

11 July 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM The Queen visits Powys

Prime Minister opens new Broadgate building; later departs for Vancouver (to July 13)

National Union of Railwaymen, annual general meeting, Weston-super-Mare

Celebration of 50th anniversary of the formation of Bomber Fighter and Coastal Training Command

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STATISTICS

BSA: Building societies' monthly figures (June)

BSC/ Usable Steel production (June)

BISPA:

CSO: Tax and price index (June)

DEM: Retail prices index (June)

DOE: Homelessness statistics (1st qtr 1986)

DTI: Finished steel consumption and stock changes (1st qtr-final)

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PUBLICATIONS

DTI: 'British Business' - includes market report on Latin America (Andean Pact)

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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: Debate on the Policing of the Metropolis on a Motion for the Adjournment

Adjournment Debate

Experiments on premature babies (Mr D Amess)

Lords

Financial Services Bill: Second Reading

UQ to ask HMG what steps they propose to take to solve the problems of Northern Ireland in view of the continuing disorder there

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTSOUTH AFRICA

- Foreign Secretary to have two meetings with President Botha.
- Mugabe says Foreign Secretary's mission is futile.
- Leon Brittan joins call for measures - believed to be reflecting Sir Geoffrey Howe's view.
- You claim the battle over general economic sanctions has been won (D/Star).
- Sun P2: Brittan on sanctions row; claims Foreign Secretary's mission will be hopeless without them; Tory MPs want us to cut aid to countries which boycott Commonwealth games; leader says Nigeria and Ghana, who have pulled out, are both military dictatorships and have as much right to lecture other nations on democracy as Rasputin had to denounce them.
- Mirror P2: Britain backs me on sanctions, says Maggie. Foreign Secretary refuses to accept black Africa's view that violence or an economic blockade is the only way to rid South Africa of apartheid.
- Express P1: Tories split on sanctions - Brittan demands tougher action and highlights undercurrent of unease in the party; leader on Commonwealth Games boycott, says it is an ill considered gesture. Boycotts do little good. But it will eat up a little more of the rapidly diminishing British affection for the Commonwealth itself which is coming to seem little more than a court in permanent session with Britain permanently in the dock.
- Mail P2: Brittan joins fray to back sanctions; leader says your attitude to sanctions could hardly have been made clearer. You are right and Mail supports you - and our resistance to pressure can only be strengthened when it turns to blackmail of the Nigerian and Ghanaian variety. These countries should pay more attention to putting their own house in order before taking it upon themselves to lecture this country whose generous handouts they have been prepared to accept.
- Telegraph P1: Brittan calls for sanctions and shatters fragile Tory unity; leader says the growing proportion of the British population who have no experience of the Imperial tradition view the Commonwealth differently. To them the future has more urgency than the past. Many of the regimes now attacking us through the Commonwealth are themselves wrong headed, oppressive one-party states more closely tied to Moscow than to London. It is essential for the Commonwealth not to presume too much if our very future participation in it is not to be cast in doubt.
- Guardian report from Harare says Foreign Secretary hinted strongly there that if his mission does not bring concessions necessary for opening talks with ANC he will have no alternative to recommend selective sanctions. Derek Thomas flying to Tokyo and Canberra for talks.
- Another Guardian report says senior Tories believe the Prime Minister is to concede some financial sanctions. Kinnock says he favours a ban on flights between UK and SA, a cut in telecom links and a refusal to allow automatic entry of SA passport holders unless they can satisfy new visa requirements.

SOUTH AFRICA (CONT'DS)

- Times with some loose journalism, leads paper with "Mugabe snub for 'useless' Howe mission". (Mugabe in fact said: "I could not remain party to useless discussions".) US protests at arrests of union officials in South Africa.
- FT: Howe and Botha to meet twice in South Africa. EuroParliament deplores EuroCouncil's failure to agree to full sanctions in The Hague.

POLITICS

- Mirror leader, picking up passage in Hugo Young's interview, that you don't think you have got it wrong on fundamentals, twists it to say you can't remember if you were ever wrong; it "reminds" you your Government has made 2m more jobless, 1m homeless, lengthened hospital waiting lists, left classes with only one book between them and divided Britain.
- Today picks up your interview with Hugo Young (without acknowledgment) and says you are gunning for the Left.
- Guardian forecasts a Labour row over the proposal to abandon Sellafield Thorp plant.

ECONOMY

- US discount rate cut by 0.5% to 6%. Oil price falls below \$10 and sterling falls because of this and fears of Labour nationalisation.

INDUSTRY

- New regulation on fire resistance of bedding welcomed by D/Star.
- More areas of Cumbria cleared from lamb restrictions after Chernobyl.
- Sun leader praising Ian MacGregor for his performance in turning round coal and steel and says he should become boss of the NHS; Paul Johnson, in Express, also says he should go to the NHS.
- Lords vote requires unions to be consulted before Royal Dockyards management is privatised.
- Channel fund-raising runs into trouble - to be put back to autumn.
- Labour Party says it will return B/Gas to State control and buy back shares at original price.
- FT welcomes prospect of MMC investigation into brewers "tied houses".

ROVER 800

- D/Star picture of you and DT in Rover 800 under caption "This car's a winner, Dennis, but we can't afford it".
- Today pictures of you and Kinnock with your Rover 800 and story under heading "Rover is terrific, but too dear for me, says Maggie".
- Express small piece on "Maggie's export drive for Rover".
- Mail with picture "Maggie launches a sales drive for the new Rover".
- Telegraph picture and caption: "Thatcher accolade for new Rover 800".
- Guardian leader sees Rover 800 as a make or break car.
- Times pictures of you and Kinnock in cars, with firm denying a shortage of new Rovers.

