

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Deadline for CPSA agreement to co-operate with social security review

Commons debate on activities of Special Branch in England and Scotland

STATISTICS

HMT: UK official reserves (Jan)

Bank of England: Capital issues and redemptions (Jan)

OPCS: Infant and perinatal mortality 1985: birthweight, DHAs and RHAs

OPCS: Live births; still births and deaths: registrations November 1986

OPCS: Birth statistics historical series 1837-1983: England and Wales

OPCS: English life tables 1980-82: England and Wales

PUBLICATIONS

NAO: Inland Revenue: Control of Major Developments in Use of Information Technology

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Employment; Social Services; Prime Minister

Business: Remaining Stages of the Channel Tunnel Bill

Motions relating to the Dockyard Services (Devonport) (Designation and Appointed Day) Order and the Dockyard Services (Rosyth) (Designation and Appointed Day) Order

Adjournment Debate

Commission for New Towns and Basildon shopping centre (Mr D Amess)

PARLIAMENT (cont'd)Select Committees: EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND ARTS

Subject: The Arts Scrutiny Session

Witnesses: Rt Hon Richard Luce MP, Minister for the Arts, and officials from the Office of Arts and Libraries

PARLIAMENTARY COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION

Subject: Reports of the Health Service Commission for 1985-86

Witnesses: Waltham Forest Health Authority and Mid Downs Health Authority

COMMITTEE ON A PRIVATE BILL

Essex (Lords)

Lords: Fire Safety and Safety at Places of Sport Bill

Local Elections (Northern Ireland)(Amendment) Order 1987: Motion for Approval

Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1987: Motion for Approval

Local Government Act 1986 (Amendment) Bill

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Duke Hussey protests over police action against BBC HQ in Glasgow.
- Terry Waite under arrest but not a hostage; Jihad threatens to execute American hostages if US attacks Lebanon; and Sun says US threats of action put Waite's life in peril.
- Row over lenient sentences on two men who raped daughter of Ealing vicar; Vicar says he forgives assailants. Terry Dicks, Peter Bruinvels, Harry Greenway and Clare Short vocal as is Police Federation.
- 3 Italian policemen, sentenced to 2½-4 years jail for raping British girl, freed pending appeal.
- Today says B/Telecom strike is set to end as BT backs down - two year deal of up to 15% has been offered.

BEC/ZIRCON

- Continuing reports that the project has been abandoned either because of leaks or cost.
- BBC business attracts more attention in qualities than pops.
- Sun P4: Left wing spy writer Campbell is branded Public Enemy No 1 (by angry Tory MPs); leader says BBC is making a dreadful fuss of the "raid". Maybe it was a little heavy handed but the BBC have only themselves to blame. Time and again they have shown they cannot be trusted to defend the national interest. Monumentally irresponsible to employ Campbell.
- Mirror P2: Cop state rap in BBC 'spy' row. Furious protests hurled at Government over "general trawl" through BBC.
- ^{P8}Star: You have ordered security services to track down suspected spy who may have already given defence secrets to Russians.
- ^{P2}Today: MPs blast Thatcher over BBC raids and Government desperately tries to wash its hands of responsibility. Leader headed "BBC needs to act for the people" says that at a time when many vested interests seek to curb the BBC's independence it is vital that the right appointment should be seen to be made.
- Express P2: Tory fury at bungled BBC swoop; Lord Chalfont on "The Smokescreen that obscures the Duncan Campbell affair" says it is not a question of the BBC's right to engage in 'investigative' journalism'; draws attention to the presence of cameras at Campbell's home and at BBC Glasgow; and points out that the glib rhetoric of politicians - eg Owen - in pursuit of office should not be allowed to conceal what is really at stake; the Government has a duty to deter those who would make their own decisions on what is screened and what is not and to impress upon them that it is not necessary to be a paid Soviet agent to be a traitor to ones country.
- Mail says documents on national security seized from BBC are so sensitive the Corporation will never get them back; they could not have turned up in normal journalistic work. Yet Mail leader headed "gross abuse of state power" says only the most serious threat to security of nation could conceivably justify the "raid", and if that is the Government's case, why did the Government leave it so late to act? Is it really true no Minister of the Crown is in a position to take responsibility for the ransacking? If so, that would be even more disquieting.
- Times leader says in, rightly, seeking to prevent the publication of secrets, the authorities appear inept or overwhelming. The debate on official secrets must now be reopened.
- FT leader says there is a streak of authoritarianism in the Government which is only slightly redeemed by the bungling incompetence with which it is executed. The Speaker was quite right to grant an emergency debate. What happened in Glasgow will have been watched with delight in South Africa and Russia.

