

8 March 1989

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh visit Barbados to mark the 350th Anniversary of the Barbados Parliament (to March 11)

British Rail - Channel Tunnel Rail Link announcement

International Women's Day

National No-Smoking Day

Home Secretary exchanges letters with Swiss Ambassador introducing new bilateral arrangements for confiscation of drug dealers' assets

TUC Women's Conference, Blackpool (to March 9)

EC: Political Committee, Madrid (to March 9)

STATISTICS

DEM: Overseas travel and tourism (Dec)

DEM: Detailed analysis of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators

PUBLICATIONS

HMT: Minutes on the Public Accounts Committee reports

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth; Trade and Industry; Environment

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Homes for the Elderly. (Mr Malcolm Moss)
Motions on the Northern Ireland (Emergency Provisions) Act 1978
and 1987 (Continuance) Order and the Northern Ireland
(Emergency Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations

Motion on the Appropriation (Northern Ireland) Order
Debate on a Motion to take note of EC Document relating to
Derogations in Respect of Weights and Dimensions of Heavy
Lorries. Details will be given in the Official Report

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Adjournment Debates: The financing of the Arts Council and its effect on the Northern Ballet Theatre (Mr S Orme)

Select Committees: PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION
Subject: The Health Service Commissioner's Report
Witnesses: North Staffordshire Health Authority; Bexley Health Authority

TRADE AND INDUSTRY
Subject: Financial Service and the Single Market
Witnesses: Department of Trade and Industry Officials

WELSH AFFAIRS
Subject: The Channel Tunnel: Implications for Wales
Witnesses: Section 40 Passenger and Freight Working Parties, Standing Conference on Regional Policy in South Wales; Welsh Counties Committee

DEFENCE
Subject: Staffing levels in the Procurement Executive
Witnesses: Ministry of Defence Officials

ENERGY
Subject Energy Policy Implications of the Greenhouse Effect
Witnesses: The Electricity Council and the Central Electricity Generating Board

TRANSPORT
Subjects: Roads for the Future
Witnesses: At 4.15: Cheshire County Council
East Sussex County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, at 5 pm Scottish Office

SOCIAL SERVICES
Subject: Listeria
Witness: Sir Donald Acheson, KBE
Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health

Lords: Starred Questions
Short Debate to call attention to teacher shortages
Short Debate to call attention to the international traffic in toxic wastes and to the case for safe and thorough disposal arrangements to be made before the transport of such wastes is undertaken
Unborn Children (Protection) Bill (HL): Second Reading

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Most papers lead on IRA plot to murder you and senior Cabinet Ministers is foiled when gardener collecting compost stumbles on Semtex and arms buried in woods less than five miles from Scarborough Conference hotel.

Mail leader discusses the dangers you face saying that we can be thankful that you possess such a strong will and temperament and are able to carry on the country's business not only with aplomb but zest.

IRA gunmen kill three men - two of them elderly - in Co Tyrone.

Guardian says that British Rail has bowed to political pressure from you and Conservative grassroots and rejigged its plans for Chunnel rail link so that at least one third will run in tunnel at an extra cost of between £500million and £800million.

You say at ozone conference that Brazil must be persuaded to call halt to cutting and burning rain forests.

You and Nicholas Ridley clash again. This time it is over whether it is £1.25million or £1.5million a year aid to UNEP. But you later sing his praises in the House and on television.

Your 'gaffes' over the last week have caused concern on the backbenches. Could lack of opposition be the cause? Ian Aitken, in the Guardian, believes that you cannot handle Kinnock's jokes.

Concern among backbenchers continues over water privatisation - suggestion that Government may be looking for a way to shelve the Bill (Times).

Government will this week opt to maintain legislative pace with a crowded and controversial programme for the next session (FT).

Government intends to maintain its strategy of meeting EC regulations on water quality as quickly as possible (FT) but not necessarily within the timetable laid down by the Commission.

British Rail chiefs agree to test new automatic brake system for trains in effort to improve rail safety.

Train drivers on Southern Region working up to 52 hours a week because of bonus system (Guardian).

City of London is to make you an Honorary Freeman in May (Times).

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PRESS DIGEST

Toyota confirms that Britain has been chosen as the location for its new £600million plant. Sites being considered and an announcement to be made soon (Times).

General Motors warns European car makers that thousands of jobs are at risk in Europe from the invasion of Japanese companies (Times).

Tesco to pay half of sisters £20,000 court case bill.

Mandatory exemptions for disabled, club guests and possibly school parties and foreign visitors accepted by Government during second day of the Lords Committee stage of the Football Bill (Times).

More houses being built now than at any time in the last 10 years.

London is likely to become more congested during the next few years - according to draft Strategic Planning Guidance sent to London Boroughs by the Department of the Environment yesterday (Times).

Sun leader asks who cares a damn about the mad mullahs of Iran severing diplomatic relations with Britain.

Chancellor expected to reduce excise duty on unleaded petrol in Budget (Today).

Meat slaughtered in the cleanest abattoirs is still contaminated according to a MAFF letter. Ministry trying to keep secret visit by EC inspectors (Guardian).

Government considering giving IBA powers to see programmes before they are broadcast (Guardian).

Duke of Edinburgh says the world is overpopulated and blames agriculture.

Independent - Conservatives in the Vale of Glamorgan defy national party by expelling two councillors. Dispute threatens to wreck Tory preparations for the by-election.

Margaret and Norman Tebbit pay secret morale-boosting visit to M1 air crash pilot who is suffering from spinal injuries (Express).

Today is "National No Smoking Day"

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PRESS DIGESTOZONE CONFERENCE

Guardian leader says the ozone conference had a big build-up and a little let-down, the big disappointment was that the analysis of the problems did not connect with commitment on aid.

Mail leader says your speech was in a characteristically common-sense vein adding that controls should only be used as a last resort when voluntary pressures have failed.

Today leader says that spending on the scale of the world's defence budgets needs to be diverted if we are really going to get to grips with all the environmental threats. Britain gives a paltry £3million when £19billion is spent annually on defence.

Times leader says you have now identified yourself with the preservation of the global environment even more firmly than you did in your speeches to the Royal Society and Party Conference.

Telegraph leader says that Ministers will remain in the foothills of the ozone mountain until action is taken against polluters.

Independent leader says you admitted that it is the duty of industrialised countries to help developing countries phase out CFCs. It notes that the difficulties of turning good intentions into deeds should not be under-estimated. It is not necessary to look abroad for examples of reluctance to spend money in order to tackle environmental dangers.

CHUNNEL RAIL LINK

Flags are out for famous Chunnel rail link victory (Express).

Protestors make British Rail dig tunnel rail-link (Sun).

Today leader says British Rail's decision to bury one-third of the Chunnel rail link is a triumph for good sense.

Mirror - John Major has been ordered to find extra £500million for Chunnel link without passing on cost to taxpayer.

Estate agents forecast 20% rise in house prices in areas around new route.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DH: Mr Clarke meets Royal College of Surgeons; later opens GP Unit at Teddington Memorial Hospital
- DOE: Mr Ridley meets delegation from Birmingham re Birmingham City Partnership; later, with Lord Caithness receives Egyptian Environment Minister and Chinese Environment delegation; Lord Caithness later meets Swiss Ambassador
- DTI: Lord Young launches Smart Competition, Albert Hall, London; later speaks on "Television and 1992" with Independent Programme Producers Association, BAFTA, London
- WO: Mr Walker opens Aiwa expansion, Pen-y-faw Industrial Estate, Crumlin
- DEM: Mr Lee visits East Anglia; in the evening attends dinner with director of China's National Tourist Office, London
- DEM: Mr Nicholls visits Employment Training managers in South London
- DES: Mr Jackson addresses Polytechnic of Central London "Education in the 1990s" conference, Marylebone, London
- DES: Mr Butcher launches video on vandalism and arson, London
- DH: Mr Mellor meets National Childminding Association, London
- DOE: Mr Chope meets Chinese delegation on planning
- DOE: Lord Hesketh visits North West Water Authority
- DOE: Mr Trippier addresses Housing and Enterprise conference on "Estate Action"
- DSS: Lord Skelmerdale visits War Pensioners Ward, Rockwood Hospital, Cardiff: later chairs War Pensions Committee meeting in Cardiff
- DTI: Mr Maude addresses Greenwich Chamber of Commerce on "1992"
- DTI: Mr Atkins visits Dorset and Wiltshire Aerospace
- HO: Mr Patten visits Crimestoppers, Leeds, Yorks
- HO: Mr Renton closes the Broadcast/Independent Picture Producers' Association TV in 1992 conference, Piccadilly, London
- HO: Mr Hogg visits St Stephen's Hospital, Fulham
- OAL: Mr Luce speaks at opening of new gallery at Museum of London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

MAFF: Baroness Trumpington visits Paris Salon

MINISTERS (PRESS INTERVIEWS)

DOE: Mr Chope interviewed by LBC on "New Homes in Docklands" exhibition

TV AND RADIO

'The Carers': Ch 4 (13.00) Linked to Open College, a look at problems facing care assistants and home helpers

'Advice Shop' BBC 2 (17.00) special programme on the Housing Act and what it will mean for tenants

'Dispatches' Ch 4 (20.30)

'Signals' Ch 4 (21.15) looks at fine art education in relation to the Education Reform Act, includes interview with Robert Jackson
