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PRIME MINISTER

This Week - Highlights

Once again the Falklands crisis will dominate events, with the UN and what is believed to be an invasion build-up the main features.

Other issues to bear in mind are:

- Second Reading, Northern Ireland Bill (today).
- NHS industrial action starts (today).
- WPI and money supply - (tomorrow); CGBR - (Wednesday).
- Votes on death penalty - (tomorrow).
- Scottish Conservative Party Conference - (Friday/Sat).

Detail:

- Pay: TUC Health Services Cttee meets to co-ordinate industrial action (today).
 Further education teachers (today).
 London Transport staffs (tomorrow).
 NHS clerical and administrative (Wed).
 MPs' and Top Salaries announcement (? Thurs).

- Economic: (Today) - trade figures (Feb).
 (Tues) - retail sales, HP and instalment credit (March).
 (Fri) - Building Societies' monthly figures.

- Unions: Clutch of Civil Service union conferences this week:
 CPSA, SCPS - all week; FDA (Thurs).
 TSSA - all week.

Parliament: Mr Pym before Foreign Affairs Select Committee (today).

- Announcements: EC measures for steel closure areas (today).
 London taxi fares increase (today).
 HMI (DES) report on Toxteth (tomorrow).
 Government response to Security Commission report (? Tues).

- International: Kissinger gives FCO bi-centenary lecture (today).
 EC Agricultural Council (today and Tues); Budget Council (Tues).
 EC/ACP meeting, Gabon (Thurs and Fri).
 EC/USA/Canada/Japan trade meeting (Wed and Thurs).
 IECD Ministerial meeting, Paris (today and Tues).
 European Parliament (all week).
 IMF Interim Cttee, Helsinki (Wed to Fri).
 Franco-British Council, Edinburgh (Mr Pym and M Cheyson) (Fri).
 Pope visits Portugal (Thurs).

- Ministers: Mr Tebbit at Fed.of Civil Engineering Contractors (Tues).
 Mr Fowler at Age Concern (Tues); EEF lunch (Wed).
 Mr Jenkin at British Textile Federation (Tues).
 Mr Whitelaw at Nat.Assn. Prison Visitors (Wed); and Chief Constables Club dinner (Thurs).
 Mr Walker at Advertising Assn lunch (Wed).
 Mr Heseltine in Liverpool (Thurs).
 Mr Clarke on BBC Question Time (Thurs).

B. INGHAM
10 May 1982

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

Falkland Islands: ? Statement; UN peace effort; Falklands harassment.

Visit by President of the Republic of the Maldives.

EC: Informal meeting of Agriculture Ministers, Belgium.

OECD Ministerial meeting, Paris.

European Parliament, Strasbourg.

FCO Bicentenary Lecture by Dr Henry Kissinger, Chatham House.

NHS Co-ordinated Campaign of disruption over pay starts.

GLC Conservative Group elects new Chairman.

CPSA Confernece, Brighton.

SCPS Conference, Southport.

TSSA Conference, Bournemouth.

AGM of National Association of Co-operative Officials, Harrogate.

ASLEF executive meets on McCarthy.

NHS strikes in hospitals.

Statistics:

Trade figures (February) and Export figures (March).

Pay:

Further education teachers, England and Wales: further discussions.

PARLIAMENT

Commons:

Questions:

Trade, Energy.

Business:

Second Reading of the Northern Ireland Bill.
Motions on the Land Compensation (Northern Ireland)
Order, and on the Probation Board (Northern Ireland)
Order.

Select Committees:

FOREIGN AFFAIRS: Witness: Rt Hon Francis Pym, MC
Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth
Affairs.

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS: Subject: Biotechnology
Witnesses: Science and Engineering Research Council.

Lords:

Local Government Finance (No 2) Bill: Cttee. (1st Day).
Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill: Cttee.
(2nd Day).

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

FALKLANDS

- World-wide expectation that we shall soon invade.
- Meanwhile, we harrass with dawn shelling of Port Stanley to sap morale of Argentine troops; Royal Marines and SAS men believed to be already on Islands; spy ship captured and MoD says it is ludicrous to suppose, as Argentines allege, that we strafed survivors; Argentine helicopter shot down over Falklands.
- Mr Parkinson says time is running out though no actual invasion date has been fixed; Mr Nott says Task Force is ready to take whatever action is necessary, but elevates blockade option. This pleases Mr Foot who says invasion would be a monstrous gamble.
- Argentine protests strongly to UN over yesterday's activity and claims it jeopardises UN negotiations.
- Costa Mendez once more adds to the confusion by suggesting Argentine is soft peddling sovereignty.

