

PRIME MINISTER

THIS WEEKEND - HIGHLIGHTS

Issues

- Falkland Islands
- European Mandate (Foreign Affairs Council)
- Northern Ireland initiative
- Politics: SDP/Alliance problems

Events

Saturday:

- Grand National
- Victoria State elections, Australia
- TUC Regional AGMs, Yorkshire, Northern
- National Council of Youth and Community Education Officers  
(Mr Shelton)
- ACTT annual conference (and Sunday)
- BMA conference on Computers in Medicine (and Sunday)

Sunday:

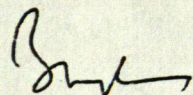
- Mr Whitelaw opens Thames Valley police security exhibition,  
Beaconsfield.

Media

- LWT, Weekend World - Prior initiative in Northern Ireland (noon).
- BBC, World this Weekend - Churchill/CCO Defence initiative.
- LWT, Skin - Brixton one year after riots (1.30pm).

Decisions required

There will almost certainly be a radio/tv demand for Ministers on the Falkland and European Mandate - both in the FCO area. Decisions will be needed on whether to respond in the light of the situation. Lord Carrington will no doubt deal with the media on the Mandate in Luxembourg.



B. INGHAM

2 April 1982



PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

Your meeting with the Mayor of Berlin.

Second Anniversary of Bristol riots.

EC: Agriculture Council, Brussels.

Sir Peter Parker speaks on "Industrial concerns and the Government" at the Institute of Civil Engineers, Edinburgh.

1000th Bound Hansard.

British Association of Social Workers conference, Bath.

National Union of Journalists conference, Coventry.

Statistics:

UK official reserves (Mar).

Capital issues and redemptions (during the month of March).

Housing starts and completions (Feb).

Publications:

British Business - Regional Births and Deaths of Firms, EC Guide update, Aerospace costs statistics.

Pay:

Civil Service Official Side gives evidence to the Civil Service Arbitrator.

Ministers - see Annex

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PRESS DIGEST

Falkland Islands

- Most late editions lead with Britain's call for a meeting of the Security Council because there are fears of an imminent invasion of the Falkland Islands. The Governor stated last night that he may declare a state of emergency. There are varying reports about deployment of Argentine and British ships. The latter includes the use of Invincible to lead a task group.



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Northern Ireland

- The go-ahead for devolution is widely covered. The D/Telegraph says that you insisted on shortening the passages mentioning links with the Irish Republic. The Guardian talks of serious criticism from some Tory backbenchers.
- Two soldiers killed in Londonderry yesterday.
- Mr Prior to meet union leaders in productivity talks about Harland and Wolff.
- IRA gun runners in New York may avoid prosecution because of legal objections to "phone bugging" by FBI.

Whitehall Organisation

- TCSC press for better monitoring by Ministers of effectiveness of policies. CAG should have access to accounts of all Departments, local authorities and nationalised industries and should be more directly responsible to Parliament. Leaders in the Times and Guardian are generally supportive although the Guardian is less enthusiastic about extending the scope of the CAG.
- MPs table clause to Local Government Finance Bill requiring the CAG to have access to local authority papers.
- Richard Ryder writes on reform of the system in the Telegraph.
- A PAC report will criticise the Treasury's handling of asset sales.

British Rail

- Guardian says the inquiry by Peat Marwick Mitchell was ordered by the Treasury and is "an embarrassing defeat for Mr Howell".

Disputes and Unions

- Three thousand workers at Massey Ferguson, Coventry, are warned that work will be transferred to French plant unless strike ends.
- Heathrow baggage workers return to work after 7 weeks strike over new flexible rosters.
- ASLEF drivers walk out at King's Cross after Union Branch Secretary suspended for refusing an instruction.
- A new BL procedural agreement is being circulated to workers without full trade union agreement. Main opposition is over exclusion of closed shop provisions. FT leader links this with Employment Bill.
- Former Laurence Scott workers awarded compensation for unfair dismissal.

Employment

- Sir Terence Beckett attacks trade union demands for shorter hours.
- MSC announce substantial increases in worker mobility allowances.
- Express leader argues in favour of one year's National Service.

Industry

- British Aerospace and other British firms to share in contracts for 5 new communication satellites.
- Foster Wheeler Energy wins £500m for petrochemicals contract in Saudi Arabia.



