

24 January 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister lunches with London Editors

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STATISTICS

DTI: Sales and orders in the engineering industries (October)

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PUBLICATIONS

DTI: 'British Business' - features include one on Middle East and one on industrial design; commercial representation guide

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business:

PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS

Obscene Publications (Protection of Children, etc) (Amendment) Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr W Churchill)

Unborn Children (Protection) Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr K Hargreaves)

Road Traffic Regulation (Parking) Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr K McNamara)

Horticultural Produce Bill: 2nd Reading (Sir John Wells)

Industrial Training Bill: 2nd Reading (Sir William Clark)

Medical Act 1983 (Amendment) Bill: 2nd Reading (Mr N Spearing)

Adjournment Debate

The Tin industry in Cornwall (Mr D Penhaligon)

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PRESS DIGESTWESTLAND

- Leon Brittan's future in grave doubt - many Conservative Backbenchers think he should go. DTI says there is no question of his resigning.
- Claims that his departure is a condition of MPs' support for you on Monday.
- Some papers say the prospect of yourself being forced to quit was being openly discussed by Tories.
- Lord Whitelaw, in Lords, reveals his bitterness over the treatment by Heseltine of his colleagues.
- Kinnoek likens it all to Watergate and says Government is rotten "from the core".
- Attention focuses on why Mr Brittan did not tell you he had authorised the leak and why your staff didn't tell you the circumstances.
- D/Star: "Kick him out"; Sun: "Brittan must go". Mirror: "Brittan must go". Express: "Maggie on the rack - Brittan must resign says majority of MPs". Mail: "Tory MPs dramatic ultimatum to Maggie - Brittan must go". Telegraph: No 10 was involved in leak. 'Brittan must go' calls.  
Guardian: Thatcher facing deepest crisis as you admit Downing Street organised anti-Heseltine leak. Times: Outraged Tory MPs call on Brittan to quit. FT: Thatcher fails to end credibility crisis.
- Sun says that at a party last night Mr Brittan astonished people by saying you had not done enough to help him.
- Meanwhile, unnamed buyer takes £5m worth of Westland shares - Prudential sells 4.4% at premium.
- Guardian says that in his attempt to avoid resignation, Mr Brittan has a powerful weapon - the knowledge that he did not instigate the leak but consented to a strategy suggested to him after consultations between his Private Office and yours.

WESTLAND (CONT'D)Comment

- D/Star, under heading "The real issue is integrity" says the credibility of your Government is at stake. You are now in the middle of what must be the most humiliating period of your so far spectacular Premiership. Since credibility is the issue, Tory MPs were right when they said last night Mr Brittan must go.
- Sun, in leader headed "His Choice", says Mr Brittan was totally and humiliatingly rejected last night by Tory Backbenchers though it is true he has been made the victim of the disloyal and irresponsible antics of Heseltine.
- Mirror says your statement was without shame, principle or courage. President Nixon would have felt at home in Government's company.
- Express says "It's time to exorcise the demon". Your performance yesterday was excruciatingly embarrassing for your friends and gave great encouragement to your enemies. You should now turn the situation to your advantage and use it to put the whole, long drawn out affair to rest. You must use Monday's debate to exorcise the Westland demon and get on with the Governance of the country. Feature says Kinnock, Owen, Steel, Thatcher - and journalists all have their snouts in this leaky trough - we really musn't take it too seriously.
- Mail: Not your finest hour. It was a defence of the indefensible. No doubt Tarzan had gone ape, but when Mr Brittan was provoked into replying he only showed what a bungling amateur he was. You pushed your way down the narrowest causeway of truth. A tragedy that you should be brought so low by the furore over the future of a small helicopter company. You have been ill-served by Heseltine and Brittan but you should have contained this dispute and while the Mail has massive sympathy for you, you have yourself to blame.
- Telegraph says Mr Brittan's behaviour, even if motivated by an all-too understandable desperation in the face of Mr Heseltine's campaign against him, lacks sense. What was wrong was his failure to consult the Solicitor General. Far from a hanging matter, but one injudicious action leads to another. Glad, confident mornings may yet re-occur for the Government. But it will, as the saying goes, have very much to do to pull its act together.
- Guardian says had this been a putative script for "Yes Prime Minister" it would have been pigeonholed as too grotesque. Mr Brittan is at the heart of things. You put yourself there yesterday. You looked seedy.
- Hugo Young, in Guardian, says you have paid a price in your reputation for straightness and masterly command.
- Geoffrey Smith, in Times, says as always your nerve was breathtaking but you were unable to remove the impression that the inquiry had been a charade.
- Times: Leader headed "Excesses of loyalty" says you reinforced your deserved reputation for loyalty to your colleagues. It has become hard to resist the conclusion that you would be in a much better state if you had been as tough in your dealings with certain Ministers and advisers as Mr Heseltine said you were. You must ask yourself whether those who took decisions surrounding the leak are the right people in the right place, with the right powers if you are to overcome problems like this in the future.

