

28/4

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

Falkland Islands.

Council of Europe 70th Session of Committee of Ministers, Strasbourg.

Council of Europe Parliamentary Assembly, Strasbourg.

EC: Economic and Social Committee Plenary Session, Brussels.

British Airways restructuring announcement.

TUC General Council.

Labour Party Executive.

Race Relations Employment Advisory Group, Caxton Hall.

Statistics:

Overseas travel and tourism (Jan/Feb).

Unemployment and unfilled vacancies (Mar-final).

Employment in the production industries (Feb).

Overtime and short-time working in manufacturing industries (Feb).

Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes (Mar).

Quarterly estimates of employees in employment (Dec).

Publications:

Report of the Gaming Board 1981. (2.30pm).

British Rail Annual Report and Accounts.

PAC report on Education Grants.

Pay:

National Federation of Building Trades Employers/TGWU, GMWU, UCATT, FTAT:

Further discussions including response to claim.

Port of Liverpool Employers' Association/TGWU: Talks.

Parliament

Commons:

Questions:

Scotland, Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Business:

Debate on a Motion to take note of the White Paper on Northern Ireland - A Framework for Devolution, Cmnd No.8451.

Select Committees: DEFENCE: Minsitry of Defence organisation and procurement. (Witnesses: Officials from MoD).
INDUSTRY AND TRADE: Rolls-Royce Ltd. (Witness: Lord McFadzean of Kelvinside).
PUBLIC ACCOUTNS: Selective examination of taxpayers' accounts; casual workers; agency workers; black economy. (Witness: Sir Lawrence Airey KCB, Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue).
SOCIAL SERVICES: Public Expenditure White Paper: Social Security Expenditure. (Witnesses: DHSS).
TRANSPORT: Transport Aspects of the 1982 Public White Paper. (Witnesses: Sir Peter Baldwin, KCB, Permanent Under-Secretary of State and officials of Department of Industry).
TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE SUB-COMMITTEE: The structure of Personal Income Taxation and Income Support. (Witnesses: Child Poverty Action Group; Institute of Directors).
EMPLOYMENT: Manpower Services Commission's Corporate Plan 1982-86. (Witness: The Rt Hon Norman Tebbit MP, Secretary of State for Employment).

Lords: Short debate on the position of prisons.
Short debate on the future effects on youth unemployment and the development of new technology.
UQ on support for United Kingdom orchestras.

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Most papers lead with political stories on the Commons exchanges and subsequent exchange of letters. Telegraph says that Government went to some length to explain "low key" press statement from Security Council. Some suggestions that Foot might have been wrongly briefed. There is a widespread conclusion that Foot has "given in" to left wing pressure. Guardian says he is now in hands of Shadow Cabinet majority which does not want to be associated with use of force. But the Mail suggests the attack mirrors Labour fears that you are on the brink of a famous victory. The Guardian says your letter to Mr Foot was of a tone which implied you wanted to maintain bipartisan approach.

The view emerges that the Secretary General's statement was less than impartial and a Telegraph report out of Washington suggests that he had apologised to our ambassadors.

Peter Jenkins on the front page of the Guardian writes that events are spinning out of your control. Public expectations have been whipped up and you are under pressure from the military who cannot be easily second guessed about weather conditions and troop morale. He suggests division of opinion in "inner Cabinet".

David Steel has said that he wants to be consulted on PC basis or he cannot commit his party's support.

David Owen "not prepared to play party politics".

Diplomatic

The rejection of Haig's suggested visit is widely reported against Argentine "anger" at Haig's OAS speech. Telegraph says leading Latin American countries have told Argentina they have no hope of persuading OAS to impose sanctions. Brazilian-Peruvian draft talks of ceasing hostilities, truce, resumption of negotiations, interests of islanders.

Military

All papers speculate about imminence of assault or whether advance troops have landed. The Star is in no doubt, reporting eighty SAS having been dropped to join existing SBS force on islands. The MoD was said to have imposed an information blackout.

Admiral Woodward talked of the run up to the "Big Match" which he thought would be a "walkover".

Costa Mendez told OAS of attack within 24 or 48 hours.

MoD said to be preparing for garrison of 3,000 men on Falklands.

Guardian says that signs last night were that War Cabinet had not decided. Overriding consideration is US support. It is now accepted that US have virtual veto over British policy.

Argentina

Letter allegedly smuggled from Falklands talks of young troops dying from hunger and cold.

Reservists threatened with jail unless they report for duty.

Representatives of British community declare themselves in support of Argentine government.

Pope

Several papers carry references to the Pope's telegram to The Queen. The Mirror leads with the story suggesting embarrassment that No 10 had not responded and that it had only emerged because of your "slip of tongue".

EEC

Support remains firm says Pym.

UN

Financial Times carries feature arguing UN Trusteeship.

Israel

Ambassador asked if they are supplying arms to Argentine. Government in Jerusalem refuses to comment.

ICJ

Guardian says there is growing support in Commons for Britain to force

Argentine to go to the International Court of Justice.

Dockyards

Rundown will continue despite crisis says MoD.

