

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Royal Assent to Teachers' Pay and Conditions of Service Bill, Education Secretary, Mr Baker makes statement

Lords debate on Sizewell

AMMA to ballot members on industrial action

EC: Agriculture Council, Brussels (to 3 March)

STATISTICS

Bank of England: London Sterling Certificates of Deposit (Jan)

Bank of England: UK Banks' assets and liability and the money stock (Jan)

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Wales; Energy; Transport

Business: There will be a debate on Welsh affairs on a motion for the adjournment of the House

Motion relating to the milk and dairies and milk (special designation)(charges) regulations

Adjournment Debate

The future of Leeds market (Mr M Meadowcroft)

Lords

Grampian Regional Council (Harbours) Order Confirmation

Bill: Consideration on Report

Coal Industry Bill: Third Reading

Territorial Sea Bill (HL): Report

Debate on the Inspector's Report on the Central Electricity Generating Board's application for consent for construction of a pressurised water reactor at Sizewell, Suffolk

MINISTERS - See Annex

PPRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- Gorbachev's breaking SDI link from INF negotiations hailed as a positive step. Kinnock: a basis for a breakthrough. Owen: Excellent news. Steel: Deserves more than usual cautious FCO platitudes. Welcome in Washington, Bonn and NATO. Joan Ruddock CND, says the proposals are a real victory for peace movement. Mail says your letter before Christmas persuaded Gorbachev to drop his demand for Reagan to abandon SDI.
- Offer seen as a vindication of your firm line.
- Interesting timing in view of Reagan's problems.
- FT says you and your advisers are taking a relaxed view of Greenwich.
- Maxwell cuts price of London Daily News by half - to 10p - in war with Standard and News.

- Nigel West's book claims to clear Hollis as the fifth man and names his deputy, Graham Mitchell, as the man.

- Two teenagers in court today for attack at BBC on Jan Leeming, news reader; one aged 14.
- Malayan police make 56 arrests in connection with Tamils' passport racket.

- Anthony Beaumont-Dark calls on Government to bomb Libya to protect Northern Ireland after Gaddafi tells Observer he is stepping up arms support to the IRA. Sun leader headed "A mission for the RAF" says Gaddafi's supply amounts to a declaration of war and there is no earthly reason why we should sit back and wait for the enemy to strike first.

ARMS CONTROL

- Star says Gorbachev's about-turn is intriguing and demands the most careful study. His scheme demands caution but should not be harshly rejected. If you could help peace and stability on the way, what a coup.
- Sun: Maggie set for deal on Euro nukes; leader says it is the first time the Russians have suggested a deal without strings. It also shows how hollow the unilateralist arguments are. What chance would there be of the Russians coming to the negotiating table if we had already given up the bomb?
- Mirror: Joy over nuclear peace move. Cruise may join Soviet offer; leader says West should take Gorbachev at his word and try to do a deal. It says there could be true as well as reflected glory for you.
- Today leads with "Thatcher opens way for Moscow missile talks after Gorbachev offers cutback on weapons". You are prepared to do a deal, on conditions.
- Express: Kremlin throws a lifeline to Reagan; offer takes sting out of Irangate. And "Maggie in front-line (of arms talks) at Summit"; leader says Gorbachev's proposals are a vindication of your policy and Reagan's that arms deals can only be negotiated from a position of strength.
- Mail leader says that on the face of it the latest move by Gorbachev represents a most welcome and hopeful retreat to negotiating realism. If there is no catch then Western Alliance must try to make bargain stick. For it is broadly what you have previously proposed. So you will be right person in right place in Moscow and it is rubbish for Healey to say this has taken wind out of your talks. Never by contrast has Kinnock's defence posture looked more immature, feeble and irrelevant. Gorbachev could eat a naive unilateralist like Kinnock for breakfast.
- Telegraph: Missile deal hopes raised by Gorbachev; US negotiators remain cautious. Offer seen as vindication of your firm line.
- Independent: Britain to express reservations over Gorbachev deal to remove Cruise. Foreign Office minister said last night that Britain remained concerned that the offer would leave Warsaw Pact countries with an advantage over NATO in two key areas - conventional strength and short-range nuclear weapons. The offer will substantially increase the importance of your visit to Moscow; leader says the offer is not new, but its timing is. Gorbachev is now dealing with a President desperate for a lucky break.
- Telegraph leader says it is now widely agreed that your forthcoming visit to Moscow provides an opportunity for you to carry the superpowers forward to diplomatic ground they may temporarily be unable to reach by their own efforts. But you must insist on strict verification and you will not be expected to diverge from your path.
- Guardian leads with "Nuclear pact nearer". Soviet offer is genuine article. Ministers believe the proposals are a considerable political asset to you.
- FT: Mr Gorbachev's about-turn widely welcomed in Europe; leader says it is time to back Mr Gorbachev although it is premature to assume a Euro-missile deal is sealed. The fine print will remain tricky as well as verification.

ARMS CONTROL (Cont'd)

- Guardian describes Soviet move as most hopeful sign for a decade and is not a mere propaganda gesture. It is tempting to say that NATO's twin track policy has succeeded but that would be premature. And a potential plus for your visit to Moscow could be turned to a minus if it appeared that the only thing holding up an act of disarmament was British insistence on Trident.
- Times front page lead optimistic about US-Soviet arms negotiations which resume today. Diplomats regard your visit to Moscow as even more crucial; leader discusses latest initiative - concludes that if it is an all-or-nothing, now-or-never offer, we are back in the realms of propaganda and unilateral advantage.

POLITICS

after

- Michael Cocks calls for a post mortem on Labour Party / Greenwich and Austin Mitchell wants candidates to be imposed on constituencies.
 - Cecil Parkinson urges you to wait for an October election.
 - Norman Tebbit warns voters that a vote for the Alliance will put Labour in power.
- FT: You will wait and watch opinion poll trends and the outcome of the local elections. Mr Tebbit says more time is needed to explain the dangers of a hung Parliament.
- John Horam, writing in Times, explains why he left SDP for Conservatives and says you are forging the only way forward which offers any real chance to country.
 - Joe Ashton, in Star, says thousands of traditional Labour voters in council houses and flats over London are fed up with Labour because they can't get their homes repaired because so many men are cashing in on converting houses for sale.
 - Sun claims Kinnock is to oversee the selection of prospective candidates in future; and it prints an attack on Left by Michael Cocks who asks: "What can one say on the doorstep to parents who say they are doing their best to bring up a family but all the Labour Party seems interested in are gays and lesbians?".
 - Today says you are plotting to split the Alliance by wooing SDP if you fail to win an overall majority at next election; leader on Labour's failed excuses, says its excuses for losing Greenwich are as threadbare as some of its policies.
 - Express says Kinnock faces bleakest week of Opposition leadership with murmurings of discontent with him surfacing; leader says Kinnock has lost touch with what the party's traditional voters are saying. The tragedy is that the fanatics who are digging the party's grave will just laugh at Michael Cocks and carry on digging.
 - Telegraph: Kinnock is to try to blunt Left wing by putting up Front bench spokesman instantly to disown statements. But it is evident Kinnock does not intend to provoke a showdown.
 - Another Telegraph story says Tory leadership is preparing to give "an unprecedented warning" to Labour Party not to run a personalised campaign against you and your family.
 - Labour Party to launch a comprehensive statement on industry to bring the needs of manufacturing industry to the centre of public debate before the election.
 - John Horam's decision to join the Conservative Party reflects a growing disillusionment with Alliance economic policy.
 - More than a quarter of all corporate donations to the Conservative Party come from organisations associated with City of London says Labour research group.
 - Times: Mr Kinnock to intervene directly in selection of by-election candidates to prevent another Greenwich. MORI poll shows one in five Labour supporters dissatisfied with Kinnock's leadership.
 - Times: Shirley Williams says SDP would have to face "head-on", after next general election, questions of merger with Liberals in spite of lack of enthusiasm of David Owen.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Sun says Left wing teachers in Wiltshire where there are virtually no coloured children want to ban pictures of toadstools, elves, teddy bears and trains from classrooms because they are too middle class and substitute tales of West Indian equivalent of Peter Rabbit.

EDUCATION

- Mail says sport in State schools is fast disappearing according to survey by Secondary Heads Association and blame is put firmly on teachers for their unwillingness to supervise games; leader says this trend must be reversed.
- Telegraph says head teachers and LEAs are hushing up a rising level of violence in schools.
- Independent: Labour proposes £27 a week grant to pupils who stay at school after 16.
- Independent: Firms wary of backing new Baker colleges.
- Times: ILEA pulls back from confrontation with Government and plans to set legal budget.

ECONOMY

- Institute of Directors say economy is booming and over half members are more optimistic than six months ago on Chancellor's handling of it.
 - Mail: Boom time! Experts all say the same: Britain is really getting into top gear.
 - Independent: You have won your battle with the Treasury to increase upper limit mortgage relief to £35,000.
 - Telegraph says Peter Walker delivered his strongest endorsement yet of your policies in claiming that Britain is moving from world's worst recession to this century's best economic renaissance.
 - FT: Britain's charities launch campaign for greater VAT relief.
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- Mail feature on how undercover squads are cracking down on dole money cheats.

INDUSTRY

- Chairman of Engineering Council wants 1700 more university places to help industry.
- Editor of British Good Food Guide says "the profit on the humble chip (potato) is scandalous" - especially in hamburger joints.
- Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders want Chancellor to scrap special 10% tax on cars.
- B/Rail under fire for alleged secrecy over new fare rises.
- Independent: At Neddy on Wednesday, the CBI will present you with a report designed to defeat the Government's campaign to dismantle the present bargaining system.
- Robin Cook MP has tabled a Commons motion drawing attention to what he sees as the Government's failure to plug Whitehall leaks of sensitive City information.
- Westland sits and waits for lifeline from the MoD without which there will be a huge gap in its order books.
- Rover Group commercial vehicle output falls 24%.
- CBI urges faster planning procedures.
- Campaign mounted against Shell UK by Anti Apartheid Movement.
- Times leader looks at how electricity supply policy has been transformed in past 7 years. Need to diversify supplies remains strong as ever. Nuclear power here to stay, but Government should pursue more subtle policy towards rest.

