

PRIME MINISTER from Bernard Ingham

Press Summary: Saturday, 20 March

Cricket

3 year test ban on English Tourists for South Africa, and they will not be selected to play for their counties against the Indians and Pakistanis this summer.

Government believed to have breathed a sigh of relief, especially in view of Mrs. Gandhi's visit next week; players stunned - may sue for restraint of trade.

Guardian says that if the cricketers are shocked by the severity of the TTCB they are more naive than previously appeared.

Economy

Last month prices remained stable for the first time for 12 years. Rate of inflation falls 1%. Several papers hail this as a big boost for you and the Government. Guardian forecasts single figure inflation in 2 months. Norman Tebbit says common sense is breaking out all over the country.

Express says the movement of inflation is further confirmation that the general course of your policy is correct and beginning to succeed; common sense is beginning to pay economic and political dividends.

Mail: springtime for Maggie; this is not a flash in the pan, and productivity is growing impressively; British economy seems to be moving into a virtuous circle; the prospects should put a spring into your step and give a boost to the rest of us.

OPEC agrees to limit production, but there are serious doubts whether it will have any effect on actual supplies.

Limited welcome for the first issue of open sale index-linked gilts.

Times leader says that in the long term the French Government cannot rely on other countries' money to protect it from the consequences of its policies.

/ Irish

BSC planning to hold prices on a wide range of products when other European steel producers implement the next round of rises, primarily because of rise in sterling against other European currencies.

Sun says yesterday's decision by big banks to pull the plug out on Stone Platt a cruel indictment of Britain today - the company needed only £15 m to start winning again - compare this with the amount we pour daily into nationalised industries; receiver says firms are showing great interest in significant parts of the business.

Strong criticism of Laker for his cavalier capitalism by the President of Swiss Air which made an increased profit last year.

Derek Ezra expected to get a lump sum payment of £65,000 on retirement; Guardian worries about the whole system of rewards in the public sector.

Medical

The Matron who disappeared under the title of Chief Nursing Officer when the NHS was reorganised is to re-appear when Sheffield's new health authority takes over next month.

Education

200 children at Dulwich Comprehensive run riot, apparently celebrating end of term.

Law and Order

The British woman diplomat charged with passing information to an Egyptian official - alleged attempt by court to ban publicity.

Two letter bombs sent to SDP in Edinburgh and Glasgow, similar to that sent to Mr. Nott, blown up by the army.

Three jailers acquitted of murder of prisoner need police protection to get through howling mod at Leicester.

Chief Constable Anderton's problems with his police committee deepen - they refuse him vote of confidence.

Politics

Times senses success for Mr. Jenkins in Hillhead on the basis of his reports of house to house visits.

Bryant Godman-Irvine, MP for Rye, to stand down at next election.

Mr. Heath on the plane from Leeds/Bradford which narrowly missed two Dutch military planes.

John Hoyskins' decision to leave reported flatly.

International

El Salvador. The storm breaks over the death of the 4 Dutch TV journalists - Dutch Foreign Minister says they could have been murdered in cold blood, and sends his Ambassador to Mexico to investigate; USA acknowledges that the ruling junta's account of their deaths seriously undermines Reagan's support.

Nicaragua accuses the USA of plotting to invade.

USA: only 43% compared with 67% last April now approves President Reagan's performance.

South Africa: Botha accepts an invitation to talks by Kaunda.

Denmark: hit by foot and mouth disease outbreak.

Elections: second round of French cantonal elections tomorrow when Lower Saxony also goes to the polls.

Buckley Mission: Times says this came to a dismal end in Brussels with little indication that Europe is prepared to take a tougher line against Russia.

Penlee: inquest jury lay blame for the tragedy on the skipper of the Union Star which foundered in the gale.

20 March, 1982.