

29 July 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM The Queen attends service of thanksgiving to mark 850th anniversary of Glasgow Cathedral; opens new Sheriff Court House, Glasgow (Scottish Secretary attends); names new phase 1 block of the redevelopment of Glasgow Royal Infirmary

Prime Minister addresses Conservative Peers, HoL

Foreign Secretary meets P W Botha

Professional Association of Teachers Conference, Manchester (Mr Patten addresses conference)

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STATISTICS

CBI: CBI Industrial Trends Survey (July) (11.30)

DOE: Bricks and cement production and deliveries (2nd qtr-prov) (11.30)

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PUBLICATIONS

LCD: Judicial statistics 1985 (1430)

NAO: Department of the Environment and Welsh Office sponsorship of non-development public bodies (11.00)

PCA: Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration 4th report, session 1985-86, selected cases 1986, vol 3 (noon)

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PARLIAMENT

Lords

Financial Services Bill: Committee (4th Day)

Community Drivers' Hours and Recording Equipment Regulations 1986. Motions for Approval

Drivers' Hours (Goods Vehicles)(Modification) Order 1986. Motions for Approval

Drivers' Hours (Harmonisation with Community Rules) Regulations 1986. Motions for Approval

Community Drivers' Hours and Recording Equipment (Exemptions and Supplementary Provisions) Regulations 1986. Motions for Approval

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MINISTERS - See Annex

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PRESS DIGESTPALACE ROW

- Times printing letter from Andrew Neil saying that for some time unattributable guidance has been given by the Palace which distances the attitudes of the Royal Family from your Government.
- Sun: Andrew Neil claiming "breakthrough". Says Bill Heseltine's letter proves Sunday Times was briefed about the Queen's political views.
- Express: Editor defends paper's stance in Palace row; leader on "the affair" says no matter how much the subsequent charges and counter charges threaten to confuse matters it is clear Michael Shea gave a briefing on the Queen's purported political opinions. All this is staggering and sufficient to warrant Mr Shea's resignation. But it is not credible that he would have acted in such an extraordinary and politically dangerous way off his own bat. It behoves Sir William to find out who agreed the press should be briefed on these matters.
- Mail story headed "Royal Mole must go say Tories". Ministers expect Mr Shea's days are numbered; leader writes of the folly of the Palace press officer and the sensationalism of a Sunday newspaper, and Sir William's letter which "crackles with scorn". Impression of Shea which emerges is less of an active mole than "a silly and self important monkey who chattered". He should tender his resignation. If the Sunday Times was irresponsible the Palace were inept.
- Telegraph says there are growing indications that both Downing Street and Buckingham Palace are anxious for a quick end to the row. Downing Street believes the matter is now closed. No pressure from Mrs Thatcher for Shea to resign; leader under heading: "Sadly, a live issue begging answers" says there is no constitutional crisis. The Sunday Times, to put it politely, allowed enthusiasm to override judgment. The episode significantly added to your political troubles and for that reason alone the Palace owes the nation a better explanation than conceded by Sir William Heseltine. The fuss is unlikely to subside until a full explanation has been offered of Mr Shea's exchanges with Sunday Times. Silence from the Palace will not do.
- Guardian P1 piece headed "Palace playing with fire, says Sunday Times editor who accuses it of 'negligence'"; leader calls time, gentlemen please. The editor of the Sunday Times, hailing a breakthrough, looks even more beleaguered whilst poor Mr Shea looks sadly traduced. Can we all please get back to the real issues of South Africa?
- Times P1: Editor replies to Queen's aides: "honesty was our crime". Neil, in letter, claims Shea told them that to say the Queen was 'furious' about the use of British bases for raids on Libya was too strong; leader says the full force of the Palace is now behind the utterances of the Queen's Press Secretary. The behaviour of Sir William Heseltine was defeatist in not trying to "kill" the story. The whole episode is bad for the Queen, bad for the Prime Minister, bad for the country and it has not ended yet.
- FT: Both Palace and Downing Street were hoping Sir William's unusual intervention will help defuse the embarrassing affair.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Foreign Secretary visits Soweto on eve of meeting with President Botha.
- Reagan applies pressure in support of his mission.
  
- Sun feature takes the "Black Bullies" or "six Commonwealth tyrants" to task for preaching about South Africa - Moi (Kenya); Babangida (Nigeria); