

31 January 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Duchess of York attends Alpine Championships at Megeve, France
(to February 3)

BP shareholders vote on KIO shares buy-back

Age Concern one day conference on advocacy and elderly people

Lockerbie committal service

STATISTICS

BoE: London sterling certificates of deposit (Dec)

BoE: Bill turnover statistics (Dec)

BoE: UK banks assets and liabilities and the money stock (Dec)

BoE: Sterling commercial paper (Dec)

DTp: New motor vehicle registrations (Dec)

PUBLICATIONS

DH: NHS Review White Paper

HO: Criminal Justice Act announcement on lenient sentencing

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Education and Science; Defence; Prime Minister

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Armed Forces Housing and Tax.
Fair Employment (Northern Ireland) Bill: 2nd Reading

Adjournment Debates: The proposed level of Rate Support Grant for the
Borough of Sandwell (Mr P Snape)

Select Committees: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS
Subject: The Supply of Teachers for the 1990s
Witnesses: Association of County Councils at 4.15 pm:
Association of Metropolitan Authorities at 5.00 pm

Select Committees (Cont'd)

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS

1. Associated British Ports (No 2) North Killingholme Cargo Terminal
2. London Local Authorities bill [Lords]

Lords:

Starred Questions

National Maritime Museum Bill (HL): Committee

Companies Bill (HL): Committee (2nd Day)

Electricity and Pipe-line Works (Assessment of Environmental Affects)

Regulations 1988: Motion for Approval

Harbour Works (Assessment of Environmental Effects)(No 2)

Regulations 1988: Motion for Approval

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Over £7.5 billion added to share prices following last week's good performance.

Lex column in FT says no-one is confident the rally will continue.

Reacting to the Public Expenditure White Paper - which gets coverage only in qualities, Gordon Brown accuses you of running campaigns without cash, pointing out the lack of action on inner cities, litter, the environment and women (Independent).

Reports that nurses' pay is to be pegged to rate of inflation next year - on eve of launch of NHS Review.

Hunt for leaker of NHS Review underway.

Mail says it learned yesterday that £4 billion more will be spent on NHS over next 3 years.

David Owen, in Telegraph, says the NHS review proposals amount to the American Solution without American levels of spending.

You regard trade in human organs as "abhorrent".

Police patrol Wandsworth jail as prison officers withdraw in dispute over shift arrangements and numbers to be admitted to prison. POA gets a bad press.

Tory MPs demand unions be outlawed in prison service.

Atmosphere tense. Home Office to meet POA today.

New Prison Officers union to be launched this week - a breakaway from POA which claims members in 54 of 115 prisons in England and Wales.

Man who led £40 million raid on Knightsbridge safe deposit centre jailed for 22 years; manager of vaults jailed for 18 years.

Kenneth Baker planning to open a City Technology Centre in Brixton, modelled on the performing arts Fame School.

Parents at West Sussex comprehensive school vote nine-to-one against opting out. This is the biggest vote against so far and a blow to your hopes that a majority of schools will take advantage of the scheme (Independent).

PRESS DIGEST

Guardian says public investment is to fall next year in real terms for first time since 1985-86.

Bow Group want Chancellor to end company car tax perk.

Farming incomes reported to be at lowest real level since war - a drop of 25% last year following poor cereal harvest and CAP reforms. NFU says damages from price pressure is "crippling".

Chairmen of water authorities say price rises of 7-13% next year are not enough to fund new investment, improve supplies and provide cleaner beaches.

British Coal announces closure of two Midlands collieries with loss of 1,100 jobs (FT).

British Steel is to cut 190 jobs over next eight months on tubes division in Halesown, West Midlands (FT).

OFTEL reveals plan to liberalise private telecom networks, with aim of boosting market for high tech services provided over telephone lines (FT).

Robert Maxwell decides to rein himself back, phase himself out and lay down his burdens (FT).

After reporting that 70% of your constituency vote for it, Express joins new campaign for Sunday opening. Government should stop dithering, it says.

