

11 May 1987

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Duchess of York presents a mini-coach to the Cedars School, Romsey, Hants

Transport Salaried Staffs' Association Annual Delegate Conference, Torquay (to 15 May)

Society of Civil and Public Servants Annual Conference, Bournemouth (to 15 May)

Association of Polytechnic Teachers Annual Conference, London (to 12 May)

Civil and Public Services Association Annual Delegate Conference, Blackpool (to 15 May)

General Federation of Trade Unions General Council Meeting, Scarborough (to 12 May)

Institution of Professional Civil Servants Annual Delegate Conference, Harrogate (to 14 May)

Antartic Minerals negotiations open, Montevideo (to 20 May)

EC: ECOFIN, Brussels

EC: European Parliament, Strasbourg (to 15 May)

STATISTICS

DTI: Credit business (Mar)

DTI: Retail sales (Mar - final)

HO: Prevention of Terrorism (1st Qtr 1986) (Prov)

PUBLICATIONS

DHSS: Handbook of Research and Development 1986

PAY

Local Authorities Manual Workers; 999,600: 1 September

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Energy; Transport; Wales

Debate on Nuclear Power and the Government's decision on the CEGB's Application for the Sizewell 'B' Power Station on a Government Motion

Motion on the Industrial Relations (Northern Ireland) Order

Motion on the Representation of the People (Variation of Limits of Candidates' Election Expenses) Order

PARLIAMENT (Cont'd)

Business: Private Members' Motions
 Mr H Cohen - Quality of Life of Citizens of the United Kingdom
 Mr J Watts - Protection of the Unborn Child
 Mr J Fraser - Quality of Life of Citizens of the United Kingdom

Adjournment Debate: The Status of Forces Agreement 1951: the case of Mrs A Dawson (Mr R Hayward)

Select Committees:

ENVIRONMENT
 Subject: Pollution of Rivers and Estuaries
 Witnesses: Royal Society for the Protection of Birds; the Lord Belstead, Minister of State for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

FOREIGN AFFAIRS
 Subject: South Africa
 Witness: Chief Mangope, President of Bophuthatswana

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
 Subjects: Court and Prison Building Programmes; Employment of Works Consultants by Government Department and Health Authorities
 Witnesses: Sir Gordon Manzie, KCB, Property Services Agency, Sir Brian Cubbon, GCB, Home Office, and Sir Derek Oulton, KCB, Lord Chancellor's Department

Lords: Irish Sailors and Soldiers Land Trust Bill (HL): Third Reading
 Register of Sasines (Scotland) Bill: Third Reading
 Abolition of Domestic Rates Etc (Scotland) Bill: Third Reading
 Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Bill (HL): Consideration of Commons Amendments
 Financial Services Act 1986 (Delegation Order 1987): Motion for Approval
 Financial Services (Transfer of Functions Relating to Friendly Societies) Order 1987: Motion for Approval
 Financial Services (Transfer of Functions Relating to Friendly Societies) Order (Northern Ireland) 1987: Motion for Approval
 Police (Northern Ireland) Order 1986: Motion for Approval
 UQ to ask HMG whether they have any proposals to reform the law relating to horseracing on Sundays