WAITE

- Today says you were last night trying to prevent American troops being sent to rescue Terry Waite and US hostages.
- Mail says Waite did what he felt he must do. FCO gave sound advice. The Archbishop did what his critics would have expected of him - he sat on the archiepiscopal fence.
- Times: You have made clear your determination that Britain will stick to its "no deals" stand on terrorism; you are understood to have written to Chancellor Kohl, urging him not to bow to terrorists.
- Telegraph says Archbishop has asked the Iranian Speaker to help find Waite.
- Independent: Hunt focuses on Imad Mugniyah, indicted by the US for the TWA hijacking in 1985, who leads a group with the 'Islamic Jihad'.

POLITICS

- Star columnist Mills, says it is a nonsense to suggest, as Labour does, that the nation's sewers are disintegrating and another of the many rotten planks in Labour's rickety election platform is the proposition that you have ruthlessly cut spending on the NHS - 100 proof moonshine and unadulterated codswallop.
- Express reports Sheffield and Manchester Councils unveiling "jobs on the rates" plans for after the election if Labour wins; leader says that neither at national nor local level can Labour drop the illusory belief that we can spend our way out of unemployment. It is time it realised that firms offering goods people want to buy is the only way to produce real jobs.
- Paul Johnson, in Mail, says the public bickering between Steel and Owen on whether to form a coalition with you has brought the Alliance to a juddering halt.
- Times: A Mori survey shows that if the average figure of all the polls taken so far in 1986 were repeated at an election the Conservatives would lose their overall majority. Any significant recovery by the Alliance at the Conservatives' expense is likely to lead to a hung parliament and a possible Labour victory.
- Independent: Both Labour and Alliance prepare for joint general and local elections on May 7.
- Independent: Guardian will fight Tebbit's writ.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Telegraph says more than 100 council staff in Lambeth are refusing to answer housing complaints from the public because of mismanagement of councils; answering device directs callers to councillors.

INDUSTRY

- Times: Attempts by senior US officials to force Europe to raise the price of the Airbus has virtually guaranteed British government support for the next generation of aircraft.
- US companies seem likely to be barred from winning business in the £10bn European fighter aircraft project.
- British exports of food and drink have more than doubled in the past 10 years - more than twice as fast as the rate of imports.
- Service industries could create 500,000 more jobs by 1990, two thirds of them for women, says the Institute of Manpower Studies.
- FT: Land Rover output has fallen to the lowest level for 30 years.
- FT: Employment in nationalised industries fell by 50,000 last year.
- Plessey is expecting a fourfold increase in its semiconductor sales over the next four years.
- Employers are making greater efforts in industrial relations by increasing working involvement, says the International Labour Organisation.
- Telegraph says Eurotunnel was trying last night to paper over boardroom problems which could jeopardise plans to ask the public to invest £750m this summer.

ECONOMY

- FT: The number of TV licences in Britain is at a record level of 19m after a massive anti-evasion campaign.

BUDGET

- Archbishop of Canterbury warns Chancellor not to cut income tax - help the poor; Sun says the outburst has riled Tories; Sun leader says that, like Robin Hood with a 'dog collar, the Archbishop says rob the rich to feed the poor, "This particular lesson according to Runcie is one sermon we could do without".
- Mail says Runcie is heading "for fresh rift with Maggie".
- Fraud teams who swoop on unemployment benefit offices to catch illegal claimants have saved £6m of taxpayers' money and persuaded over 8,000 people to stop seeking dole money.

CITY

- Robin Leigh Pemberton tells City to behave or else.

LAW AND ORDER

- "Outrage" over leniency of sentences - 5 and 3 years - on two men for raping girl in Ealing vicarage.
- Star says the sentence is "pathetic". Mirror P1 lead: Outrage; leader says the full details of the rape are unprintable yet it seems that for the law the sentences are neither a punishment nor a deterrent.
- Today: Fury at mercy for vicarage rapists.
- Express P1: Rape trial anger over "soft judge"; Kinnock joins protest - "Known to feel there is a very strong case for very strict sentences for rape."

LAW AND ORDER (Cont'd)

- Mail leads with "Too soft on vicarage rapists".
- Times: Sentences of 10 and 8 years imposed yesterday on two men who raped a woman in a vicarage were denounced last night by Conservative MPs as "scandalously lenient".
- Telegraph: Lenient rape sentences cause outcry.

EDUCATION

- Mori poll reports 7m people in Britain cannot read, write or add up.
- Mail feature on young man in Haringey, how the gay and lesbian school campaign turned a quiet non political father of two into a folk hero for innocence.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- The CBI is considering holding a special conference for employers on the AIDS virus.

