

THIS WEEK - HIGHLIGHTS

This week - and subsequent weeks - will be dominated by the Falkland Islands; its problem and its political, diplomatic, economic and defence consequences.

It will be very important that the Government holds and keeps the initiative and that Ministers take every opportunity to get over the facts and the Government's point of view.

Good news - eg. the March WPI today - will almost certainly be swamped by the Falklands.

Other potential big stories in a very busy pre-Easter week are:

- Northern Ireland initiative (today).
- TUC Conference on Employment Bill (today).
- European Budget (and today's Agricultural Council statement).
- Immigration statistics (today) (and Civil Service survey on race - Wed).
- HMI Report on effects of public spending cuts on education (today).
- Security Commission statement and report (tomorrow).
- Police Complaints Board report (tomorrow).
- White Paper on Data Protection (Wed).

OTHER EVENTS

Economic Indicators:

An important week apart from the WPI today:

- Today - retail sales, HP and instalment credit for Feb.
- Tues - money supply (Feb), CGBR (Mar) and vehicle production (Mar).
- Wed - Building Society monthly figures (Mar).
- Thurs - Index of Industrial Production (Feb); UK bank assets, liabilities and money stock (Mar).
- Fri - Steel production (Mar).

Economy

- Chancellor before Treasury Select Committee on budgetary reform (today).
- Chancellor at striking of £1 coin (tomorrow).
- NEDC (Wed).
- Family expenditure survey (Thurs).

Pay

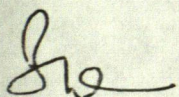
- Nurses (tomorrow); London Transport (Wed); electricity supply manuals (Thurs).

Political

- Federation of Conservative Students - your speech Wed.

Ministers

- Mr Heseltine in Liverpool (today).
- Mr Lawson at Electricity Power Engineers Assn. (tomorrow).
- Sir Keith Joseph at Cttee of Directors of Polys conference (Wed).
- Mr Biffen to Brazil (Thurs).
- Mr Whitelaw on Jimmy Young Programme (Thurs).



B. INGHAM

5 April 1982

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

Falkland Islands - Shadow Cabinet; Governor & Royal Marine Commanders return;
?Statement.

Foreign Affairs and Defence Select Committees start investigations.

Northern Ireland Devolution Statement and White Paper.

EC: Informal meeting of Employment Ministers, Brussels.

Statement following EC Agriculture Council?

Statement on the Mandate?

Withholding of Tax Refunds to unemployed and strikers starts.

TUC Conference on Campaign against Employment Bill.

Royal Society of Health Conference, Kensington Town Hall.

Health Food Exhibition, Brighton.

Concrete Society Exhibition and Conference, Brighton.

Engineers and Managers Association, Electrical Power Engineers
Association Annual Delegate Conference, York.

Organisation of American States meets.

Saudi Cabinet meets on oil crisis.

Statistics:

Retail sales (Feb-final).

Wholesale price index numbers (Mar-prov).

Hire purchase and other instalment credit business (Feb).

National Food Survey report on consumption (4th qtr).

HM Coastguard Incidents statistics 1981.

Publications:

Control of Immigration statistics 1981. (3.30 pm)

HM Inspector of Schools Report on the effects of local authority expenditure policies on the education services in England.

Pay:

Scottish Farmworkers: Scottish Agricultural Wages Board meets and considers claim.

Parliament:

Commons:

Questions:

Energy, Wales.

Business:

Remaining stages of the Local Government Finance
(No 2) Bill and of the Reserve Forces Bill (Lords).

Presentation of Merchant Shipping (Liner Conferences) Bill.

- Select Committees:
- HOME AFFAIRS: SUB COMMITTEE ON RACE RELATIONS AND IMMIGRATION: Immigration from the Indian Sub-Continent.
(Witness: The Rt Hon Timothy Raison MP, Minister of State for Home Affairs).
- TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE: Budgetary Reform in the United Kingdom.
(Witness: Chancellor of the Exchequer.)
- PUBLIC ACCOUNT: Matters relating to Northern Ireland.
(Witnesses: Northern Ireland Department of Environment.)
- Lords:
- Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill: Committee.
- Antiquities Bill (HL): Third Reading.
- Transport (London) (Amendment) Bill (HL): Second Reading.
- Debate on a Motion that this House calls on HMG to revoke the British Nationality (Amendment) Regulations 1982 (SI 1982, No 283).
- UQ on the Report of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation entitled "The Arts in Schools".