MINISTERS - See Annex

PRESS DIGESTMAIN NEWS

- All set for June 11 to be announced today with Harris poll giving you an 11 point lead - 44/33/21.
- Election to be fought under IRA threat and with tight security surrounding leaders. Mail says every police force is on the alert for an IRA outrage. IRA assuages losses with threat to kill Thatcher.
- Sun says Healey will step down from front line politics if Labour loses - and so will Hattersley and Shore - all close to despair over Left.
- Conservative reforms of ILEA and rent controls canvassed.
- Speculation about a further cut in interest rates.
- Threat of an all out Civil Service pay strike during election - Labour Party may be forced to intervene. CPSSA general secretary says executive's recommendation is "barmy".
- All out London bus strike today - first for 29 years.
- Police arrest 46 after clash with knives by rival groups of Sikhs outside South London temple; 4 seriously injured.
- Denis Healey has a tiff with British Embassy on arrival in Moscow alleging they said Gorbachev was responsible for calling off his visit in March. Guardian says your triumph dogs visit of Healey who has no guarantee he will see Gorbachev; he comes as a man from another age.
- More than £6bn was chasing Rolls-Royce shares.
- UDM expected to signal acceptance of two-stage pay deal today.
- Home Secretary rejects academic criticism of Neighbourhood Watch schemes based on limited Cambridge study; police also speak up for Neighbourhood Watch.
- Australian academic says CAP has cost Britain 45,000 jobs; and Prof Denis Noble, Oxford medic, suggests Britain will be a land of industrial peasantry by 2000 AD and Japan completely dominant in computer-aided manufacturing (both in Telegraph).

MAIN NEWS (Cont'd)

- Sun says Norman Tebbit says he won't be Prime Minister and doesn't mind a bit; wants you to continue until the turn of the century - interview in Options magazine.

- Esther Rantzen, in Express, thanks you for showing "such concern" about Child Line.

- Sun leads with Kinnock helping a motorist who crashed outside his house; Mirror: Neil the hero in smash drama.

- Star says a crazed gunman twice tried to assassinate the Queen during her tour of New Zealand in 1981.

- Sun wants to know why we are giving a State visit to King Hassan of Morocco - a seedy and backward country "as important in the world as a freckle on an elephant's backside".

- Austrian Chancellor says "somebody in Britain is being asked to head an inquiry into Waldheim's wartime record" and Gordon Brooke-Shepherd, journalist, says it might be him.

- Bishop denounces American foreign policy in Central America - and Casey's role and beliefs - at funeral of Casey, ex-CIA head.

ELECTION

- Star says you are sending Cecil Parkinson into the front line.
- Sun says there is a case for getting it over with as quickly as possible - ie June 4 - but you should stick to June 11. Kinnock in waiting to turn the election into a moral crusade is terrified of being made to speak about policies which will scare the voters.
- Today leads with your refusing a challenge by Labour and Alliance Leaders to have TV debate.
- Daily News says Kinnock is gearing up for an attack on "Tory society of greed".
- Express leader says a report by Policy Research Associates on ballot rigging in unions should be sufficient to convince Tory doubters that you are right to go for more legislation. Your work is not yet complete.
- Telegraph says Labour's leadership will meet tomorrow to rubber stamp a manifesto shorn of the party's traditional electoral commitments. Leader says that to mitigate stifling economic and bureaucratic effect of the welfare state, with its disincentive feature and regimented inefficiency, a drastic change of attitude will have to be made from the broadly Socialist approach which still exists after 8 years of supposedly radical Right Government.
- Guardian says for you to duck out now would suggest that you had cold feet, would irritate the voters and panic the City.
- Times headline says "Thatcher will make election decision today". Palace visit expected after Cabinet meeting. Geoffrey Smith says you needed a good deal of pressure from colleagues in 1983 before calling election. There should not have been agonising yesterday; Robin Oakley and Philip Webster in Times feature discuss what your closest advisers told you yesterday. Most arrived with assumption that it was June 11 and that was it.
- FT: Professor Pulzer, of Oxford, argues that last Thursday's election results do not predict the outcome of a general election, but they give us the starting odds.
- FT: Tories poised to call June poll on ticket of continued radicalism Mr Ridley admitted in BEC interview that June had become a "probability" Mr Ridley said the manifesto contained extremely radical and exciting policies on urban policy and inner city decay.
- Ian Aitken, in Guardian, says for the past 8 years you have been "a social and political colossus" and you will be the issue at the election and he thinks Kinnock will eventually choose to risk attacking you.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Mail leader on many Left wing councils' forbidding black children in their care to be fostered by Whites. Another illustration, it says, of the mischievous role of professional so-called anti-racists who only make things worse.

