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PRIME MINISTER

THE WEEKEND - HIGHLIGHTS

The weekend press is likely to be full of:

- Budget analysis (plus interest/mortgage rates);
- Trident reaction;
- Irish prospects.

Otherwise it is fairly quiet.

Events worth noting are:

Saturday: Poland under martial law for 3 months;  
Conservative Party local government conference;  
GLC London fares rally, County Hall.

Broadcasts

- LWT, Weekend World - another look at the Budget, effect of international events outside UK control and Government's chance of achieving economic recovery - Government spokesman not yet settled.
- BBC, World this Weekend - no approach yet, but mortgage rate cut could galvanise.
- Radio London Sunday phone-in - Mr Macfarlane - sport.
- LBC, "A Roof over Your Head" - John Stanley (could permit comment on interest rates.)

We shall try to ensure Government's position is projected on major programmes.

The Reagan visit could, I fear, rumble on.

*B. Ingham*

B. INGHAM  
11 March 1982

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PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

Trident Statement.

EC: Agriculture Council, Brussels.

Teachers' campaign of disruption starts.

GLC London fares lobby of Parliament, mass rally at Central Hall.

CAA cheap fares plan public hearing.

Anti-apartheid Conference "South Africa - The Time to Choose", London.

European Parliament, Strasbourg.

Joe Gormley's last NUM Executive.

President Mitterrand visits Washington.

Gatt Panel discusses EC flour exports subsidies.

CBI Conference on West Africa, London.

Society of Chief Personnel Officers in local government Conference,  
Birmingham.

Fast Selling Food Products and Mail Order Merchandise Show, London.

Daily Telegraph Business Enterprise Show, Birmingham.

Daily Mail Ideal Home Exhibition, Earls Court.

Publications:

Census 1981: an historical and international perspective.

Parliament:

Commons:

Questions: Prime Minister, Treasury.

Business: Continuation of the Budget Debate.

Lords:

Taking of Hostages Bill(HL): Committee  
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill:  
Committee. (1st day).  
Representation of the People (Variation of Limits  
of Candidates' Election Expenses) Order 1982:  
Motion for Approval.

Ministers - see Annex

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PRESS DIGEST

Mark

- Denies to Daily Mail his remarks about there being no recession are sensitive or embarrassing; Labour Party: "silly boy"; Cryer: "pampered playboy"; Help the Aged: "gross insensitivity".

Trident

- Figures of up to £10-£11bn splashed around for Trident D5 decision expected today; forecasts of big political storm; D/Star says cost would provide 500 new hospitals or 10,000 new schools. Some Tory MPs said to be worried about effect on conventional forces.
- D/Star: Govt needs to be careful not to be led along by Reagan into thinking world can be saved by bigger and better bombs; time to talk peace and cut defence spending and provide some of the -enefits Britain needs.

Reagan Visit

- Opposition wants meeting with you; against his addressing MPs in Westminster Hall but might settle for Royal Gallery.

Civil List

- Morning Star says Queen is actually getting 16% pay rise because Palace workers are being held to 4.5%.
- Sun says it would have been more sensible for what is left of Prince Edward's vote to have been given back to public.

Budget

- Row over whether people at all levels of income will pay more or less tax.
- Shore says it is a dead end budget; Govt settling for 3m permanently on dole; only people who gain those earning over £380 a week.
- SDP talks of a few cheap baubles - a further instalment for despair.
- Telegraph thinks budget increases Tory hopes of success at Hillhead.
- Meanwhile, index linked gilts sell like gingerbread but Banks hold off reducing base rate though Bank of England signals its welcome for lower rate.
- TUC concern and caution over Community Service scheme.
- Oil companies want to see Nigel Lawson because they say tax changes won't ease log jam on North Sea development.
- Mirror says Charities are furious because Chancellor has not heeded their representations like he did whisky industry.

- Telegraph says Wet Opposition has collapsed, though Gilmour set to continue as critic though with support of only handful.
- Times leader says that within limits set by economic strategy Govt has shown some sense of social priorities.
- Sam Brittan says it is a pedestrian budget and leader says finds is a curious budget in which economic meaning and much good sense is concealed between lines.

#### Economy

- Payments surplus last year may have been £8bn.
- Pensioners can now earn £57 a week free of tax, though some Tories don't think it's enough.
- Volcker expects US interest rates to fall 3 or 4% by summer.
- Mitterrand demands strict discipline on public spending to cut deficit.

#### Industry

- Ravenscraig strikers go back after management temporarily withdraws working practices deal.
- Micro computers to be installed in schools as part of £130m high technology boost in budget.
- Nigel Lawson sacks Clive Jenkins as member of BNOG, and Jenkins and Laird, other trade union director, give Guardian exclusive critique of BNOG assets sale.
- Times: talks with machine assistants break down.
- Alcan lost £48m last year.
- Job seeker writes his 1051st application today.

#### Labour Law

- Business and right wing groups (but without CBI who won't lie down with IoD) want Mr Tebbit to toughen up disputes procedure enforcement.