Government's radiation safety advisers say radiation dose limits permit an "intolerable degree of risk to workers in the nuclear industry" (Independent).

Mirror says there can be no excuse for the ugly development of the Chunnel Link through Kent and more of it should be tunnelled.

Cornish water manager, sacked after thousands of people drank contaminated water, gets £25,000 pay off.

Sky Television reaches agreement in principle for Britain's cable operators to carry satellite TV channels (FT).

Lords inflict embarrassing defeat on Government by voting that shareholders should have right to vote on company donations to political parties under Companies Bill (Times).

PRESS DIGEST

Bar aims to set up £1million fighting fund against Government's reforms (Times).

New chairman of Press Council will today call for a radical review of its constitution and operations.

Big arms find in a house on Western outskirts of Belfast.

Express previews the introduction of the lenient sentence provisions of the Criminal Justice Act, coming into force tomorrow, under the heading "Putting lenient judges in the dock".

Scotland Yard claims security at Buckingham Palace is OK notwithstanding its 3-hour penetration by Special Branch during an exercise.

Mail complains of Underground's dilatory and tightfisted approach to expenses and compensation among injured of King's Cross fire after fireman claims he has got only £84.

George Younger says Gibraltar will stay British so long as people who live on Rock so wish.

Kinnock calls on EC to adopt interventionist economic, industrial and social policies to tackle challenges of 1992 (Guardian).

West gives cautious welcome to Warsaw Pact force details, interpreted as the opening bid on the Vienna Conventional Stability Talks (Independent).

Gorbachev to visit UK in April - reasonably good coverage for announcement bearing in mind it was expected.

So too does your unveiling of Indira Ghandi's bust - and your remarks about the loneliness of a world leader.

UK agrees to curb number of low flying exercises over West Germany.

Judge orders Reagan to stand by to give evidence in North case. Mail says Terry Waite's life may be endangered by evidence at trial.

Michael Aspel flies to his son dying of cancer in Australia.

Concern over alleged flouting by Japan of international rules on whale hunting.

PRESS DIGEST

Dame Vera Lynn urges Prince Philip not to go to Hirohito funeral.

Church leaders renew criticism of handling of Mendis saying Home Office was told of West German offer of visa just before his deportation.

Unease at General Synod over deportation of Viraj Mendis with the Archbishop of Canterbury saying the Home Secretary's action was too hasty (Times).

Britain protests to Rumania over police manhandling of our Ambassador there.

PRISONS

Star says Wandsworth prison is in a state of anarchy and it was a mistake by the Governor to let the dispute deteriorate into a head-on clash. He should go.

Sun says prison officers cannot be allowed to get away with blackmail, nor use prisoners as bargaining tools. It is for the Governor to decide how a jail should be run.

Express says Government must not give in to demands of striking prison officers. Wandsworth is just the latest episode in the long running struggle to determine who runs our prisons.

Mail leader headed "Wandsworth: Hurd must stand firm" says the present conflict has to be seen as part of a sustained attempt by the Government to sort out one of the last bastions of restrictive practices. Home Office has bent over backwards in the introduction of more flexible working arrangements.

Telegraph says it has repeatedly warned that a final showdown between the Government and the POA is probably inevitable and Wandsworth could be the occasion for it. Mr Hurd has little choice. He must ensure this is the warders' last stand.

Times leader describes the POA as a monopolistic and belligerent public sector trade union. A precipitate and disruptive walk-out is an illustration of restrictive practice at its worst. It is also a dereliction of duty. A stronger management is the very least that is required.

PRESS DIGEST

Guardian thinks the POA may have some arguments - timing of Home Office ultimatum and overcrowding of Wandsworth - but none of this excuses POA's long and stubborn resistance to change. If Wandsworth means Home Secretary is now belatedly ready to take them on it is a change for the better.

GIBRALTAR

Sun says Foreign Secretary's action will be seen in Madrid as an encouragement to push Spain's impudent pretensions.

Telegraph says if the withdrawal of some troops hastens the evolution of over-hardened attitude as well as rationalising the use of scarce military resources, it will have been doubly worth while. It is in the long term interests of Gibraltarians themselves that Parliament should welcome your decision.