DEFENCE

- Times: MoD expect to announce details of their planned purchasing programme for helicopters over the next few weeks.
- A board of inquiry has blamed the shooting down of an army helicopter by a British ship during the Falklands campaign on errors at all levels.

DRUGS

- Star claims that an ice cream man is selling heroin to children as they leave school near the Old Kent Road. This leads the newspaper to launch a "Shop a pusher campaign", giving a telephone number to ring.

PEOPLE

- William Casey, head of CIA, retires ill.
- Alastair MacLean, thriller author, dies.
- Prince Edward is to launch into a showbusiness career thanks to Brian Forbes.

RUMANIA

- Express reports open rebellion against Ceaucescu.

PHILIPPINES

- Mrs Aquino votes 2-1 for new constitution.

USSR

- Times: Sakharov invited to attend Moscow nuclear forum.

USA

- Mail reports a £650m private enterprise deal to sell American arms, including 39 fighters, to Iran was known to American Government for a year.

IRAN/IPAQ

- Times: President Reagan has offered to send his personal notes on the Iran arms deal to the investigating committee.

WEST GERMANY

- Telegraph reports a storm of protest over plans to export 3000 tonnes of milk powder, made radioactive by Chernobyl, to Third World.

EAST/WEST

- Independent: Richard ^{Pole}~~Pole~~ accuses Sir Geoffrey of "mealy-mouthed evasion" about Soviet violations of arms control agreements. The remark was made during a NATO weekend seminar in Munich.

IPELAND

- Independent: Haughey charges ahead on election battleground. Fianna Fail has 52% in the opinion polls, while Fine Gael has slumped to 23%.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Lord Young opens the debate at Entrepreneurs' Exhibition, Royal Park Hotel, London
- DEM: Mr Clarke meets Mr Van Lede, President of Dutch Employers Federation and later lectures at the London School of Economics
- MOD: Mr Younger lunches with George Jones, Daily Telegraph and later dines on HMS Vincent
- WO: Mr Edwards visits International Food Exhibition, Olympia, London
- DES: Mrs Rumbold visits Durham University
- DHSS: Mr Newton attends turf-cutting ceremony, South Shields General Hospital then attends RHA/DHA Chairmen's meeting and later visits Heart Transplant Unit, Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne
- DHSS: Mrs Currie visits Chest, Heart and Stroke Association, St Francis Assissi Centre, London and later is interviewed by Woman Magazine, Star Chamber Court, London
- DHSS: Baroness Trumpington visits Bethlem and Maudsley Hospital, Denmark Hill, London
- DHSS: Mr Major interviewed by BBC Radio, Pebble Mill Studios, Birmingham
- DOE: Mr Patten speaks at National Federation of Housing Associations Conference at Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA)
- DOE: Mr Tracey makes opening address at the Coronary Prevention Group Conference at Royal Society of Medicine
- DOE: Lord Skelmersdale visits Channel Fixed Link sites at Waterloo and Battersea
- DTI: Mr Howard addresses Armed Forces Insurance Brokers Committee annual dinner, London
- Dip: Mr Bottomley speaks at the London Centre for Transport planning seminar on London Road Assessment Studies, Institute of Education, University of London
- FCO: Lady Young addresses Oxford University School of Geography
- MAFF: Mr Gummer addresses British Trout Association AGM, Olympia; later tours International Food Exhibition, Olympia
- OAL: Mr Luce speaks at Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme reception, London

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith attends Sanderstolen seminar, Norway (to 4 February)
- DTI: Mr Pattie visits Davos Symposium, Switzerland (to 5 February)
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TV AND RADIO

"Newsnight Afternoon"; BBC 2 (15.03): An early edition of the nightly programme, which includes current affairs and reports from both Houses of Parliament

"First Tuesday"; ITV (20.30): The story of David and Linda Arthur who were acquitted for child abuse but failed to get their daughter back. They fled the country when Mrs Arthur became pregnant again. The programme also asks if social workers sometimes get it wrong

"The 20th Century Remembered"; BBC 1 (22.50): Len Murray talks to Geoffrey Goodman about the Labour Governments of the 1960s, determined to control wages, and put legal constraints on the trade unions, followed by a Conservative Government with more radical proposals. He discusses why these attempts failed and how Edward Heath threw away a chance of resolving the miners' strike of 1973

"Question of Defence"; BBC 1 (23.30): The first of six episodes in the history of NATO, examines what led the United States to make the commitment to have 300,000 American Troops in Europe