

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

Chronology
G.L.
T.A. media

- Falkland Islands: Commons Debate; UN talks.
- Announcement of Peers' expenses and allowances.
- EC, USA, Canada and Japan meet on world trade.
- The Pope visits Portugal.
- European Parliament, Strasbourg.
- IMF Interim Committee, Helsinki.
- CPSA conference, Brighton.
- SCPS conference, Southport.
- TSSA conference, Bournemouth.
- Association of First Division Civil Servants conference, London.
- British Leyland, AGM.
- Scottish Conservative Conference, Perth.

Pay:

Engineering Craftsmen: further discussion.

Statistics:

Census 1981 County Reports; Tyne and Wear - Part 1, West Midlands - Part 1.

Parliament

Commons:

Questions: Treasury, Home Office. *PM*

Business: Completion of remaining stages of the Criminal Justice Bill.

Lords: Local Government Finance (No 2) Bill, Committee (2nd Day).
Land Compensation (NI) Order 1982 (Consol).
Probation Board (NI) Order 1982.

Ministers - see Annex



PRESS DIGEST

FALKLAND ISLANDS

Main News

- Some 'populars' - notably Express and Maid - feel there is a smell of Munich in the air; fears of a sell out grow.
- Restiveness over an invasion.
- UN talks continue with flicker of hope.
- We down two Argentine aircraft.
- George Howard and Milne get a roasting over Panorama from Tory backbenchers

Comment:

D/Star: Under heading "We can't go on talking for ever" says sailing of QE2 troopships show how determined we are but it is in interests of Argentine to keep talks going. You must stand firm against those who say they are our friends but want us to do nothing militarily. Time is coming to force pay on a ceasefire.

Sun: There should be every diplomatic effort to settle dispute but FCO should know that some things are not negotiable. Beyond belief it could accept insulting Peruvian plan. What was point of sending Task Force? Sell out would mock sacrifice of dead and wounded on Sheffield.

Mirror: De Cueller at the last chance Saloon. Would be height of stupidity by junta if it ends in fighting. Principle of not gaining by aggression has been abandoned. And Government has abandoned jingoistic supporters.

Express: You have, it is said, agreed to hold off the Task Force for a few more days for negotiations and Francis Pym to have a free hand to secure a settlement. If so, it is disturbing. If there is a sell out public's high regard for you will turn to contempt. And we will have lost world's regard and our own self respect. If we do not retake Falklands diplomatically or militarily we will have turned tail. There is a sniff of Munich in the air.

Mail: Under heading "We have conceded too much already," says fears of sell out grow. Still our troops do not go in - why? But we have bombarded Buenos Aires with concessions. If Argentine won't get out then either we fight or appease.

Telegraph: Diplomacy is beginning to work against our aims. If we are negotiating to give away sovereignty we are casting off very principles on which whole endeavour based. FCO getting to work on Pym. If the Government were not to fulfil its duty it would not deserve further support. We can choose to be a nation which defends itself or becomes a divided and exhausted folly of the late 20th century.

Times: Says there is no evidence British opinion is faltering because of the way news is being treated. You were unwise to lend your authority to the shrill chorus of complaint. Panorama may however be criticised for failure to reflect the range of backbench opinion.

Military:

- 2 Argentine Skyhawks downed by Sea Wolf: B/Aerospace, rather echoing sales talk of Dassault over Exocet, says this was the first time it was fired in anger and to get two out of three an incredible achievement; RN helicopter ditches but crew safe.

- Sailing of QE2 with Guards and Gurkhas; Express newspapers feature Lord Matthews.
- Telegraph says preparations for landing are complete and Task Force awaits Cabinet orders.
- Findings of Board of Inquiry into shooting of Argentine on South Georgia to be made public soon.

Diplomatic:

- Hopes of peace rise and fall at UN; at a very delicate stage; but moving towards a conclusion one way or the other this week.
- Argentines appear to be softening stance on sovereignty.
- Peru claims that we don't want negotiations to succeed until we have won some kind of military victory.