In UK:

- 70 per cent of people believe we should attack Islands if there is no other alternative; 55% think retaking Islands is worth loss of lives.
- Squatters wreck home of Task Force seaman in Southsea.
- Government has so far paid more than £20m to owners of requisitioned or chartered ships.

In UK media:

- Robert Adley MP attacks BBC news coverage of funeral of Argentine soldier; BBC becoming Galtieri's fifth column.
- But Mr Benn complains that BBC and ITN are mouth-piece of MoD, claims most people are opposed to killings in "Mrs Thatcher's War".
- Joe Ashton, D/Star, wants end to civil servants making announcements on TV; John Nott should do it as it happens.
- James Murray, Express, asks why Argentine Ministers should be given a platform on British TV.
- Tom Baistow, Guardian, says if truth is the first casualty of war second in this one has been the last remnant of editorial integrity in tabloids' frenetic battle for circulation.
- Critical article by Simon Jenkins, in Economist, about MoD news service.

Military:

- Big effort on Tyne to get Illustrious to sea five months early.
- QE2 ready to sail after being fitted out for war in 6 days.

In Argentine:

- Telethon raises £0.5m for war effort and Argentines claim that British firms have contributed.
- Express pictures of the death of the Belgrano.
- Argentine believed to have received delivery of only 6 of 12 Super Etendards
- Renewed threat to expropriate assets of British companies.
- Lights go out in Buenos Aires tonight as war fever grips capital.

EC:

- Mr Pym escapes from Foreign Ministers weekend without renewal of sanctions.
- Guardian says Government has been served with notice that sanctions won't be renewed if we seek military solution.

Sport:

- 2 Argentine rugby players, raising money for war effort, invited to play in Australia to distress of British rugby fans.

Comment:

D/Star: will continue to support Task Force against cowardly and snide remarks by politicians and radio and tv announcers; they must receive all out support here at home.

Sun: Attacks a "ghoul" inside Dassault, French aircraft makers for describing knocking out of Sheffield as "wonderful victory for French electronic know-how". Mitterrand owes this country an apology; in another leader it says nothing in UK has been more splendidly striking than ex-premiers; but Andrew Alexander, Mail, notes the curious silence of Heath.

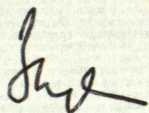
Express: We are clearly poised to launch an invasion: Government need have no fear of lack of courage and resolution of British people on getting Argentines off Falklands, notwithstanding Benn.

Mail: As we have gathered our strength we have modified our negotiating position - and our stance is not that of a colonial nation determined to use force at all costs. If junta is too stupid, brutal or blinkered to accept them then we must send in troops.

Telegraph: Yesterday's alarms and excursions seem to have the desired effect of getting on Argentine nerves. Even an apparently honourable UN agreement is fraught with perils - history of UN trusteeship not encouraging. We are now ready to retake the Islands and UN effort should be positively the last appearance of such initiatives.

Guardian: reviewing 5 weeks of crisis, says basic argument has become how and whether to escape from the gathering momentum of war. We have moved markedly but momentum of military action undermines peace. If we are not prepared for an invasion and bombing of Argentine mainland, invasion of Falklands can only be prelude to swift yielding of sovereignty or years of attrition. Invasion is a foolish gamble, blockade would be better. But Parliament, not Government, began the adventure and only Parliament can end it.

Times: This will be a crucial week - and for Mr Foot's sense of responsibility. But it is not unreasonable of him to have declined your invitation to talks.



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10 May 1982

Pay and Disputes

- From midnight Health Service Unions are working accident and emergency service only: leaders are considering further sanctions. Express leader says public sympathy will be with NHS patients. Sun hopes that Union members will reject leaders and put mercy ahead of fatter pay packets. Mirror says that no grievance can justify worsening conditions of the sick: but Government should be prepared to pay more as has been done for the firemen and the police.
- Unions react angrily to BR statement that there will be no negotiations on this year's pay claim until drivers' agreement to flexible rostering. Len Murray will intensify efforts to head off crisis.

Industry

- Mechanical engineering industry faces loss of export business as oil producing countries cut their spending according to EEF Survey.
- Decline continues but at slower rate in civil engineering industry according to Federation of Civil Engineering Contractor Survey.
- Imported car share of UK market goes from 55.3% to 59.4% last month.
- FT leader lists what it considers to be the major questions which the forthcoming review of British Rail will need to address.

Economic Forecasts

- Samuel Brittan continues his series on the Treasury model: the main difference between forecasters is not the model or the assumptions but "judgemental adjustments". No one can claim that any forecast is a unique product of the model.

Law and Order

- Reports speculate on the outcome of the hanging vote. Mail expects narrow margin against and notes that Mr Whitelaw will be among those opposing.
- Home Office Working Party criticises the system for delays in magistrates courts.

Local Authorities

- Government Working Group to consider legality of Council's offering cheap fares for unemployed.
- Criticism of GLC plan to loan £75,000 to struggling computer software company.
- Sheffield Council turns down young applicant for refuse collecting job because of his illiteracy.

National Health Service

- Hospital authorities may have to reduce services because budgets have not been adjusted to allow for inflation and pay rises according to the National Association of Health Authorities.
- Guardian says that the NHS is about to be plunged into a new and complicated organisation which top administrators fear could be more chaotic and traumatic than the problems that beset it after the 1974 reforms.

Social Security

- Society of Civil Servants DHSS section vote against co-operation with DHSS special claims control team.

EXIT

- Attorney General to seek High Court injunction to stop EXIT distributing booklets on voluntary euthanasia.

Immigration

- Claim that UK rules infringe European Human Rights Convention to be brought before European Court of Human Rights today by women separated from their husbands and fiances.
- Enoch Powell suggests a Department of Immigration and Repatriation in speech to Monday Club. A quota of jobs should be kept for people from the new Commonwealth.

Northern Ireland

- Budget resignation seen as heralding Tory revolt on Bill. Guardian suggests that you have serious reservation about Bill and that Mr Biffen may be reluctant to through full weight behind it. The Daily Telegraph calls it a bad Bill, says the most probably outcome of this irresponsible adventure is an impotent Assembly bitterly divided and manifesting all the rage associated with impotence, and concludes that the Government is not likely to commit its whole future to the support of this eccentric sideshow.
- UDA threaten to disrupt Assembly elections.

EEC

- No progress made on farm prices or Budget issues in weekend meeting. Talks on farm prices this week expected to be "accrimonious". Britain likely to invoke "Luxembourg compromise".
- Britain would have to subsidise its farmers by about £2b a year if we left EC according to report by Christopher Johnston of Lloyds Banks.

International

- President Reagan suggests talks with Russia should start by the end of next month and offers an initial one-third reduction in ballistic war-head missiles, no more than half of which are land-based. Second stage would seek to achieve equal ceilings on ballistic missiles "throw weight" at less than current US levels.
- Israeli planes again bombard Palestinian guerilla positions in South Lebannon.
- Iraq now fighting to hold Khorramshahr, the last major town taken from Iran.
- Hundreds of riot police stage "show of force" in Warsaw to prevent further demonstrations.
- Clash expected at IMF between Third World and US over IMF quotas.
- FT leader welcomes Hungary's joining the IMF and says that the IMF should not be swayed by ideology but provide support to any deserving economy whether in East or West.
- Several features mark President Mitterand's first year of office. The Times says he has shown that it is possible for the left to take power in France without leading to disaster.

Politics

- SDP decide to choose leader by postal vote from all members.
- SDP urged to back incomes policy by Lord Young.
- Liberals trying to re-open negotiations about seat-sharing with SDP in light of local election results.
- Terrence Duffy calls for 12 "left-wing traitors" to be banned from Labour Party membership.
- Labour Party and Union leaders agree on statutory rights for workers to be included in proposed Planning and Industrial Democracy Bill.
- Conservative Party may have to buy foreign made computerised word-processing system for headquarters.

Mr Thatcher

- Bob Cryer to put down Question on use of No 10 headed paper.

Ministers:

Mr Lawson commissions a private Power Station for Slough Estates, Slough.
Mr Fowler launches National Epilepsy Week, House of Commons. (1.00pm).
Mr Younger meets Chairman of Nationalised Industries, Edinburgh.
Mr Tebbit meets CBI representatives to discuss May Day holiday.
Sir Geoffrey Howe attends OECD Ministerial meeting, Paris.
Mr Walker and Mr Buchanan-Smith attend informal Council of Ministers meeting, Belgium.
Mr Jenkin meets Norwegian Industry Minister.
All Ministers attend CBI dinner at Centre Point. (7.30pm).
Mr Eyre visits British Rail North Kent Region.
Mr Baker speaks to Royal Society of Arts.
Mr Raison visits Luton Community Relations Council. (6.00pm).
Mr W Roberts addresses Health Education Council, Llandudno.
Mr Waldegrave visits York University.
Mr Shelton visits Rothamstead Experimental Station, Herts.
Mr Morrison visits Manchester.
Mr Rees attends OECD Ministerial meeting, Paris.
Mr Eyre meets Korean Minister of Transport.
Dr Boyson visits Denmark.