason not to commit crime in the first place.

Times - Labour condemns Govt's plans to make fathers pay maintenance saying it is a ruse to fill Treasury coffers instead of helping poor families. Leader says that if the plans succeed it could do more than the fear of AIDS to inhibit male sexual behaviour. It adds that saving the Treasury money should be a secondary objective. The central aim must be to end unnecessary dependence on the State, dependence that is rarely welcome even to the women involved. Britain must avoid the "dependence culture" underclass that has become so entrenched in America.

Under the heading "Will mothers name the guilty fathers?", Malcolm Wicks, Director of the family Policy Studies Centre, writing in the Times, believes the maintenance proposals will do little for children most in need.

Mail gives general welcome to Govt's plans.

Independent editorial says at last the Govt is doing something about the problem of unpaid fines; the amount deducted seems reasonable and should help to avoid the use of prisons.

EDUCATION

Telegraph leads with Govt plans to allow less academic children in secondary schools to concentrate on vocational education from 14.

PRESS DIGESTHOUSING

Express says 1% cut in interest rates has caused the housing market to surge back to life.

ENVIRONMENT

European seal population rising again after 1988 epidemic FT.

US challenges world wide ban on industrial sea dumping FT.

ARTS

Sir Peter Hall accuses you of setting out to destroy British theatre - your policies have turned arts into a corpse.

SPORT

Express says hooliganism that has dragged down soccer's and Britain's reputation, has latterly been notable by its absence. And attendances are up. Let's hope this is the game's long-awaited renaissance.

FOREIGN

Franco-Soviet pact more style than substance FT.

Faction battles feared after 16 die in Soweto FT.