International:

- Pope may never visit Britain if this visit is called off.
- Venezuela leading efforts to drum up support for the junta.

In Argentine:

- Thames TV team kidnapped by "official" squad - apparently to intimidate.
- Mail says Argentine Army captain being repatriated from South Georgia was wanted for questioning by both Sweden and France.
- Andreas Whittam Smith, in Telegraph, explains what sanctions can or cannot do but says that they almost certainly will not bring Argentine to its knees.
- Foreign journalists run gauntlet now.
- Industrialists call on Galtieri to reverse monetarist policies because they say they are driving economy into deep recession.

EC:

- Euro Parliament vote for renewal of sanctions and Commission recommends them; now likely to be extended in spite of dismay over our Mandate attitudes.
- D/Star says however that Eire may unilaterally drop sanctions if EC doesn't.

Sport:

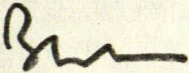
- Joe Ashton says you will have to make up your mind soon on whether Britain should compete in World Cup.

In UK:

- Mail says there is smell of a sell out and some Tory MPs put it down to pressure by Reagan.
- Healey claims Cabinet is split; he had Foot fight back against Benn's fantasies.
- Benn however, public has discovered that if populars can't sell with bingo they will with jingo.
- Scargill says Argentine has legitimate right to Islands and attacks labour MPs hysterical support for sending of Task Force.
- Gallup shows support for handling of crisis has fallen 5% to 71% and disapproval up from 18 to 24; your popularity up from 35 to 44; and Tories lead 13.5%.

Media:

- George Howard and Alasdair Milne given a roasting by Tory backbench media committee; apparently midjudge mood and stand their ground; Churchill tells Howard he should either have courage to sack those responsible for Panorama or resign.
- Ronnie Butt, in Times, says real cause for concern is deep rooted sceptical neo-pacifism among many who would not accept they are strictly pacifist but are very defeatist and for whom anything which smacks of patriotism or believing your cause is dismissed as vulgar jingoism; objection is not to honest and open argument but to subliminal conditioning under the mask of dispassion.
- Angus Maude in letter to Times thinks things have improved a bit on BBC in last few days; says it is absurd to criticise news reporting and official Argentine communiques; but BBC does seem to have combed the world to find people to say almost anything against their own Government's policies.
- IRN's Michael Nicholson sends memo from Fleet to David Nicholas criticising MoD facilities and approach.
- Keith Waterhouse, Mirror, says there is room for concern about Falklands coverage but it should centre on Whitehall's patronising approach to public's right to know.
- International Press Institute calls for 3 journalists detained in Argentine to be released.



B. INGHAM
13 May 1982

PRESS DIGEST

Top salaries, MPs and Ministers pay

- the four heavies report the awards factually. The main Telegraph story is headlined "top Whitehall staff two years behind in pay". The populars are looking for rows and carry appropriate quotes from MPs and health union leaders. Bob Cryer calls it scandalous and says unions will now regard 18% as going rate.

Other pay stories

- health service unions now threaten all-out strike in selective hospitals
- ASLEF Leaders reject McCarthy findings. Buckton warns BR against trying to implement flexible rostering.

Economy

- Muted optimism about world economic prospects reported from group of ten discussions at IMF. Strong consensus emerging that interest rates are on their way down.
- The TUC yesterday accused the Government of rigging the Treasury model to discredit their alternative economic strategy.
- A Times Leader welcomed the OECD report and said that countries must show they are prepared to give appropriate account to the needs of others in formulating their own economic policies. The need for a concerted approach should be in everyone's mind.

Industry

- Commons Transport Committee urges Government to invest £200 million in new BR electrification schemes.
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- CEGB make case for Sizewell pressurised water reactor. They say it will be safe and economic.

- Report of Commodities Research Unit says that British Aluminium Companies pay higher electric power charges than other European producers.
- Mobil oil is to commission a £230 million expansion of its Coryton oil refinery in Essex.