Independent - Howe reassures Rock of Britain's commitment, despite reduction in the military garrison. Leader says the real fear among Gibraltarians is that the move will be seen by Madrid as a signal that we are preparing to renege on our commitment to their self-determination. It is up to Sir Geoffrey Howe to ensure that the robust public remarks which you and he will make are not undermined by private winks and nods on the part of his officials.

Times leader supports the reduction of troops in Gibraltar saying it can be justified militarily, diplomatically and financially. Gibraltarians still have a siege mentality and this restricts their vision and obstructs progress. The right way to ensure the Rock's prosperity is to develop its relationship with Spain.

YOUR UNVEILING OF INDIRA GHANDI SCULPTURE

Today - Loneliness of Maggie - a reference to your remarks on the loneliness of a world leader; and your attack on terrorism.

Picture of you at unveiling in Times.

NHS

Peter Jenkins, in the Independent, raises a whole series of questions about the NHS White Paper but concludes that it all comes down to one question, impossible of instant answer: will the reforms improve the quality and availability of health services for all, or will they not?

PRESS DIGESTDEVELOPMENT PLANS WHITE PAPER

FT leader believes White Paper is a muddle. The disposition of land will continue to be a waste both for the market and control and local government. Local services will, at least partly, be funded through centrally provided grants, continuing to subsidise development at a time when concern about its extent is growing. The muddle will persist until a White Paper addresses itself to both sides of the equation - administrative and financial - at once.

POLITICS

Martin Fletcher in the Times looks at the "so-called continuing SDP" on its first anniversary saying it can hardly be said to have flourished. But the remarkable thing is that it has survived at all.

MIDDLE EAST

Independent - Warring Lebanese Muslim factions sign pact to end their strife. Amal leader says he is sure move will aid the release of the Western hostages.

Independent - British Jews attack Waldegrave for showing undue haste in holding talks with PLO, and call for more even-handed approach when he visits Jerusalem next month.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DH: Mr Clarke addresses nationwide teleconference on NHS Review White Paper
- DTI: Lord Young addresses seminar for trade associations and chambers of commerce, QEII Conference Centre, London; later addresses Young Business Builds Britain conference, Haberdashers Hall
- HMT: Mr Lawson addresses Royal Mint reception to celebrate 500th anniversary of the first gold sovereign
- HO: Mr Hurd and Mr Patten lunch at Spanish Embassy; Mr Patten later attends seminar on management of equal opportunities
- MAFF: Mr MacGregor addresses ADAS conference, Norwich
- MOD: Mr Younger opens and Mr Clarke (DTI) speaks at Al Yamamah offset investment seminar, QEII Centre, London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls launches City Action Team growth profile project, Newcastle
- DOE: Mr Trippier addresses Institute of Civil Engineers
- DOE: Mrs Bottomley addresses green consumers, London
- DSS: Lord Skelmersdale addresses departmental solicitors
- DTI Mr Atkins addresses NEDO conference on customer expectations and experience
- DTp: Mr Portillo addresses Association of County Councils dinner
- FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses Foreign Affairs Backbench Committee on South Africa
- HO: Mr Patten attends seminar on Management of Equal Opportunities, Sunningdale
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington visits International Food and Drink Exhibition, Olympia, London
- OAL: Mr Luce addresses Royal Photographers Society dinner, London
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- OAL: Mr Luce addresses Royal Photographic Society dinner, London
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TV AND RADIO

"The Open Learning Business": C4 (13.00): Looks at what open learning offers

"Tomorrow's World": BBC 1 (19.00): Special edition on greenhouse effect

"File On Four": BBC Radio 4 (19.20): Profile of Michael Manley

"Open Space": BBC 2 (20.00): Devoted to Housing Policy

"Food and Drink: BBC 2 (20.30): Asks are we becoming a nation of alcoholics?

"The Bangladesh Story": C4 (23.30): Final programme of three part history of Bangladesh
