

PRIME MINISTER

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MAIN EVENTS

Secretary Shultz visits Moscow (to 16 April)

Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association Annual Conference (to 15 April)

STATISTICS

DTI: Producer price index numbers (Mar-prov)

PUBLICATIONS

Civil Service Commission: Annual Report

HO: The Prison Population in 1986

HO: The use of remand in custody by the courts

PRESS DIGEST

MAIN NEWS

- Shultz goes to Moscow believing an historic arms control treaty is attainable (Telegraph)
- Express says unemployment will this week fall to "within sight of 3m" - a drop of 50,000 on Wednesday
- Owen's political remarks over the weekend interpreted as his preferring a deal with the Conservatives - but he would require dropping Trident and updating of Polaris, more spending to cut unemployment, and a referendum on PE. Liberals not thought likely to be happy. Express says a row is looming in the Alliance. Mail says coalition terms upset Labour.
- Black activists backing away from confrontation with Labour Party - decid not to move against possible de-selection of Sharon Atkin, Nottingham East.

• MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- Fight to save life of Hamilton, Scotland, girl, 4, after rape near her home.
- Top businessmen in London uniting to fight violent crime, particularly against the elderly, after talks with DPP, Home Office and Scotland Yard (Mail).
- 2 RUC reservists shot down from behind by IRA in Portrush.
- Irish diplomat accused of issuing forged passports to Middle East nationals from London Embassy; has Iranian wife.
- Two 'hooray Henries' questioned about throwing plates at Hattersley in Birmingham hotel (Mirror).
- Thames TV reject allegations that Jeffrey Archer cheated on "What's My Line?"; quiz was not rigged.
- Lord Denning advocates 9-3 majority verdicts to try to beat 'nobbling' - and wants names and addresses of jurors to be denied defence lawyers.
- Master of the Polls comes out in favour of prosecution having right to appeal against sentences.
- Geoffrey Dickens threatens to name vicars accused of sexual offences against children - 10 being investigated by Childwatch.
- Thousands of unemployed in Scotland won't receive dole money this week because of Civil Service strike.
- Today poll claims 70% would willingly pay more tax if it ensured better rewards for nurses.
- Quantities of crack, the cocaine-based powder, seized in Britain for first time by drug squads.
- 12 bodies said to be trapped below decks in Zeebrugge ferry - death toll now estimated at 174.
- Family Policy Studies Centre claims that more than 1m families in "Thatcher's Britain" live like paupers (Mirror).
- New Bishop of Birmingham says Church of England should be able to make its own appointments; Mail leader says Government won't allow that so long as Bishops sit in Lords.
- Survey suggests £600m a year is being lost through car tax evasion.
- Labour claims new community charge will hit poor hardest.
- Paisley and Molyneux face calls for resignation after failure of Day of Defiance against Anglo-Irish Agreement.
- John Harvey-Jones says he may be forced to find foreign base because of growing shortage of top quality scientists in Britain.
- B/Airways has taken on its first 3 women pilots.
- Telegraph reports a Rover export boom.
- Caterpillar accepts ACAS's help in trying to find solution to Glasgow sit-in.

MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- Al Fayed borthers take legal advice over DTI inquiry into House of Fraser.
- AEU planning to cut out 60 of its 187 full-time officers.
- Mail begins to serialise Ian Curteis' TV play "The Falklands Play".
- Gary Hart to seek Democratic Presidential nomination from today.

- Criticism of the latest clampdown on freedom of expression in South Africa.
- Botha rejects idea of eventual black majority rule.

- Canadian allegation that CIA tried to hire the SAS to train Contras.
- Speculation that Rudolph Hess will be freed.
- FT: Texaco, third biggest US oil company, files for protection in bankruptcy as a result of \$9.1bn damages being awarded against it to Pennzoil.

