

30 January 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Princess of Wales opens the Abbey Centre, East Hunsbury,  
Northampton

Prime Minister gives interview to Chris Moncrieff of the  
Press Association

M. Delors visits Copenhagen

BA prospectus published

President Botha announces date for whites-only election

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STATISTICS

CSO: Sales and orders in the engineering industries (Oct)

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PUBLICATIONS

DTI: British Business

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PAY

Local Authorities Engineering Craftsmen; 10,800; negotiations to begin.  
Claim expected to be presented

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions

Business:     Private Members' Bills  
Crossbows Bill: Second Reading (Mr Peter Bruinvels)  
Licensing (Amendment) Bill: Second Reading (Mr Allan Stewart)  
Community Health Councils (Access to Information) Bill:  
Second Reading (Mr Terry Lewis)

Adjournment Debate

Retirement pension increases for British pensioners living  
abroad (Mr N Thorne)

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Alasdair Milne sacked; Labour MPs call on Government not to interfere in choice of successor; media sympathy - and criticism - for Milne.
- Today: Marplan poll puts you neck and neck with Labour 38.5/38.5/20, but claims there is enthusiasm for a coalition.
- Halpern, of Burton, emerges triumphant from shareholders' meeting; "his finest hour" (Star).
- Anthony . . . a member of Stock Exchange, claims he got £3m from advising Guinness.
- Robert Maxwell denies any connection with Guinness in response to press speculation.
- Mail says fraud squad is set to take over Guinness investigations; DPP announcement imminent.
- Scotland Yard confirms it is investigating Sir Alex Fletcher's mysterious break in.
- Claims Terry Waite has been seen moving about freely, apparently still negotiating; but Express says White House believe Waite is a prisoner.
- Charles Moore, in Express, says Waite is right to be talking and keeping open line of hope to hostages.
- You say Britain's dole queues won't last forever; full employment on its way back. Kinnock says it is 'pure fantasy'. Misery of jobless will end, says Maggie - in Mail.
- Trade war between EC and USA ended; threat to British gin exports lifted.
- Austin Rover making 1200 office workers redundant over next few months.
- Trustee Savings Bank profits up to £205.6m.
- B/Telecom clerks reject 6%.
- Strike by Manchester Airport's firemen affected 160 flights.
- NHS saves £24m by using contract cleaners.
- BBC reported to have paid £120,000 compensation to family of man killed in stunt; misadventure verdict at inquest.
- Telegraph says Attorney General has advised Government it could not prevent the banned BBC film from receiving its first public screening in Cardiff; Defence Select Committee to see film.
- Tim Eggar writes to Sun to reply to leader which said they were cozy in looking after interests of man detained in Zambia.

MILNE

- Jeremy Isaacs seems to be media's favourite candidate to succeed Milne.
- Star: Labour MPs blast 'bully boy' Tebbit, "who had your support in his vendetta against BBC." Leader says the BBC needs a strong man as Milne's successor. For one reason or another Milne allowed too many political fanatics - Left, Right and centre - to produce so-called documentaries which were little better than half-baked propaganda.
- Sun P1: Boss gets bullet.
- Today: Sacking riddle as BBC chief leaves.
- Mirror: BBC Chief Milne gets sack,; exit after long feud with Tories; leader says his resignation is a shock but it is clear he was pushed there is now no unity in BBC management. No dedicated broadcaster ought to be subjected to the intolerable pressure he had to bear from the boardroom.
- Express P1 lead: BBC Chief is forced to quit. Pressure was great; he's so sad, says friend. Feeling that successor will come from outside BBC. Jeremy Isaacs favourite to take over; leader headed "Wanted: one tough guy to run the BBC" says that if the BBC seems uncontrollable this is largely because Milne failed to control it.
- Mail P1: BBC boss walks out. Unnamed member of Board says Milne was a victim of his own lack of leadership ability and had lost the confidence of the staff; leader headed: "BBC's new chance" says Milne pursued ratings at the expense of quality and standards. Perhaps his failure was not to curb excesses.
- Telegraph leads with story "Next BBC chief will be more political".
- Times: "Milne quits BBC in crisis of confidence". Alan Protheroe, assistant director general, said his departure had not been prompted by clashes with the Conservative Party. Some Tory Backbenchers openly expressed the hope that other heads will roll. Labour MPs claimed Mr Milne was the victim of Government pressure. Leader says no one should be surprised at Mr Milne's departure. Over the past 18 months his support from senior management and from journalists has been eroding. His successor will need political as well as journalistic skills and should make sure he only fights the battles that are really necessary.
- Telegraph leader says he had lost the confidence of his staff. His successor should not be inside candidate.
- Guardian P1 lead: "BBC Chief is 'dismissed' by Governors; beleaguered Milne resigns after series of rows. He is bitter and sad to have been put in this position".
- Independent: Milne quits suddenly as BBC Director General.
- FT: Milne forced to quit after growing controversy. He was asked for his resignation by Marmaduke Hussey and Lord Barnett; the announcement came as a surprise to other members of the BBC management board. Downing Street last night emphasised the decision was a matter between the Governors and the director general. You ruled out any Government statement.

POLITICS

- Sun says the razzamataz relaunch of the Lib/SDP Alliance was in tatters after it was revealed that Steel and Owen voted on opposite sides while party political broadcast showing the two together was going out. Gordon Greig, in Mail: the two Davids in disarray. Mail leader says maybe the instinct for two-sided adversary politics is more deep seated than these mould breakers realise.
  
- Joe Haines, in Mirror, says Star executives have been told they will be supporting you at the next election.
- Times: The Tory-controlled energy select committee is to call for the backdoor privatisation of the coal industry in spite of the unanimous opposition of its Labour members.
  
- Times: David Steel is expected to quit the Liberal Party leadership within a couple of years if the Alliance does not make real progress at the next election.
  
- Geoffrey Smith, in Times, commenting on Eric Hammond's idea that Labour should give a firm manifesto commitment to hold a referendum on defence, says he does not like it - but if he were a Labour politician he would grab it with both hands.
  
- Independent: Lengthy editorial says notwithstanding their position in the polls, the Alliance presents an alternative to Thatcherism more in tune with public opinion than the Labour Party.
  
- Independent: City analysts say that Labour's economic policies would cut unemployment by 1 million in 4 months, by increasing public spending by £13.5 billion.

INDUSTRY

- Hertz orders 11,000 cars worth £66m from Ford of Britain.
- British Airways' 747 grounded after crack found in wing.
- Times: The DTI inquiry into competition policy and the future scrutiny of mergers is considering plans for a big increase in the staffing of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.
- A growing number of people - 778,000 in 1985 - have a second job, and this figure probably does not come close to measuring the extent of the black economy.
- Independent: Khashoggi hit by cash crisis in the US as Triad America faces bankruptcy.
- Bryan Gould argues that the City cannot police itself (Independent)
- FT: Environment Secretary approves £59m plan for US developer to convert Crown Agents' offices near Westminster into hotel.
- FT: Stockbrokers Cazenove & Co denies any illegal involvement with Guinness.
- FT: Investors Discount Brokerage is licensed dealer denounced by Dale Campbell-Savours in the Commons on Wednesday. He refused to identify the firm which he alleges "has been banking fraudulently".

UNIONS

- Now AEU is having to cut its costs, with a drop in membership of 343,000.
- Rupert Murdoch goes for assets of NGA and SOGAT for contempt of High Court ban on Wapping blockade.
- Independent feature on unions says unions must adapt to survive.

ECONOMY

- Sun leader on pledge to eliminate unemployment under 18 by Easter says it is rare for any politician to give such an unqualified pledge.
- Today: Lord Young accuses Left wing councils of refusing help for young unemployed.
- Express feature on what is making nonsense of the great North/South divide - Marks and Spencer in Newcastle turns over £70m a year; £200m centre will create 7000 jobs in Gateshead; investors are pumping £600m into N.East.
- FT: Uruguay GATT round establishes 14 negotiating groups to remove obstacles to free trade; all will meet for the first time before mid-April.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Times: Greenwich Borough Council yesterday launched an attempt in the High Court to stop the Government taking back nearly £4m of its rate support grant.
- Lambeth to ignore public protest and petition to rename parks and baths after black terrorists.
- Birmingham council hiring security guards to collect school dinner money and head teachers who refuse to handle it may have £45 deducted from salaries to help pay for collection
- Express leader on Audit Commission report says it reveals a shocking picture of Labour mismanagement. You would think those responsible for such near criminal mismanagement would be concentrating on important issues but no ... anyone wondering what life would be like under Labour Government has only to glance at this report.
- Paul Johnson, in Mail, says the real message in the Audit Commission report is the betrayal of Labour Councils who are the "enemies of the poor". It suggests that the Tories' election slogan should be "Don't listen to what they say. Look at what they do".
- Nicholas Ridley says the Audit Commission report is the most damning indictment of Labour in office he has read (Telegraph).

EDUCATION

- Express says teachers are set for a big Easter pay rise under imposed settlement.
- Survey claims 7m Britons are illiterate.
- Times: The NUT yesterday accused the Government of "a cynical exercise in manipulation" over official education figures for children under five.

AIDS

- Norman Fowler backs home care for victims.
- Times: The Government is sponsoring the creation of new voluntary organisation to assist with the care in the community of AIDS victims.
- Independent: Methodist moderator says Christians have a duty to take the fear out of AIDS.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- The children's plastic surgeon unit at Stoke Mandeville is to close for two months and hip and cataract operations are to be drastically reduced as part of cost-cutting measures.
- Independent: NHS policy on baby milk breaks world code.
- Independent: Glasgow consultant blames death of 62 year old patient on staff shortages.

MEDIA

- Leslie Curtis, Police Federation, calls on TUC to tame hotheads who have created a "monster" out of Wapping.
- Times: The IBA has urged the Government to give approval for a national independent radio network as soon as possible.
- Independent: Legal observers condemn policing at Wapping.

EC

- 66 Euro MPs, accompanied by 127 officials, off to "sunshine trip" for international meeting in Tanzania.
- Russia seeks to buy one-third of butter mountain at knockdown prices.
- Independent: EEC about to sell, via French businessman, 300,000 tonnes of cut price butter to Soviet Union.

SPORT

- Independent: Football league votes to impose a three year halt to the spread of artificial pitches. Move seen as first division clubs asserting their powers.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Police given new wide ranging powers to curb media - lawyer says it is arguable whether press freedom still exists.

IRAN/IRAQ

- Times: Despite US assurances to the contrary, President Reagan's secret arms supply to Iran seems to have given the Iranians a direct military advantage in the war.

CANADA

- Telegraph reports Conservative Government in disarray.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- UDA suggests new political structure giving Catholics a say in Government, as alternative to Anglo-Irish Agreement which would have to be suspended.

RUSSIA

- Times : Most Muscovites appear to be relishing the prospect of bureaucrats facing secret ballots. Pravda quoted a string of workers backing the call for reform.

LEBANON

- Times: A mysterious new terrorist group yesterday threatened to kill four foreign teachers held hostage if the US attacks; Fears for Terry Waite are growing, despite reassurances.



MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Lord Young makes regional visit to South Ribble
- DEN: Mr Walker addresses Joint Service Reference College, Greenwich
- DES: Mr Baker addresses the Government/Industry seminar, Mitcham
- DHSS: Mr Fowler visits Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands
- HO: Mr Hurd visits Police Training Centre, Cwmbran, followed by a visit to NACRO at Merthyr Tydfil; later speaks at Bristol University
- SO: Mr Rifkind meets Scottish Trades Union Congress, Edinburgh; later visits Queen Victoria School, Dunblane
- WO: Mr Edwards makes industrial visits to Cwmbran, Ebbw Vale and Abergavenny
- DEM: Mr Trippier speaks at FIDA seminar, Regent Crest Hotel, London
- DEN: Mr Goodlad visits Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, Bootle
- DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith addresses Pipeline Industries Guild lunch, Aberdeen; later opens Grampian Containers Ltd new office facility, Aberdeen
- DES: Mr Walden addresses Cambridge Union Society debate on education policy; later chairs seminar on Soviet and East European Studies (GB/USSR Association)
- DOE: Mr Chope addresses Association of Chief Technical Officers (ACTO) Oxford
- DOE: Lord Skelmersdale attends luncheon at the National Joint Consultative Committee on Building, London
- DTP: Mr Spicer opens the London Aviation Centre, Luton
- DTP: Mr Bottomley chairs the Eastern Regional Annual Consultative Committee meeting, Chelmsford
- HO: Lord Caithness visits Hampshire Fire Brigade
- MAFF: Lord Belstead visits Hydraulics Research Ltd, Wallingford, Oxfordshire
- SO: Mr Lang performs ceremony to mark start of work on hotel on Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre site, Glasgow
- SO: Mr Mackay opens private housing development (John G Macgregor), Inverness
- SO: Lord Glenarthur meets Scottish Working Group (Care in the Community), Edinburgh
- WO: Mr Roberts opens Menai Technological Enterprise Centre, Bangor

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- MOD: Mr Younger attends Wehrkunde Conference, Munich (to 1 February)
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TV AND RADIO.

Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr Rifkind appears on BBC TV Scotland "Question Time on Left, Right and Centre", 22.20 pm

Energy Minister Mr Buchanan-Smith at recording of Grampian TV's "Crossfire" programme

"Passage to Britain"; Channel 4 (14.30): Examines largest and most easily accepted immigrant group in the country - the Irish

"A Week in Politics"; Channel 4 (20.15): With Nick Ross. On the eve of the Liberal/SDP relaunch rally, Dr David Owen and David Steel discuss how the Alliance can mount a challenge to the old parties

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.20): John Timpson with Norman St John Stevas MP, Peter Snape MP and Patricia Morison, historian and Daily Telegraph art journalist

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