POLITICS

- Times: Government's planned legislation will require union leaders who hold positions for life to stand for periodic re-election.
- Times: Government to crack down on councils who fail to collect rents. £211m arrears in 1986 - worst nine offenders all London boroughs.
- Independent: Tories stress inner cities on verge of poll. Anthony Bevin profiles you. He says your thirst for change is undiminished with an ambition to sweep away the old order. Noone crosses you and get away with it; you want to see an alternative and acceptable Alliance.
- Independent: You promise MPs more radical reforms. Labour seeks bold new approach.
- Independent: Peter Kellner on opinion polls and how a false political picture can be drawn.

IRA

- Star says only the weak willed and the warped will shed a tear for the 8 IRA men killed by Security Forces. Ambush all the better for being ruthless.
- Sun: Deaths of IRA men best news out of Ireland for years. Only cowardly parasites of terror like Adams will be weeping.
- Mirror: IRA's worst single defeat - a notable victory for security forces who deserve the highest praise. It is disgraceful Sinn Fein are trying to hide defeat by accusing Army of murder.

IRA (Cont'd)

- Guardian: PIRA were caught red-handed and armed. Loughgall was a significant tactical success for the security forces but the strategic victory still lies in politicians' hands.
- Independent: Security forces braced for IRA reprisals after battle; editorial says that the Provisionals must be desperately anxious to regain the propaganda initiative.
- Funeral of the 8 gunmen shot dead on Friday night takes place in Northern Ireland today, posing an awkward test for the security forces as they cope with the aftermath of the Irish Republican Army's biggest setback for years (FT).

ECONOMICS

- Leading industrial countries have been warned that unless they change their economic policies there is little prospect of a significant reduction in international trade imbalances, and a risk that a sliding dollar will tip the world economy into recession (FT).
- Times: Institute of Economic Affairs says that control and housing market restrictions cost £2.5bn a year by increasing unemployment and preventing workers from taking up jobs in areas with vacancies.

INDUSTRY

- Independent: Tiny Rowland offers Saunders bail.
- FT: Civil engineering contractors have "a general sense of optimism" about prospects for the industry, according to Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors' quarterly survey.
- FT: Businessman, Owen Oyston, largest of News on Sunday's individual shareholders, may take over control of the paper which has run into severe financial problems.
- FT: Drugs industry intends to spend more than £500m this year on R&D - 10% of national total for industrial research - according to British Pharmaceutical Association.
- Independent feature on CERN. UK scientists are not reaping the applied-technology benefits of international physics research.
- Times: Air travel between Dublin and London up by 30% after experimental relaxation of controls over route.
- Times: Paul Channon plans to amend Financial Services Act to link Takeover Panel to official network for swapping share information central to the detection of City fraud.

HEALTH

- Independent: The Government's Chief Adjudication Officer fiercely criticised the handling of supplementary benefit payments.
- Times: AIDS epidemic may have been triggered by mass vaccination campaign which eradicated smallpox.
- Times: Health services in London have lost £210m since 1982 and will face even greater cut-backs if Conservatives are returned, says Michael Meacher.

EDUCATION

- Independent: Newly elected leader of ILEA severely embarrassed by publication of a letter by him suggesting ILEA is in political and financial turmoil.

LAW AND ORDER

- Times: New board game "No Go Tell" that teaches children how to deal with sex attackers and sex abuse in the home, worries Manchester Conservative councillors.
- Times: Twenty four Iraqi Kurds held at Heathrow after claiming political asylum on arrival.
- Times: Sir Gordon Bowie says solicitors should be granted advocacy rights in crown courts.

FISHING

- FT: Government plans to tighten law on registration of British fishing boats to stamp out "quota hopping".

EC

- FT: EC spending limit talks doomed. Finance ministers seem unlikely to resolve disagreements on agriculture, social and regional policies in time for 1988 budget.

SOUTHERN AFRICA

- Independent: Anti Apartheid Movement ends Barclays boycott; gunmen kill white Zimbabwe farmers.

