

16 January 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

DSS: Moodie report on DSS relocation, announcement

EC: ECOFIN Council, Brussels

EC: Agriculture Council, Brussels (to 17 January)

STATISTICS

CBI: CBI/FT Survey of distributive trades (Dec)

DTI: Retail sales (Dec-prov)

DTI: Overseas travel statistics (Nov)

PUBLICATIONS

DES: HMI Publication - The Provisional Teacher Programme in Jersey

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Transport; Wales; Energy

Business: Security Service Bill: Consideration in Committee (1st day)
Motions relating to School Curriculum Development Committee
and Secondary Examinations Council Orders. Details will be
given in the Official Report

Adjournment Debates: The glasshouse sector of the horticulture industry
(Mrs M Roe)

Select Committees: PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
Subject: Road Planning
Witnesses: Sir Alan Bailey, KCB, Permanent
Secretary, Department of Transport
Mr R G L McCrone, CB, Secretary,
Scottish Development Agency; Sir Richard Lloyd Jones,
KCB, Permanent Secretary, Welsh Office

EMPLOYMENT

Subject: Legionnaire's Disease
Witnesses: Health and Safety Commission
and Executive

Lords: Starred Questions
Companies Bill (HL): Second Reading

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Row over William Waldegrave's meeting with Arafat and his subsequent remarks about Israeli leaders being reformed terrorists. MPs on both sides of House angry.

Aircraft checks reveal one case of crossed wiring among Boeing 757s in UK.

Israeli intelligence expert claims leader of breakaway Palestinian group was behind Lockerbie bomb.

Sun says Government must pick up the bill for clearing up Lockerbie; the cost must not go on residents' community charge.

Sympathetic profile of Paul Channon in Express.

Airport fire officers threaten to strike and close airports over pay.

Mr Gorbachev sends surprise personal message to you about reinstating his visit; wants to come in the Spring.

Good news for Chancellor: CBI/FT Survey shows sales down at Christmas and poor outlook for New Year.

Today claims the average house price in Britain has slumped by £3,123 in last 3 months.

Times leads with Government expecting to announce before Easter that jobless has fallen to below 2 million. Only cloud is the danger of high pay rises pricing people out of jobs.

Despite series of mortgage rate increases Government has suffered no significant fall in support according to MORI poll with Conservatives 44, Labour 39, Democrats 8 and SDP 6 (Times).

Mail says MAFF may be swallowed up by D/Environment; Ministry of Food another option.

MPs urge Government to set up a Ministry of Food after salmonella and listeria scares. Mirror leader says if food is found to be poisoned we can guarantee MAFF will be the last to admit it. Every time the farmers squawk the Government jumps over a five barred gate. We need a Minister of Food attached to the Health Department. Today wants an independent consumer agency on the budget but at arms length to Department of Health.

PRESS DIGEST

Sir Richard Body MP says bacon and pork could be the next infected foods.

Meanwhile Government cuts out £100,000 research project into salmonella (Today).

Express says if every farmer who has registered takes advantage of set aside, half Britain's cereal growing land will go to grass.

Paul Johnson in Mail says you made an error in giving in to farmers over Edwina Currie.

Both Labour and Tory parties split over Football Bill to be published tomorrow; a few Labour MPs said to be prepared to defy their party and vote for it; about 12 Tories have declared their opposition.

Today says many soccer chairmen are boycotting Colin Moynihan's meeting after publication of Bill.

Home Office to announce new powers tomorrow to stop foreign soccer hooligans coming to matches here.

FT leader says the hallowed British principle of muddled thinking is about to be applied full force to identity cards. The notion of football cards is absurd. If any Tory revolt causes Parliament to reject the Bill the Government will have got its just desserts. As for a national ID card: a continental style card would be easier to accept if it was accompanied by continental safeguards such as the incorporation of the ECHR into British law.

Douglas Hurd and Roy Hattersley back introduction of national ID cards for everyone who wants one (Times).

Sir John Cuckney today sounds out Euro Commission on his £6billion bid and break up of GEC.

FT leader on GE says the alliance between GEC and GE underlines the British companies new strategy of pursuing a larger share of European markets through joint ventures and provides GE (US) with a bridgehead in the Community which it will certainly want to enlarge. Its example is likely to be followed by other US companies seeking a secure place in what they fear may be an inward looking Europe.

ATT likely to join consortium bidding for GEC (FT).

Mirror campaigns against firetrap hotels in Spain.

PRESS DIGEST

TV South refusing to advertise its satellite rivals and ready to go to court against any IBA ruling to the contrary.