POLITICS

- David Blunkett alleged to have said millions of Labour supporters will switch to Alliance's "democratic Socialism".
- Star: Owen set to side with Maggie.
- Mirror: Owen's true blue colours.
- Sun: Owen puts a deal to Boadecea Maggie".
- Today: Owen in bid to woo the Tories.
- Daily News leads with Owen's terms for a Tory deal.
- Express: Row looming over Owen's terms for pact with Tories.
- Telegraph: True blue Owen's coalition terms anger Labour.
- Mail: Owen's coalition terms upset Labour.
- Independent: Owen admits "great difficulty" over PR.
- Guardian P1 leader: Dr Owen woos Tory waverers.

LABOUR

- Sun says Left wing councils, running up debts of £5bn, are a terrible warning of what Labour would do in national Government.
- Paul Johnson, in Mail, sees Black sections as evidence of the tragedy of the failure of black leadership in Britain compared with Asian community. And the Labour Party's black community have been grievously damaged by their close association with each other. Each has pushed the other further into extremism.
- Independent: Tony Benn says it is foolish to oppose black sections in Labour Party.
- Independent: Labour report says poll tax would widen gap between North and South.

ALLIANCE

- Mail says Owen's prospectus is plausible but false. You can't vote for a hung Parliament because you don't know how it will hang. A vote for the Alliance is a step into the unknown.
- Times: Bryan Gould accuses David Owen of being "hell-bent on keeping Labour out of office" in event of hung Parliament.
- Independent: Steel and Owen plan a campaign targetted at TV.

CONSERVATIVES

- Sun says Messrs Best and Cockeram should refuse £9,000 redundancy pay at end of this Parliament.
- Express says you are determined to tame hard-Left councils in your next term and to curb spending. Telegraph says the Government has warned banks who have lent Left wing councils billions that they may not get their money back because Nicholas Ridley says Government won't bail them out.
- FT: Conservative candidates have been summoned to special meeting to be addressed by you on 25 April.
- Independent: Peter Kellner on the Victorian values which point away from Toryism.

EAST/WEST

- Express says Gorbachev will have a much easier time this week with Shultz than he had with you. But Shultz must not forget your lesson about Soviet conventional superiority and he must make NATO unity first priority.
- Independent: Shultz told to toe tough arms line in Moscow; Pentagon hawks win battle over US position on strategic nuclear weapons. Editorial on why Shultz should resist the denuclearisation of Europe. USSR to put arms control before spying in talks with Shultz.
- Independent: Kremlin and Congress set for TV debate.

EAST/WEST (Cont'd)

- Long Guardian leader says if Gorbachev goes too far in his chosen direction without Western reciprocity he will be in serious domestic trouble.

ECONOMY

- Times: Williams de Broe predict 7.5% inflation and a current account deficit running at annual rate of £5.8bn in final half of next year.
- Times: Dollar faces crucial test this week.

LAW AND ORDER

- Independent feature on the Equal Opportunities Commission. Report finds that after nearly 11 years the impact of legal action has been limited. Women's pay is less of a proportion of men's now than in 1976.

EDUCATION

- Michael Duffy, president of Secondary Heads Association, claims Government is "consistently and systematically" undermining school system.
- Independent: Pupils may gain GCSE grades at 12 in new scheme.
- Independent: Parent/Teachers Association hit at Baker 'rubbish'.
- Independent: James Watson (of DNA fame) says university climate in Britain is funereal.
- Telegraph leader says we need for next Government a new Education Bill which sets out in full the future powers of and relationships between the Government, LEAs, school governor and head teachers.

HEALTH

- Times: £400m bill as heart disease kills four people an hour.
- Independent: Patients die as organs unused for transplants.

SPAIN

- Sun regards as "impudence" Spanish accusation that two British airline staff who helped to unload luggage during loaders' strike were guilty of strike breaking. Spaniards make a fortune out of British holiday-makers and if they are so incompetent they can't run their airports, they should pay British to do so.
- Times: Mr Shultz takes letter from President Reagan to Mr Gorbachev urging progress towards arms agreement. White House worried that time is rapidly running out.

PEOPLE

- Sun wants Lord King put in charge of Chunnel.
- Mirror says a youth lied about an alleged gay affair with Elton John to get money.
- Keith Best to give to charity amount equivalent to profits on privatisation shares (Telegraph).

