

1 April 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh opens the Clore Gallery for the Turner Collection at the Tate Gallery

Princess of Wales visits sheltered housing scheme for the deaf and Leisure Centre in Preston

Social Security Advisory Committee annual report published

Duchess of York attends the Gala Concert Premier of The Hunting of the Snark, Royal Albert Hall

Prime Minister returns from Russia

Immigration Appeals Authorities transferred from Home Office to Lord Chancellor's Department

Commons vote on capital punishment

First anniversary of Abolition of GLC/Metropolitan Counties

Settlement date for Civil Service pay

New Health Education Authority comes into being

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STATISTICS

DEN: Advance Energy Statistics (Feb)

CSO: UK in Figures

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PUBLICATIONS

DES: Higher Education White Paper

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PAY

British Steel Corporation; all grades; 52,200; 1 April

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Environment; Scotland; Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Business: 10 Minute Rule Bill: Housebuyers' Protection Bill  
Criminal Justice Bill: Conclusion of Remaining Stages  
There will be a free vote on matters relating to Capital Punishment

Adjournment Debate: The Northumbria ambulance service (Mr T Garrett)

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Select Committees: WELSH AFFAIRS

Subject: The condition and repair of privately-owned housing

Witnesses: Ferndale Home Improvement Centre; Newport Borough Council

TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Subject: Motor Components Industry

Witnesses: BBA Group plc; Pilkington Glass

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Subject: Trustee Savings Banks: Rights of Ownership

Witness: Sir Peter Middleton, KCB, HM Treasury

TRANSPORT

Subject: Decline in the UK-registered Merchant Fleet

Witnesses: Mr G Nonwick (at 4.15 pm); Mr Michael Grey (at approx 5.00 pm)

JOINT COMMITTEE CONSOLIDATION AND C. BILLS

Subject: Housing (Scotland) Bill [Lords]

Witnesses: Mr W C Galbraith, QC, draftsman, Scottish Law Commission, Mr J A Stewart, formally Divisional Solicitor, Scottish Office, Mr J S B Martin, Assistant Secretary, Scottish Development Department

COMMITTEES ON PRIVATE BILLS

Bexley London Borough Council

UNOPPOSED BILL COMMITTEE

1. John Earnest and Florence Iveen Rolfe (Marriage Enabling Bill [Lords])

2. Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys Bill

3. Whitchurch Bridge Bill

Lords: Debate to call attention to the state of the National Health Service  
Cardiff Bay Development Corporation (Area and Constitution)  
Order 1987. Motion for Approval  
UQ on the necessity for major road works between Hastings and Hythe.

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTYOUR VISIT

- It is P1 lead in The Times, Telegraph, Independent, Guardian and Daily News.
- Times: "Thatcher hope of arms deal by end of year" and "Praise for Gorbachev in Soviet TV broadcast". Extracts from your Press Conference and Soviet TV interview. Picture on P1 of you meeting Dr and Mrs Sakharov. Separate story covers the signing of agreements between the two countries. Further picture and stories inside "Sakharov backs Gorbachev's leadership" and Soviet reform highlighted as you lunch with dissident. Under heading "A marriage of minds emerges from Kremlin tete-a-tete", despite strong differences in important topics there were clear indications that you and Mr Gorbachev have built up strong personal rapport. One Muscovite quoted as saying "They look more like newly married couple celebrating their wedding rather than two leaders who are supposed to have disagreed on almost everything". British correspondents have been inundated with favourable reactions to you - leader says that now, as perhaps never before, Britain and Soviet Union have an accurate picture of Anglo-Soviet relations.
- Kinnock continues to attack your visit in what is described as "bitter political war of words".
- Times: Reports from Washington and Jerusalem say Soviets have told Western Jewish leaders that Moscow will let thousands of Jews emigrate to Israel this year. Religious and cultural freedom to be substantially increased for those who stay in Russia.
- Telegraph P1 lead: "Kremlin talks pave way for Cruise deal - we want peace, Thatcher says on Russian TV". Despite sharp public disagreements with Mr Gorbachev, you indicated that talks had helped pave way for deal on intermediate nuclear forces in Europe. Separate stories about agreements signed and picture of you and the Sakharovs.
- Another article says that affluent Georgia will come as a culture shock after four days in Russia.
- On the Foreign News page it says that the Soviet Union's dogged little band of dissidents has been boosted by your outspoken support but your visit has also highlighted differences within their ranks. They are split over support for Mr Gorbachev.
- Mail P2: "Maggie shakes Russia on space missiles". You caused sensation in Moscow by revealing that Soviet Union already has own Star Wars system operating in space. Russians not previously told about this.
- FT: P1 "Thatcher hopes for early deal on missiles curb". Covers your Press Conference and Soviet TV interview. Separate stories about Britain joining Soviet space project and British-Soviet trade.
- Star P1; "Hopes rise for a Cruise deal". You made friends - and history with Mr Gorbachev. You announced that Cruise missiles could be out of Britain by Christmas. You get on famously with Kremlin leader despite tough talking.
- Stories inside about how you "wowed more than 280 million viewers with a no-nonsense performance" and trade and space deals.
- Sun P2 "Maggie tells Reds their own secrets". Soviet TV chat pulls no punches. Picture of you with Sakharovs - leader says "at home and

YOUR VISIT (Cont'd)

abroad Margaret Thatcher is a lion." It then goes on about trading with Japan saying "Last week you demanded firm measures, but now some Cabinet Ministers have taken fright. Feature article by Trevor Kavanagh comparing how you match up with Mr Gorbachev - 71 points to you and 70 to Mr Gorbachev.

- Today: P1 "Maggie's Soviet TV plea for peace". You were given unprecedented freedom of the Russian airwaves. Feature on P5 by Chris Buckland with colour picture of you and Mr Gorbachev "making eyes". Buckland says "When the history books come to be written, the remarkable chemistry between Mikhail Gorbachev and Margaret Thatcher will surely deserve a chapter all of its own" - leader says that there may be no big deals to trumpet. You will not return to London bringing peace in our time. But nobody can doubt your trip to Moscow has been a political triumph. The only question is - how real a triumph is it? Leader goes on to say "Kinnock must be crying his eyes out" while separate story reports how he tried to pull the rug from under your red-carpet mission to Moscow by claiming the visit was "a flop".
- Express P1: "Maggie tells Reds their own secrets". Whole of P5 devoted to visit with picture of you meeting Sakharovs and stories about more refusniks to be allowed to quit Russia and agreements reached. Paul Potts writes that despite the fighting you and Mr Gorbachev were friends in the morning. On the Jean Rook page under heading "Muscovite Maggie deserves an Oscar". She writes "When they handed out the Oscars, they missed one. Margaret Hilda Thatcher for To Russia With Love. What a commanding performance. What a world stage presence. And what did she do in that four-hour flight to transform herself from the sometimes dumpish Downing Street Dame into Magnificent Maggovitch?" - leader says you were right to attempt to link progress in arms control with Soviet progress on human rights.
- In a 1 April send-up, Daily Mirror in top right hand corner of front page has heart-shaped picture showing you and Mr Gorbachev kissing marked "Exclusive - Maggie Disarms Gorbachev". Centre page has pictures of you tickling Mr Gorbachev's chin; kissing him on park bench and with heading "How disarming! World leaders make a date with Destiny". These world exclusive pictures are politically explosive - and they will never be shown in the Soviet Union. In early page they say "Nuke deal in a Year says Thatcher" with Joe Haines writing "optimism but not much progress in Moscow talks".
- Guardian P1: "Russia reforms no threat to West". Picture of you with the Sakharovs with heading "Sakharovs impressed by Thatcher. Story on back page says the unsuspecting Soviet TV viewer treated to a sight which must have matched the shock of the first Sputnik launch - you talking about nuclear war, European history and the practices of the House of Commons. Other story "Anglo-Soviet deals save Thatcher visit". Martin Walker-in a feature article writes "What made this week's Moscow meeting a success was the fact that Mrs Thatcher and Mr Gorbachev are prescient enough to realise that and to know that their talks represented the best possible chance of understanding what was happening in the other camp". There is a separate feature article by James Naughtie headed "It's the Mikhail and Maggie Show" - leader says there are nine hours of talks in the bank and you have acquitted the country pretty well in Moscow. Time was better spent with Mr Gorbachev than it would ever be with Mr Reagan as he does not understand any of the subtleties either of Soviet power or the nuclear arms debate seen from the Russian side.

YOUR VISIT (Cont'd)

- Independent P1 lead: "Thatcher hopes for a missile accord this year". Premier ends Kremlin visit with "remarkable insight" of Gorbachev. Another story about Russians agreeing to let more Jews out. Stories inside "Sakharov meeting symbolises new Russia". "Soviets soften up again on missiles", and "Hot-line link to Kremlin upgraded in agreement". They also look at your wardrobe which has "excited attention normally reserved for royalty".
- Colin Brown assesses the repercussions of your visit under heading "Policy comes second to impressing the voters".
- Daily News P1 lead: "Thatcher's Moscow Chat Show". On a day when a Russian foreign affairs spokesman described you as "the lady with blue eyes" you established another first when your hard-hitting speech was published in full in Pravda.

TERRY PERKS

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Clarke attends launch of inner cities initiative with Evangelical Alliance, London; later lunches with Michael Checkland, Director-General of the BBC
- DHSS: Mr Fowler opens exhibition of Aids Appliances and Services for the Disabled, Birmingham
- DTI: Mr Channon addresses British Insurance Brokers, Glasgow; later visits NEDC, Millbank
- HO: Mr Hurd receives a courtesy call from Mr Michaelides, Cypriot Minister of the Interior, London
- DEM: Mr Trippier speaks at CBI Conference on NCVQ; later speaks at British Management Appreciation Course, London
- DHSS: Mrs Currie visits Wigan Health Authority to open Royal Albert Infirmary Phase One
- DOE: Mr Tracey attends Royal Town Planning Institute informal reception
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses the National Environment Research Council, Royal Hotel, London
- DOE: Lord Skelmersdale opens Ridgeons Builders Warehouse Superstore, Essex, later visits Essex listed buildings
- DTI: Mr Butcher launches Interactive Video in Schools project, London
- DTI: Mr Shaw addresses Motor Industry Public Affairs Association dinner, House of Commons
- DTp: Mr Mitchell gives opening address to National Federation of Taxi Cab Associations annual conference, Leeds University
- FCO: Lady Young addresses Royal Institute for Public Affairs, London
- HMT: Mr Stewart addresses the Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- MAFF: Mr Gummer visits Trout Farm, Salisbury, followed by a Water Cress Farm at Bishops Sutton; later addresses Grasshoppers Agricultural Forum, Amesbury, Wiltshire
- MAFF: Mr Thompson lunches with British Veterinary Association, London
- MOD: Mr Freeman attends conferment of the Freedom of the Borough of Hendon upon RAF Hendon
- OAL: Mr Luce speaks at opening of Library and Information Seminar, London

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DES: Mr Walden visits France re student support reviews (to 2 April)
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TV AND RADIO

Trade and Industry Secretary, Mr Channon, interviewed by NHK TV

"The Falklands War - The Untold Story;" ITV; 20.00: Tracks down and talks to men who took part from both sides

"Their Lordships House;" Channel 4; 12.25am

"The Thatcher Effect;" BBC Radio 4; 20.15

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