MEDIA

- Jeremy Isaacs to leave Channel 4 for Director of Royal Opera House.
- Today says never before in the history of the BBC has the post of deputy DG been so important. It needs a strong programmes supremo.
- Lots of coverage of Michael Checkland's marital circumstances.
- Telegraph says Checkland is to seek further staff cutbacks to pay for improved news and current affairs.
- Government may publish Green Paper on television to pave the way for a substantial broadcasting Bill if the Conservatives win the next election.
- The BBC has agreed further savings can be made within the organisation without cutting services.
- Times: BBC's new DG given mandate to introduce more openness - reduce secrecy and bureaucracy; devolve power to 5 regions; more money for news and current affairs; increase efforts to sell programmes to cable and satellite media; presents action plan to Home Office to increase access of independent producers to air time.

SPORT

- FA, Football League and Professional Footballers' Association reject proposed amalgamation of Fulham and QPR which is later called off by company. But future of Fulham ground still in doubt.

UNIONS

- Left winger to succeed Buckton as ASLEF general secretary - Sun says it sounds like bad news.
- S.Wales NUM looks likely to defy Scargill over working conditions required by British Coal at projected new mine.
- Northern Ireland region of TGWU subject of new vote rigging allegations.

LAW AND ORDER

- Sun says an attack by muggers on a Canadian businessman in Brighton has robbed Brighton of 4,000 jobs.
- Off-duty prison officer killed and three other men stabbed after thugs attack fund-raising party at South London pub.
- Scotland Yard and US Agency to make a series of major arrests in Virgin Islands in drug money laundering operation.
- Times: Little chance of prosecuting alleged Nazi war criminals, Mr Hurd to tell US delegation.
- Times: Secret Service supplied explosives to "loyalist" gang for Dublin bomb campaign in which 26 died in 1974, claims former intelligence captain Fred Holroyd.
- Times: The Bar to blacklist solicitors who persistently fail to pay barristers' fees.

AIDS

- Star backs the new explicit advertising.
- Times: Ministers and health experts believe TV programmes on AIDS will lead to "safer sex" among teenagers and young adults.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Independent: Government plans to reorganise artificial limb and wheelchair services after criticisms of the McColl report.
- FT article examines new pensions plan, the centrepiece of which is the right of employees to leave their company scheme and SERPS and make their own provision.
- Times: Radical shake-up in £80m NHS system for supplying artificial limbs and wheelchairs to be announced in weeks. Control to be transferred to special management boards.

PEOPLE

- Carol Thatcher gets new job with German magazine "Ja".
- Russell Harty alleged to be in a "rent boy" scandal by Sunday press.
- Today says Chancellor was furious when you ordered an investigation into his tax affairs after complaints by former official.
- Sir John Sainsbury expected to be new chairman of Royal Opera House, and Jeremy Isaacs new director general. You are said to be interested in suggestion that Royal Opera House receives grants on 3-year basis - Times.

LEBANON

- Moslem leaders agree Syrian plan to end 11 years of civil war.

FRANCE

- 5 killed, 101 injured in ski-lift tragedy in Pyrenees.

FALKLANDS

- Chinooks to fly on after crash killing 7.

HOLLAND

- Football match abandoned because of fighting on terraces - a week after launching of a campaign to stop hooliganism.

NICARAGUA

- Independent: Foreign Office denies reports from US that Britain was supplying "Blowpipe" missiles to Contras.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Lord Young visits North London

DEM: Mr Clarke speaks at Industrial Council for Wales lunch, London

DES: Mr Baker meets Councillor Pearman and Burnham Management Panel, London

DTp: Mr Moore launches Eurotunnel publicity train (venue to be confirmed)

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses British Mexican Society dinner, London

MOD: Mr Younger visits Cambridge University

SO: Mr Rifkind performs groundbreaking ceremony at WANG computers, Stirling

CO: Mr Luce speaks at Business Sponsorship Incentive Scheme reception, London

DEM: Mr Trippier visits Hull and York

DEN: Mr Hunt visits Luton Airport energy efficiency presentation

DES: Mr Walden attends Building Employers Federation degree ceremony, London

DTI: Mr Butcher opens Design Exhibition, Winchester

DTI: Mr Shaw visits Brooke Yachts, Lowestoft

DTp: Mr Mitchell visits bus companies, Isle of Wight

FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses London North West Businessmen's lunch

HO: Mr Hogg visits Norfolk Constabulary

MAFF: Mr Thompson visits cattle market, Rugby

MOD: Lord Trefgarne addresses Cambridge Union Debate

SO: Mr Lang visits Exxon Chemical Ltd, Mossmorran