WESTLAND (Cont'd)

Comment (Cont'd)

- FT, says "It cannot go on like this". You are in the middle of a severe political crisis on your authority and in the manner of handling business. No one comes out of the affair well. You and the Government can probably recover but there is not much time left.

ECONOMY

- Fears of interest rate rises continue with £ down to \$1.3835.
- Bank of England resists pressure so far.

INDUSTRY

- Workers at Vickers and Cammell Laird to be offered shares in management consortium which is bidding to take over firm.
- Ford unions settle for improved offer of 18% over 2 years.
- Austin-Rover to hold open days to proclaim its pride in turning the company round.
- Goldcrest film company said to be financially secure but to seek big economies.

### UNIONS

- Leicestershire miners vote today on whether to join UDM - if they vote "No" - ie to stay with Scargill - it will be a nightmare for Kinnock (Sun).
- All out pay strike in Civil Service backed by delegates of CPSA.

### MEDIA

- You back Murdoch in his stand against print unions - strike at Times, Sunday Times, Sun and News of the World felt to be inevitable.
- Murdoch will try to produce the titles at Wapping if his other plants are strike bound.

### HEALTH/WELFARE

- Family guide to dealing with your GP, published by Methven, says many doctors have a bossy, intimidating manner and are partly to blame for the waste of up to £500m worth of medicines.

LAW AND ORDER

- Punks abuse Princess Diana on a visit to Luton - shout "Your father has got VD".
- Sun prints picture of man who has returned to Britain after being deported after Libyan Embassy seige, under heading of "The Arab Rat"; MPs want man sent home (Express).
- Home Office starts a new study of the effects of TV violence on young people.

RACE

- Chief Rabbi says blacks should learn self reliance and cultivate the work ethic to solve their problems. Guardian says Chief Rabbi's report criticises the Church of England report on inner city problems as focusing too harshly on the effects of Government policy and laying insufficient stress on self help.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Peter Hordern, in Telegraph, calls for an end to the shambolic rates system.

EDUCATION

- Lady Olga Maitland, ILEA candidate, attacks striking teachers for reducing some childrens' schooling to 2 days a week.

POLITICS

- Liverpool's "Soft Left" coordinating committee says Militant Tendency has battled its way to total control of the city; Hatton has been warned by Knowsley Council about the amount of time he spends away from work.
- Times says allegations of physical attacks on Labour Party members who opposed Militants and of open intimidation and threats have been submitted to Labour's Liverpool inquiry.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- High turn out in by elections.
- Haughey in trouble as Fianna Fail splits.

INDIA

- 3 Britons among 38 who die in Indian hotel fire.

YEMEN

- Britannia turns round to rescue a single Briton in Aden. Rescue now over and she is heading for New Zealand.

USA

- 30 killed when Zulus burn down shanty town inhabited by rival Pundos.
- Reagan proposes Gorbachev should address joint session of Congress.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DES: Sir Keith Joseph attends CBI southern region lunch

DEM: Lord Young opens St James Industrial Estate, Chichester; opens Goodwood Hotel

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe visits Conservative Associations in Oxford area

DHSS: Mr Fowler attends Nottingham Businessmen's lunch; gives interview to BBC

MAFF: Lord Belstead visits Macclesfield Groundwork site

MOD: Lord Trefgarne visits Guards depot, Purbright

MOD: Mr Lamont visits Defence Operation Analysis Establishment, Byfleet

DEM: Mr Trippier attends Preston Business Venture reception, Lancs Polytechnic

FCO: Lady Young addresses the Institute of Latin American Studies, Glasgow University

DHSS: Mr Major visits Sawtry Advice Bureau

HO: Lord Glenarthur visits Bedford prison

SO: Mr Stewart meets Lothian Regional Council; visits National Library of Scotland; meets Association of University Teachers

DTI: Mr Howard addresses W Greenwall & Co (Stockbrokers), London

DTI: Mr Pattie attends Republic Day of India reception, London

WO: Mr Robinson attends meeting with MSC Chairman

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## TV AND RADIO

"Here to Stay"; ITV (12.20): Trevor Hyett talks to a group of London's Greek Cypriot community

"A Question of Economics"; Channel 4 (14.30): Welfare State or Going Private?" First of two programmes on arguments for and against privatisation of health care

"Ulster By-Election Special"; BBC Radio 4 (15.00 - VHF only): Seamus McKee presents results and analysis

"Northern Ireland Election Special"; BBC 1 (15.55): David Dimbleby, Peter Snow and Sir Robin Day present round up and analysis of results

"What the Papers Say"; Channel 4 (20.00): Angela Gordon of "The Times" looks at the week's papers

"A Week in Politics"; Channel 4 (20.15)

"Law in Action"; BBC Radio 4 (20.20): Weekly magazine on issues thrown up by courts and by Parliament

"Any Questions?": BBC Radio 4 (20.45): With the Rt Hon Dame Judith Hart, Michael Winner, Lord Marsh and Sir Denis Forman

"From the Horse's Mouth"; Channel 4 (22.30): "The Minnesota Connection". Shows the 'Minnesota Method' of drug and alcohol addiction treatment

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