EC

- FT: EC preparing to impose tough approach to EEC steel producers that get into financial difficulties.

JAPAN

- Times: Japanese to retaliate over US tariffs. Michael Howard confident Japan will agree in May or June to British companies having greater access to Tokyo stock exchange.
- FT: EC drawing up measures to prevent Japanese goods being dumped in EC as result of US tariffs - leader looks at "perils of Japan-bashing"
- FT says Japan is to appeal to GATT against the US decision to impose tariffs on Japanese industrial products at the end of this week.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Independent: Tutu to defy Pretoria on detainees.
- Independent: Botha dismisses Worrall rebellion.

ZIMBABWE

- Times: Zimbabwe buys Soviet MiGs.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Clarke visits Handsworth, West Midlands

DES: Mr Baker hosts Young Scientists dinner, Carlton Club; Mr Walden also attends

DOE: Mr Ridley visits North West Water, Runcorn

HMT: Mr MacGregor addresses the 1900 Club Budget dinner, London

DEM: Mr Trippier opens Phoenix Foods, Nottingham

DES: Mr Walden visits International Conference, Spink Association of Classics Teachers, Kings College, London

DHSS: Baroness Trumpington opens Killgerm Chemical Ltd Hospital Pest Control Symposium, London

DOE: Lord Skelmesdale meets Belgian Land Use Minister, Mr Albert Lienow, London

DTI: Mr Channon meets Mr George Deukmejian, Governor of California, London

HMT: Mr Lamont addresses the Industrial Participation Association, London

SO: Lord Glenarthur opens Castle Rock Housing Association (Disabled Housing) North Berwick; later opens British Rails' new Scottish Depot, Millerhead

WO: Mr Roberts launches Apple Communications System, Bangor

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Mr Clark attends Foreign Affairs Council, Luxembourg

TV AND RADIO

DTI Minister Mr Howard appears on "What It's Worth," Channel 4, a programme on Pyramid selling

"Horizon"; BBC 2 (20.05): After Chernobyl - closer to home. Focuses on one of Britain's latest nuclear power stations at Hartlepool, which is said to be hemmed in by a huge petro-chemical complex surrounded by a residential area of nearly one million people, yet has the smallest evacuation zone in the Western world. The programme asks how safe we are closer to home

"World in Action"; ITV (20.30): The 'Brain Drain'. This week's programme looks at the loss to Britain of top research scientists going to more lucrative and secure posts abroad, DES Minister Mr Walden appears

TV AND RADIO (cont'd)

"Panorama"; BBC 1 (21.30): Front Line Blues - Policing the cities. The programme looks at the "crisis" facing Britain's inner city police forces whose top priority is now said to be the prevention of public disorder rather than fighting crime. Senior officers are said to be warning of a future where the role of the policemen serving the community may disappear altogether. Gavin Hewitt reports from one police station in Wolverhampton

"Open Space"; BBC 2 (22.20): Strip Searching - Security in the Raw. Complainants about the use and abuse of strip searching confront the security arguments of police and prison authorities. The film includes a prison officer training demonstration of a strip search and a very different reconstruction by ex-prisoners themselves

"Eleventh Hour"; Channel 4 (22.55): Homeless - The Housing Trap. The last film in the series on homelessness in Britain looks at families trapped in overcrowded bed-sitter accommodation struggling to find a home in which to bring up their children

"Two Nations"; BBC 1 (23.30): Professor John Goddard introduces the programme which says that the only real solution to the problem of Tyneside's decline is to develop a new industrial base with the kind of dynamism which first made Tyneside a world leader

"Promises and Piecrust"; ITV (23.30): Future Imperfect - Stuart Maclure asks what the British education system will look like in 20 years' time. He looks at Conservative moves to take education out of the hands of the local authorities and put it in the market place. The radical socialist alternative is put by Hilary Benn. Also comments from Neil Kinnock, David Steel, Kenneth Baker and Shirley Williams