OFGAS report shows that British charges for gas supplies are on average 50% higher than in the main European countries (Independent).

Government will announce tomorrow huge shake-up for exporters including privatisation of some services and increased charges for others (Independent).

Cecil Parkinson U-turn on nuclear power. He now says he expects environmental arguments to lead to greater share of nuclear power by year 2000 (Independent).

Times leader discusses the Water Bill saying Nicholas Ridley has forbidden takeovers which the OFT has been busily approving. Instead of erecting a monument to the logic of commercial competition Mr Ridley can be justly accused of constructing a folly.

Selsdon Group pamphlet says consumers can expect to pay substantially higher prices when water is privatised (Times).

Sun says hundreds of Left-wingers and failed academics will lose jobs in a plan to shut down many teacher training colleges.

Some 1,000 DSS jobs to be dispersed from London to regional centres.

Family doctors to be allowed to perform minor surgery operations - Express's slant on NHS Review.

Telegraph against tax reliefs for medical treatment at whatever age.

Express on litter - one of the great blights on our national life - says despite endless public initiatives our streets are still far too filthy. We all need to become more litter conscious.

You have told Cecil Parkinson to mount a campaign for energy efficiency within Government (Times).

Medical Protection Society is urging Government to consider giving compensation automatically to parents of almost 1800 babies born brain-damaged each year, without the need for then going to court (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

W H Smith to recall copies of Salmon Rushdie book 'Satanic Verses' but say it is for commercial reasons and not because of Muslim pressure groups. Independent leader criticises the Muslim community for trying to impose their values on the rest of Britain. There are enough pressures for censorship without religious minorities endeavouring to suppress books which they find distasteful. If they do not want to read the book they should abstain from buying or borrowing it.

Commons Select Committee to inquire into funding of Channel 4 and the Welsh fourth channel (Times).

Animal Liberation Front warns it is about to launch a series of attacks on "soft" targets, including major medical charities.

Ken Maginnis MP takes up case of a mother of 5 paralysed when she was raped by attacker who got only 7 year sentence.

Labour Party to launch a membership recruiting campaign on Wednesday.

Further criticism of Duke and Duchess of York for going on holiday again - this time to Klosters.

Chemical experts claim a team of independent engineering experts could soon determine what the plant at Rabta was built to produce drugs or chemical weapons (FT).

Riot police attack demonstrators in Prague with water cannons and tear gas and break up gathering marking suicide of Jan Palach during 1969 Russian invasion.

120 die in head on rail crash in Bangladesh - faulty signalling thought to be the cause.

Former Prime Minister of Belgium, Paul van den Boeynants, feared kidnapped.

Soviet commander says that all of his forces will leave Afghanistan on schedule by 15 February (Independent).

A crisis meeting of the Soviet Council of Ministers has ordered "drastic measures" to cut state spending and force excess stocks of raw materials to be used in production (FT).

PRESS DIGEST

Government will seek regional help for Gibraltar from the EC, following agreement on proposals. Discussion expected with Spain (FT).

TALKS WITH ARAFAT

Sun leader headed "Twits of the Foreign Office" says it is run by meddling, wrong-headed and dangerous upper class twits and William Waldegrave is the latest prime example. He made every misjudgment possible on his blundering mission to the Middle East and fawned over Arafat. His insulting attitude towards Israel is a disgrace.

Mirror - Top Tory slammed: Waldegrave's comments about Shamir shocked pro-Israeli British MPs.

Today - William Waldegrave will be carpeted by Tory and Labour MPs tomorrow for his attacks on Shamir.

Express leader headed "William sings for his supper with Arafat" says we are assured Mr Waldegrave is one of your rising stars. All the more puzzling then his crass behaviour with Arafat. Egged on by beaming FCO officials he sang for his supper by pointing to the reformed terrorists in the Israeli Government. Thanks to this performance he has made the task of reassuring Israel almost impossible and seriously set back your cherished Middle East peace plan.

Mail leader headed "Don't drive them into the ghetto" says Mr Waldegrave went over the top. Not content with giving the impression of fawning on Arafat, he then gave an interview which antagonised Israeli leaders. Any attempt to get Israelis round the same table as PLO is only likely to drive them into the ghetto. Israelis have to be persuaded with patience. News report says Mr Waldegrave remains unrepentant.

Times - British and Israeli Governments set on collision course. William Waldegrave flatly dismisses Israeli criticism of Britain's new peace initiative and calls on Jerusalem to make a humanitarian gesture towards the Palestinians under occupation (Times).