UNIONS

- John Macreadie, CPSA, who has been barred from holding office pending a ballot rigging inquiry, to seek reinstatement in High Court today.
- Nalgo to ballot council employees on strike after breakdown of pay negotiations.
- Trade unions to put £2m into new Left wing newspaper "News on Sunday".

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Government to introduce Bill next session to outlaw blacklisting of firms by councils (Today).

HOUSING

- Sun feature on rising value of property, says people are mad not to buy their own homes.

EDUCATION

- British headmistress, described as loony Leftie, bans egg and spoon, sack and skipping races from school sports; says there is no political motive but a measure to cut out cheating. Chris Patten tells Today its barmy.
- Today leader says the winning streak is just what this nation needs if that blighting trend is to be reversed.
- Ferdy Mount, in Telegraph, on "the disaster on the playing fields that could diminish a nation".
- Guardian says a centrally determined core syllabus which you canvassed in the Hugo Young interview would run counter to DES policy as set out in "Better Schools".
- FT reports survey showing only 10% of parents prefer a 1p cut in tax to more education spending.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Mirror prints Ray Whitney's reply and does a leader alongside saying he is wriggling.
- Suspended childbirth consultant, Wendy Savage, cleared of incompetence by inquiry panel; Renee Short MP wants an investigation into consultants who complained about her.
- Jill Palmer, the Mirror's NHS horror girl, now comes up with claim that doctors at Lincoln's "cash starved" county hospital have been told not to work so hard because they are costing the NHS too much money by treating so many people.
- Express says jobless and people receiving social security are to be forced to pay first 20% of rates. Could provoke a Tory revolt in Commons.

LAW AND ORDER

- East German "garden hut spies" living near Heathrow jailed for 10 years each; but did we arrest them too soon to discover what they were up to? Mail says they were sacrificed by KGB.
- Record haul of cannabis - worth £30m - in first half of this year.
- High Court told that Sogat is paying Wapping demonstrators £50 a week to turn up at plant.
- Ian Botham, cricketer, calls in police complaining his post is being tampered with.
- No charges against Alan Bristow over allegation that he was offered a knighthood in Westland affair.
- Paul Johnson, in Express, backs Douglas Hurd in ending peremptory challenge

DRUGS

- Today leader blames pop promoters and managers who take young lives and exploit them to the point of ruin with the promise of riches for drug scene.

REGIONS

- D/Star praises candid admission by Richard Tracey that he was deeply depressed after tour of South Yorks coalfield; there needs to be the most careful planning to ensure alternative employment when pits close.
- Guardian says the Government is to establish an inquiry for the North East to spearhead job creation and industrial development in a repackaging of its regional policy.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Sun regretting the loss of two more soldiers' lives in Ulster, says that in future all suspect vehicles should be blown up.
- Political columnist of Eelfast Telegraph, writing in Today on Loyalists "marching as to war" this weekend, says the Unionists are feeling increasingly desperate and betrayed by British Government and security forces. Your Northern Ireland policy slips further away.

PEOPLE

- Express continues its feature on Cabinet wives.

COLUMBIA

- British honorary consul in Barraquilla shot dead in his car from motorcycle.

AUSTRALIA

- D/Star says you have ordered an investigation into allegations that Waldheim was directly involved in execution of 7 British Commandoes.

NEW ZEALAND

- Paul Johnson in Express says Prime Minister Lange (a sort of antipodean Kinnock) has covered himself in ridicule over the Greenpeace affair. He has turned New Zealand into a joke country.

RUSSIA

- BBC claims Zamyatin is wrong - we are not jamming Russian broadcasts to Britain; it's the Russians themselves.
- Mitterrand raises hopes of Summit.

EC

- Budget settled; crisis averted.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINSITERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Lord Young visits Mitcheldean Business Park, Gloucestershire

FCO: Sir Geoffrey Howe addresses Eisteddford, Llangollen; later addresses Clywd South West Conservative Association

DHSS: Mr Fowler visits St Andrew's Hospital, Northampton

SO: Mr Rifkind visits KIBUN food factory, Motherwell; opens new plant of Ethican, Edinburgh; attends presentation of Edinburgh Castle Report, Edinburgh

WO: Mr Edwards accompanies HM The Queen on visit to Powys

MAFF: Mrs Fenner attends Kent County Show

MAFF: Lord Belstead visits Soft Fruit Fair, Vale of Evesham

MOD: Mr Freeman attends Salisbury Plain Archaeological working party report press conference

DES: Mr Dunn visits Tretherras School, Newquay

DES: Mr Walden appears on Anglia TV's 'Cross Question' programme

DEM: Mr Lang attends 'Action for Jobs' launch, Edinburgh; later opens Business Development Centre, Glasgow

DEN: Mr Goodland visits Wylfa power station, Anglesey (with Keith Best MP)

DOE: Mr Tracey attends English Schools Athletic Association 1986 Championships, Portsmouth

DOE: Sir George Young visits Tower Hamlets and Hackney re urban programme

HO: Mr Mellor addresses National Association of Victims Support Schemes Conference, Norwich

HO: Lord Glenarthur visits Berkshire Fire Brigade; presents trophies at Fire Service Charities cricket match

SO: Mr Stewart attends presentation on action for jobs campaign, Edinburgh

SO: Mr MacKay visits Perth Prison; attends Agricultural Training Board reception, Edinburgh Castle

DTP: Mr Bottomley visits local roads in Epping Forest area

HMT: Mr Brooke addresses senior Dutch civil servants, London

WO: Mr Roberts inaugurates National Library of Wales computer, Aberystwyth

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TV AND RADIO

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.45); Angela Rumbold MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Environment; Max Hastings; John Cousins; Paul Foot