Oil

- Some oil companies intend to phase out their purchases of Nigerian oil.
- Sun Oil Company go ahead with plans for development of Balmoral Oil Field.

Defence

- There is wide coverage for President Reagan's speech expressing readiness to talk with the Soviet Union and some indication of disappointed or hostile domestic reaction.
- Britain to have 160 cruise missiles - 96 by end of 1983.
- Royal Navy confirm that submarine in Clyde approaches is Russian.
- Ministry of Defence has ordered 3 Marconi radar sets.

European Community

- Commission proposes average 10.3-10.5% food price increase. Mr Walker found package "even more unacceptable than anyone else". Telegraph leader says you are right to threaten veto on farm price increase.
- European Parliament Budget Committee to press for 130% increase in social fund next year.

Domestic Rates

- Institute of Directors reject Government plan for reform.

Law and Order

- Glasgow woman granted leave to bring private prosecution in rape case. Three teenagers arrested.
- Burglars committing violence will receive no mercy from courts says Lord Justice Lawton.
- Mr Whitelaw discussed police tactics with representatives of Association of Chief Police Officers.

National Health Service

- Sir Derek Rayner to scrutinise National Health Service. Many reports highlight recovery of costs from insurance companies.
- Doctors' sick notes for illness lasting less than a week to be abolished in June.

Heritage

- Government measures to safeguard works of art do not go as far as Select Committee recommended.
- Threat to Exmoor National Park from sale of 2,200 acres.
- Countryside Commission will devote increased resources to conservation.

Papal Visit

- Mr St John Steves claims that Government opposed plan for Pope to address both Houses of Parliament.



Politics

- SDP hope to elect leader by May/June. Meeting rejected "two leader" suggestion.
- Some Ministers said to be "dismayed" by scenes of rioting in Party political talk. You are said to have approved it.
- Dave Wetzel faces "strong challenge" in committee election on Monday.
- Tribune attacks Labour shadow Ministers.
- NUS to ask Mr Parkinson to investigate alleged forgery on Conservative nomination forms.

People

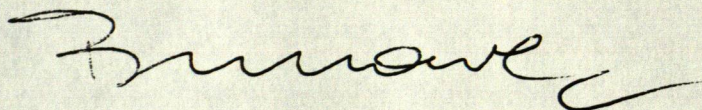
- Sir Donald Maitland criticised in House yesterday for giving "political" speech.
- Sir Ian MacGregor received £100,750 from Amax last year - double his BSC salary.

Cricket

- D/Star claims exclusive story on secret deal between Tory MPs and South African businessmen to finance legal action by cricketers.
- Indian Cricket Board gives go ahead for tour of England. Mrs Gandhi still studying implications of South African tour.
- Boycott dismissed from £5,000 a year promotion job with Labour-controlled West Yorkshire County Council.

International

- Bank of France intervene to support franc.
- Duarte still trying to hold control in El Salvador. US said to be trying to keep moderate elements in new government.
- Chancellor Schmidt reported to be planning a Cabinet re-shuffle but denied by government spokesman.
- Israel refusal to allow British officials to see sacked Mayors is interpreted as a snub for Lord Carrington.
- President Reagan out of hospital and well.



B MOWER  
2 April 1982



ANNEX

Ministers:

Mr Whitelaw visits Hampshire Fire Brigade.

Sir Keith Joseph visits the Wirral, opens Poulton Lancelyn School and addresses St Anselms College.

Mr Tebbit speaks to "Spokesman Group" at General Council of British Shipping. (1.00pm).

Mr Heseltine visits Wildfowl Centre, Milton Keynes.

Mr Walker and Mr Buchanan-Smith attend EC Agriculture Council, Brussels.

Mr Wakeham gives opening speech at Chichester seminar.

Mr Morrison visits Chester for Best of British Exhibition.

Mr Waddington addresses Watford Conservative Party on the Employment Bill. (7.30pm).

Mr Gray opens a Marathon Oil Company warehouse, Peterhead.

Lord Mansfield speaks at Institute of Foresters (Scotland) reception, Edinburgh.

Mr Fletcher addresses Education conference at Jordanhill College of Education, Glasgow.

Mrs Fenner visits Tesco Store, Chatham.

Lord Bellwin pays Inner City visit to Rotherham.

Mr Stanley visits Middle East to promote Construction (until 8 April).