Independent - Israel categorically rejects Mr Waldegrave's call for Israeli leaders to welcome the change in the PLO's attitude and to examine their own pasts to see how terrorists can forsake violence. In Britain, the Jewish community is split in its reaction to the meeting with Arafat.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph leads with Israel hits back at Waldegrave "insults". Protest to Downing Street likely. Britain's attempt to mediate appears to be in difficulties. Leader says Mr Waldegrave has been judicious in putting Israel on the spot and his mission is by no means arid.

DUCHESS OF YORK

Star - She has picked an extremely insensitive time to swan off. And for a young mum to risk accident on ski slopes is highly irresponsible. It is time she accepted responsibilities that go with her job.

YOUR "SHE" MAGAZINE INTERVIEW

Star - Fight for top jobs, Maggie tells girls - they should go for public office.

Today - Maggie plea for girls at the top - you want more women to help run the country.

Express - Go for it ladies, urges Mrs Thatcher.

Mail - Maggie wants more women at the top.

Times - You urge women to take on more responsibility and to put their names forward for public appointment.

Telegraph devotes a column to the interview under the heading "Thatcher urges women to fight men for office".

POLITICS

Independent leads its front page with "The circuitous route of secret Tory funds", illustrating how covert donations to the Party have been diverted through hidden channels including a number of 'river companies'.

Independent - Neil Kinnock's office asks BBC Blue Peter to request return of one of its badges presented to Liverpool councillor because of his hard-Left views.

In a guest article in the Independent, Peter Kellner writes a memo to you pointing out that Thatcherism is not popular with the electorate. He suggests you are keeping a hold on power more because of your defence policies.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Fowler lunches with Unquoted Companies Group, London
- DTI: Mr Newton visits Doncaster and Sheffield re City Action Team initiative
- HO: Mr Hurd addresses Multi-agency Seminar on Illegal and Unsociable Behaviour Connected with the Consumption of Alcohol
- MOD: Mr Younger hosts reception for lobby correspondents, London
- SO: Mr Rifkind holds press conference on DSS Dispersal of 500 civil service jobs to Glasgow, Northgate House, Glasgow
- WO: Mr Walker addresses investors' luncheon, D C Gardner offices, London
- DEM: Mr Cope launches MDA Advertising Agency, London
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses a BP sponsored conference about the future of polytechnics and colleges
- DH: Mr Mellor meets Association of Metropolitan Authorities and Association of County Councils; later meets Mr Dirk Dees, Dutch Junion Health Minister
- DH: Mr Freeman visits Bexley Health Authority
- DOE: Mr Trippier visits the North West
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley receives visit from the Norwegian Minister for the Environment
- DTI: Mr Forth opens Safety by Design Home Safety Exhibition at the Design Council, London
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington attends Margaret Mee Memorial Service, St Anne's Church, Kew Gardens, London
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses press launch of Treasure Trail at British Museum; later addresses opening of Contemporary Soviet Arts exhibition, London
- ODA: Mr Patten addresses Defence Studies Seminar, London
- WO: Mr Roberts opens Gresford - Pulford by-pass, near Wrexham
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses CSCE, Vienna (to 18 January)
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor and Mr Ryder attend Agriculture Council, Brussels (to 17 January)
- FCO: Mrs Chalker visits European Parliament Plenary Session (to 18 January)

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

- FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe interviewed by Chris Ogden, Time Magazine
- DOE: Lord Caithness interviewed by Channel 4's Parliament Programme on football

TV AND RADIO

- 'Today': BBC Radio 4 (6.30)
- 'Business Daily': C4 (12.30)
- 'The World at One': BBC Radio 4 (13.00)
- 'Watchdog': BBC1 (19.30). A look at holidays
- 'The Education Programme': BBC2 (19.40). Advancing A-levels. Examines existing alternatives to A-levels and asks what is the best education for the majority of Britain's 16-19 year olds
- 'World in Action': Thames (20.30)
- 'Panorama': BBC1 (21.30). President Bush - Challenging the Future. A look at the problems facing George Bush. Must the new President preside over the slow decline of a super power, or can the US challenge and win the future?
- 'The World Tonight': BBC Radio 4 (22.30) followed by 'The Financial World Tonight' and 'Today in Parliament'
- 'Newsnight': BBC2 (22.30)
- 'The Nuclear Age': Thames (22.35). A bigger bang for the Buck. Third in a series of 12, chronicling the history of the nuclear age
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