PRESS DIGEST

Falklands

- Main points: Press generally baying for Lord Carrington's blood and Telegraph says his friends say he is thinking of resigning.
- Quality newspapers act as a restraining hand but still see resignations or sackings at end of road; this will prove your metal.
- Argentine Foreign Minister says they will respect UN Security Council resolution and negotiate; but makes no mention of withdrawal from Falklands where they are digging in.
- Meanwhile Fleet prepares to sail.

News:

- Privy Council meets for Order requisitioning ships.
- Mr Nott says we will sink Argentinian ships if necessary; Mirror speaks of collision course for war.
- Sun and Mail have pictures of our Marines lying face down in surrender on Falklands - moment, Mail says, Marines have vowed to avenge.
- Lots of armchair strategists and Mail says we have at least six alternative plans to recover Falklands; Blockade expected to be first.
- Worries as to whether USA, needing support in South America, will back force; but Mail says White House gave something approaching green light for military action on quoting an official saying it would be regarded as self defence.
- We freeze £850m of Argentinian assets and they freeze £3.5bn of ours; fears that this assets game could damage us more than Argentina.

- Next step at UN is to consider sanctions; USA urgently trying to prevent armed conflict.
- 3 Argentinians killed in action on South Georgia; populars' identify Marine heroes in this episode.
- New military governor of Falklands was in charge of notorious concentration camp; early crackdown on Falkland Islanders for showing disrespect to invaders; objective seen to be to browbeat Islanders into submission or force them to leave; suggestion that they will be offered by Argentina new lives in Australia and New Zealand with all expenses paid.
- Ardiles, Argentinian footballer, may have played last game for Cup finalists, Spurs.

Politics

- Lord Carrington sends short message of encouragement to Islanders.
- Mail says Ministers are safe for next few weeks and as long as it takes for ships to rendezvous in South Atlantic but after that
- Express feature says Argentina is a sorely troubled country where death is an everyday fact of life, cowering under military dictatorship with one of the worst human rights records in world and economy in shambles.
- Spain cools enthusiasm for doing a Falklandson Gibraltar; Government draws a clear distinction between two.
- Portugal will permit refuelling etc on Atlantic islands.
- Audience Selection says 9 out of 10 people feel we have a moral obligation to protect Islanders.
- Differences detected between Shore and the instinctively less bellicose Foot.
- Silkin demands resignations or sackings of Carrington and Foot as price for continued support.
- Telegraph claims Nationality Act could bar Falkland Islanders from coming to Britain.

Comment:

- D/Star: disgraceful; we have been humbled on world's stage and we won't stand for it; let's not make it worse by hinting at compromise.
- Sun: Eventually changes will have to be made if Gov is to reassert authority; Jon Akass - we had better do (task force) right or we shall cringe for 20 years.
- Mirror: Might is not right; it could be popular until the bills come rolling in; Govt determination seems designed to disguise bungling but purpose of British policy should be to get best possible settlement for Islanders - what happens if we do get the Argentinians off? We should offer Islanders a chance to settle where they wish.
- Express: Thatcher's guilty men. Difficult to think of anything so ineptly handled; Carrington and Nott have misled themselves, Cabinet, Parliament and Country; desire of Foreign Office to get rid of Falklands; Jack Warden says possibly existence of Govt is in balance having lost a British colony by neglect; George Gale says he believes British instinct is clear: we must be ready to respond with force; if we stand idly by what will our friends and allies think?