#### Unions/Pay

- Teachers begin industrial action today; Mail says that thousands of children locked out yesterday because teachers did not get to school but some travelled 15 miles across London to go on demo.
- Joe Gormley attacks militants, 11 of whom boycott his Cumbria farewell dinner; says they're bad for miners, union and Britain and wishes he had another 10 years to fight them.
- Mounting evidence of an extremist Left Wing attempt to take over NUT.

#### Civil Service

- Philip Holland, in Telegraph, says there is now evidence of a change of attitude to quangos: "Not 'Yes Minister' but No, Minister if it needs a quango."

#### De Lorean

- Bank of America suing for 1979 cars because of £10m default; Budget Car Hire to buy 1000 cars today and another 1000 later.

- Laker: Skytrain customers unlikely to get all their cash back.

#### London Transport

- London traffic jams as LT comes to a halt but hundreds of staff defy it though not allowed to take out vehicles.
- Unions threatening a further dose in their pay battle.

#### Law and Order

- Controversy over whether police should have present crime figures on a racial basis - Mail supports but Guardian against.
- Naryan, coloured lawyer, clashes with Boateng; says he is fed up with Boateng's endless stream of anti-police propaganda; police deserve support of all right thinking people. More than half last year's muggings in London by coloureds.
- Mr Whitelaw, who is under renewed political attack, says blacks will be treated as severely as anyone else.
- Mirror says police are being urged to stop white vigilante patrols from going into Brixton - first planned for Saturday afternoon.
- Police Federation says it needs another 5000 policemen in London to combat horrifying increase in crime.
- Express says Mr Whitelaw has proved to be as weak and watery over law and order as Mr Prior was over trade unions; you should replace him with someone who has stomach for task.
- Mail says real victims of '80s muggings may be not white pensioners but Black Britons indicted for their association with gangs they did not disown.
- Telegraph says if law is to survive police must be allowed to ensure that offenders are made to live beneath it.
- Govt brings out today laws to stop spread of sex shops.
- Govt considering whether to make seat belts compulsory in back of car.

#### Medical

- Hospital decision to buy cheap continental quilts led to deaths of 7 patients in spite of DHSS warnings that they were fire risk.
- Case of Egyptian who could not spell responsible for SAS man being plunged into 10 month coma.

#### Local Authority

- South Tyneside council refused to allow gifted pupil to go to Grammar School for political reasons.

#### Cricket

- South Africans trying to lure West Indian team there at cost of £1m.
- England tour in trouble because of injuries.

#### People

- Mirror says Livingstone, GLC, comes from Conservative background.

Politics

- AUEW threatens to back independent in Bradford North if Wall is allowed to stand; Labour Party asks Sunday Times for tape of Wall's speech.
- Ronnie Butt, Times, says Conservative Party has reason for optimism about next election because of new unity which is indispensable for victory.
- Shirley Williams embarrassed about Washington Post account of her criticism of SDP - political novices lacking intellectual underpinning.

Ireland

- PIRA deserter on the run tells Standard PIRA had mole in Commons.
- Haughey to have lunch with Reagan on St Patrick's day.
- Mr Prior says Haughey's remarks about British troops withdrawing from NI unrealistic.
- Telegraph says that as a condition for staying in office Haughey will now have to proceed with the systematic wrecking of the Irish economy.
- Guardian says that in his present posture Haughey can contribute nothing effectively to any NI political initiative.

International

India: High powered Soviet defence team going there next week.

Libya: USA slaps on trade bar for everything except food and medicine.

El Salvador: Mirror says Reagan has given CIA go ahead to create "secret army" to fight Left Wing guerillas.

Arctic: Replacement vehicles lifted to trans-globe expedition.

South Africa: Two mercenaries in Seychelles coup trial turn State evidence.

Euro Parliament: non binding vote for uniform system of PR against British opposition.

France: Mitterrand to see Reagan tomorrow to improve relations.

Nicaragua: US spy planes report military build up.

B. IMGHAM

11 March 1982

ANNEX

Ministers:

Lord Carrington addresses Diplomatic Commonwealth Writers Association.  
Mr Younger attends Scottish Daily Newspaper Society Dinner, Edinburgh.  
Mr Biffen visits Austria (until 15 March).  
Mr Walker and Mr Buchanan-Smith attend EC Agriculture Council, Brussels.  
Mr Marten meets the Jamaican High Commissioner.  
Sir George Young speaks at Agreement Board Dinner.  
Mr Baker visits Oxford.  
Mr Lamont visits Brimsby and Scunthorpe, and addresses Grimsby and  
Immingham Chamber of Commerce.  
Mr Wakeham visits University of Surrey.  
Mr MacGregor presents Export Awards for Small Firms.  
Lord Mansfield attends Scottish Oil Club Dinner, Edinburgh.  
Lord Trenchard and Mr Pattie meet Indian Chief of Staff.  
Mr Wiggin attends Exercise Alloy Express, Norway (until 13 March).

TV/Radio:

Sir Geoffrey Howe, BBC 1, 'Question Time'.