LEADER COMMENT

- Telegraph: Apparent that Foot was uncomfortable in bipartisan approach. His primary concern is appeasing his own left wing and Mr Benn.
- Times: Economic development of area must be result of peaceful agreement. Britain must put right previous neglect. Argentina has to stick to letter and spirit of international law.
- Guardian: Eventually there must be a bargain with Argentina. Is it worth lives now. The capture of South Georgia allows a pause for consideration.
- Mail: Argentina happy to go on talking. You are right to insist that genuine negotiation must be speeded up - but they cannot be allowed to delay restoration of British control.
- Express: There is no other choice now but to shift the Argentine invaders by war. Mr Foot's pussyfoot is now revealed. The Opposition is turning its back on our troops as they may be called upon to fight.
- Sun: Michael Foot stands accused of cowardice in the face of the enemy.

Unemployment

- Overall total rose to 3,007,726 in April and likely to rise throughout the summer. Underlying increase is still slackening.
- Guardian leader says nothing in any of this that holds out hope of getting figures down. We have moved to a previously unimaginable situation where 3 million unemployed or more would be the norm for the foreseeable future.
- Mirror says it is a bigger enemy of Britain's future than Argentina.

Youth Training

- MSC last night condemned Government for inadequacy of proposed youth training scheme.

Economy

- Chancellor says prospects are more encouraging but Alan Budd or LBS says prospects are delicately balanced.

Pay and Disputes

- Mr Fowler held out little hope for improved pay offer to NHS Unions at yesterday's meeting.
- Grangemouth shop stewards to recommend acceptance of BP's final offer of 8%.
- Times leader says Civil Service arbitration award should offer a solution which both sides can and should accept. But arbitration should not be used next year.

Taxation

- Average taxation now 57p out of every extra pound earned compared with 55p in 1978 - Institute of Fiscal Studies.

- Labour may abolish married men's allowance if elected.
- Only a minority will be affected by taxation of unemployment benefits.

Nationalised Industries

- BR expects £165m lost in 1982.
- Ezra rejects offer to stay on for another year.
- British Telecom to launch new sales drive.
- D/Telegraph leader attacks Post Office monopoly price increases and service reductions while not (like BL) meeting Union problem head-on.

Privatisation

- PAC blames overcaution for Government selling off state assets too cheaply.
- Mail says it is easy to be wise after the event. These strictures must not inhibit Ministers from getting on with privatisation as fast as possible.
- Sale of Dorman Long expected to go ahead tomorrow. Guardian reports that MMC may be asked to investigate.
- Lamont tells house that Government determined to end BS subsidy and prepare it for nationalisation.
- Lawson considers new legislation to enable private firms to generate electricity in competition with CEGB.

Energy

- Times leader urges a continuation of investment in electricity supply systems.

Invergordon

- Highlands and Islands Development Board say that time is running out for the smelter. Pressure needs to be exerted on (non Scottish) Cabinet Members.

NHS

- North West Regional Authority to provide limited "test-tube babies" service later this year.

War Pensions

- DHSS seeking 600-700 war disabled pensioners who may be due for arrears because of mishandling of applications.

Local Authorities

- Government to end £500,000 grant to promote efficiency and value for money.

CRE

- Government says it is to remain as a single agency. MP on Select Committee said to be angry with Government's response.

Law and Order

- Chairman of Merseyside Police Federation accuses extreme left wingers of manipulating young blacks to start new riot. Chief Constable appeals for calm.
- Judge agrees to expand jury panel for trial of Asians on explosives charges.

- Prison Service now collecting details of prisoners racial origins according to annual report due out tomorrow. Also more black members to be recruited for Board of visitors.

EEC

- Mr Pym yesterday resisted pressure to change Britain's position linking farm prices to budget settlement. Compromise plan talks of £450m a year refund. Guardian speaks of an ultimatum from other governments to lift veto on farm prices. Further meeting planned in 10 days.

Middle East

- Tindemans to visit Middle East to explore peace possibilities.
- President Reagan says US officials to pursue new peace offensive.
- Mr Begin seeks to make illegal the dismantling of more Jewish settlements.

El Salvador

- New Assembly takes sweeping powers over other branches of government.

Defence

- Mr Haig yesterday called on European allies to carry greater share of defence burden.

B Mower

B MOWER
28 April 1982

ANNEX

Mr Whitelaw visits Wayland Prison, Norfolk, and Norfolk Police.

Lord Cockfield speaks at Saudi Arabian Seminar.

Mr Jenkin opens new Addis factory, Hertford.

Mr Raison speaks to Transport Managers Club on race relations.
(6.45 pm)

Lord Ferrers addresses Annual Luncheon of Flour, Milling and Baking Research Association and hosts reception for Liverpool Garden Festival, Lancaster House.

Mr Mellor makes various Energy Conservation visits to Wales (and 29 April).

Mr Baker opens IT exhibition, Romford.

Mr Baker opens Science Museum exhibition.

Mr MacGregor speaks at NFSE regional dinner, Lincoln.

Mr Butcher attends Design Council awards lunch, Barbican.

Mr Lamont at opening ceremony of Herts and Essex 1982 Industry Exhibition.

Mr Finsburg addresses Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Seminar on Social Services, Kensington Town Hall.
(10.00 am)

Mr Channon visits Brighton Festival.

Mr Eyre addresses the Annual Lunch of the National Cold Storage Federation, Savoy Hotel. (12.00 noon)

Mr M Roberts opens conference on Future Energy Options, SWEB HQ, St Mellons, Cardiff.