- Mail: Lord Carrington operates from weakness; you should sack him if he won't get out; you are one person who can rid Falklands of this fascist horder but you will have to shut your ears to siren voices; if you flinch Govt and Tory Party sunk. Andrew Alexander under heading sack him and all rotten gang says if we allow ourselves to be humiliated it is only a matter of time before we are humiliated on other matters; FCO rotten to core with appeasement.
- Telegraph: Even happy outcome will not leave Govt unscathed. Virtually certain you will be required to consider Cabinet changes; with Lord Carrington and Mr Nott can you persuade Argentinians we mean business?
- Guardian: UN a distinct help but dangers immense and prospect of happy outcome shallower; Parliament should tone it down and give you and Lord Carrington time to think.
- Times: Times leader says we must recover Falklands but not villify good people of Argentina; every diplomatic effort must be made while Fleet is steaming to South Atlantic; it may be that Govt to retain domestic unity requires an act of expiation.
- FT: An outrage; important not to under-estimate value of UN resolution; Britian in position to marshal powerful coalition of opinion for diplomatic solution; but precisely because there was no substantial British interest there the crisis was allowed to arise; escalation had begun which will be very difficult to control.

Economy

- Public borrowing in financial year just ended £1bn below forecast only 4 weeks ago.
- Philips and Drew suggest single figure inflation this year will make possible autumn tax cut.
- Generally more optimistic economic prospects from FT survey of business opinion.
- Liquidations running at record level of 200 a week.

Unions/Pay

- Doctors threaten trouble if DDRB report is thrown out.
- Labour Research Dept says car workers who were 25% ahead of manual earnings now 1% behind.
- Low Pay Unit says women still get raw deal over wages - earnings a quarter less than men doing same job.
- Nurses unions will reject 6.4% tomorrow and call for industrial action.
- Strikers and unemployed will have to wait for tax rebates until they return to work.
- Unions and management at BSC agree on over 700 redundancies by August at Scunthorpe.

Industry

- Magnus Oil platform righted and secured to ocean bed.
- BP Oil current cost loses rise from £38m to £126m last year.
- Chandler reappointed as NEDC DG for another year.

Labour Law

- Senior civil servants will assess prospects of trouble at today's TUC conference on Bill.
- Equity reverses leaders decision to take Govt money for ballots.
- Times feature by barrister member of TGWU says if unions want closed shop many of them must change and enforce in practice the degree of democracy of which they are so fond in theory.

Law and Order

- 300 prisoners at Strangeways on hunger strike in protest against conditions.
- Scotland Yard says story that another investigation into corruption speculative and premature.

Local Authority

- AMA claims public spending on housing heading for further cut of over 20% next year.
- CBI wants reform of local rating system but rates to remain basis.

Education

- Survey by Parent Teacher Assns shows 5 out of 6 parents want schools to retain corporal punishment.

Ireland

- Bishop Daly calls on Catholics to inform on evin IRA.
- Telegraph says Irish initiative today will bear marks of confusion, ambiguity that have disfigured British policy towards Falklands.

International

- Yugoslavia: Gromyko on official visit.
- Iran: Shah has spent a secret visit here drumming up support for an armed return.
- Portugal: expels 12 Iron Curtain diplomats in support of Poles.
- Australia: Fraser suffers defeat in Victoria State election - his future in doubt.
- Bonn: President Reagan asked to address lower House of Parliament on visit.

B. INGHAM
5 April 1982

ANNEX

Mr Heseltine visits Liverpool.

Mr Howell tours the South West region.

Mr Walker visits MAFF Bristol regional office.

Mr Younger speaks at the opening of Barr and Stroud Optical Works, Glasgow.

Mr Tebbit attends EC informal meeting of Employment Ministers, Brussels.

Mr Shaw visits Thurrock, Essex, Chalk Quarries.

Sir George Young speaks at Federation of Master Builders' lunch.

Dr Vaughan visits Tyne and Wear Trading Standards Office.

Lord Ferrers addresses Leeds launch of the Economic Development Council Productivity Report.

Mr Waldegrave addresses Federation of Conservative Students' Conference, Loughborough. (2.00 pm)

Mr Shelton addresses Language Teachers, Herts. (9.30 pm).

Mr Stewart opens hostel for mentally handicapped.

Mr MacGregor addresses Sidcup Supper Club.