Hanging

- Papers carry analysis of the hanging vote. Guardian Headlines switch of 24 Conservatives, including Attorney-General to anti-hanging side. Guardian Leader said this should be answer enough for the remaining life of this Parliament. Sun Leader says if hanging is really gone for ever then life imprisonment should mean exactly that.

Social Security

- Guardian story on DE circular to Managers of Benefit Offices instructing them to "snoop" on potential fraudulent schemes.
- Disability Alliance calls Government scheme to reform industrial injuries a "cynical attempt" to reduce expenditure.
- Poverty trap gets worse each year and there is no chance of immediate improvement says Peter Middleton before Treasury Select Committee.

Health

- BUPA had underwriting loss of health insurance last year after drop in growth rate of private health market.

Immigration

- The European Commission of Human Rights has accepted that British immigration rule appears to be a breach of human rights.

/ Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland

- Two more killings. Catholic dies in Belfast sectarian attack. IRA murder UDR volunteer in Strabane.
- Future of Harland and Wolff could rest with delivery time of new British Steel bulk carrier.

EEC

- Draft Budget for 1983 includes large rise in proposed spending on unemployment, training and the poorer regions. It allows for fall in farm spending from 70% to 65% of Budget.
- Telegraph says strenuous efforts being made in Brussels to head off farm price crisis. Times talks of fury at EEC. Guardian leader says there is nothing to gain by postponing the Budget issues. Our vital national interest is at stake. If other Governments try to over rule our veto Mrs Thatcher would have no option but to defy EEC law.
- European Parliament adopts resolution to promote employment opportunities for women in EEC countries.

International

- Dutch coalition Cabinet resigns. Split between Christian Democrats and Socialists over Budget cuts.
- French Government announces tax cuts and greater investment to nationalised industries.
- South African advisory body recommends granting equal political rights to all race groups except the blacks.
- Tension in Warsaw yesterday on day before threatened general strike.

Politics

- Labour Party and union leaders agree to hold another meeting next month in preparation for an election. Labour have £750,000 deficit and need £2-3 million to fight the next election.
- GMWU plan to create £865,000 fund for political activity.
- Jack Dempsey MP for Coatbridge and Airdrie, with majority of 15,156 died yesterday.

Pope

- Preparations so far have cost over £3 million.
- Cancellation of tour would be divisive says Runcie.

People

- Sir R. O'Brien appointed as Head of Engineering Industry Training Board.
- STOPP, the anti-caning group, have written to you demanding the dismissal of Dr. Rhodes Boyson.

Ministers:

Mr Heseltine visits Liverpool.

Mr Walker attends opening by HM The Queen of the restored Temperate House, Kew, and later attends reception to mark the centenary of the first shipment of refridgerated NZ butter to the UK, NZ House, Haymarket. Mr Buchanan-Smith and Lord Ferrers also attend.

Mr Fowler addresses Medical Journalists Association lunch, St Ermins Hotel, London.

Mr Whitelaw attends Chief Constables Club Annual Dinner, London.

Mr Stanley attends launch by CIPFA of new computer system.

Mr Buchanan-Smith attends Beef Event, Stoneleigh.

Mr M Roberts attends opening of Cardiff Junior Chamber Financial Seminar, Post House Hotel, Cardiff.

Mr Fletcher attends reception for Grampian TV, Perth.

Mrs Chalker is principal guest at the Motor Insurers' Bureau Dinner, Claridges.

Mr Gray attends the Scottish Conservative Party Conference, Perth, (and 14 May).

Mr Mellor opens the Steel Industries Seminar, Millbank Tower.

Mr Channon addresses Information Conference, London.

Mr Morrison speaks at New York Chamber of Commerce Dinner, Chester.

Mr Baker speaks to Metherall Public Relations, London.

Mr Lamont addresses European Centre of Public Enterprise, Bonn.

Mr Clarke, BBC TV 1, 'Question Time'.