MIDDLE EAST

- Jordan is confident on peace talks; editorial says now is more than ever a time for caution in the Arab/Israel dispute.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DES: Mr Baker opens seminar on Design Education and Industry, Royal College of Arts; Mr Walden also attends; later meets the National Union of Teachers re CTC's, London
- DHSS: Mr Fowler attends Royal College of Nursing International Nurses Day Reception, London; later receives petition from Southend Health Authority, London
- DTI: Mr Channon addresses British Venture Capital, London
- DTp: Mr Moore receives courtesy call from Senor Diaz Diaz, Mexican Minister of Communication and Transport, London
- MAFF: Mr Jopling addresses National Press launch of Farming and Countryside Event 1987, London with Lord Belstead; later addresses Wilton Park Conference, Steyning
- SO: Mr Rifkind addresses Glasgow Chamber of Commerce, Glasgow
- DEM: Mr Trippier opens Park Hall Leisure Tourism Development, Chorley; later makes presentation on Career Development Loans, London
- DEN: Mr Buchanan-Smith attends the Glasgow Breakfast Special
- DES: Mrs Rumbold addresses National Consumer Council, London on School Government; later attends presentation at the Croydon Young Enterprise Scheme
- DES: Mr Walden visits the London Institute
- DHSS: Baroness Trumpington launches Speak Week, British Telecom Tower, London
- DOE: Mr Tracey visits Lambeth; later addresses Foreign Press Association, London
- DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses Kent Council for the Protection of Rural England Conference, Canterbury
- DOE: Lord Skelmersdale speaks at CBI conference on cleaning the air, London
- DTI: Mr Pattie opens Manufacturing Extension, Hellermann Deutsch, Hastings
- DTI: Mr Clark lunches with GDR Ambassador; later attends UK/Yugoslavia Reception headed by Mr Renton, London
- DTI: Mr Howard visits Kent
- DTI: Lord Lucas welcomes Jai Shi, Chairman of CCPIT, London
- DTI: Mr Butcher attends Design Education and Industry Seminar, London
- DTp: Mr Mitchell visits Wales (to 12 May)
- MAFF: Mr Gummer attends lunch for Dairy Trade Representative, New Zealand High Commission; later addresses Sutton Bonnington School of Agriculture
- MAFF: Lord Belstead attends dinner with Soviet Representatives, Lancaster House, London

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC) (Cont'd)

- SO: Mr Ancram opens Loch Lomond Cycle Track
- SO: Mr Lang opens Electronics Manpower Seminar, Howden Park Centre, Livingston
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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- HMT: Mr Lawson attends ECOFIN, Brussels
- FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for Strasbourg, European Parliament Plenary Session, (14 May) Brussels - EC Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Council Meeting (to 15 May)
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TV AND RADIO

Education Secretary Mr Baker records interview with ITV

"Generations"; Channel 4 (15.30): Sixth programme in the series has Sile De Valera, politician and granddaughter of Irish statesman Eamonn de Valera, in conversation with Michael Collins.

"The Cutting Edge"; ITV (19.00): The first of eight programmes "probing the secret world" of Oxford University's scientific community and exploring the lives of a wide variety of scientific leaders. This week focuses on Dr Peter Rolfe, a bio-engineer

"Open Space"; BBC 2 (19.30): Attempts to give the issues behind Clare Short's 'Indecent Displays Bill' a fairer heading than it was said to have got in the Commons

"Comment"; Channel 4 (19.50): A personal view on a current topic

"World in Action"; ITV (20.30)

"Panorama"; BBC 1 (20.30): This week an investigation into how Governments are coping with the implications of fear and ignorance in the wake of the spread of AIDS

"War on Drugs"; ITV (22.30): First in series of three programmes broadcast tonight, Tuesday and Wednesday looking at the drugs problem. Tonight's programme has Moderator Jane Belson asking doctors how they treat addicts who threaten, beg and steal to obtain drugs. Both doctors whose advice has shaped Government policy and doctors who would like the current policy changed will be represented on the panel

"Their Lordships' House"; Channel 4 (00.10)
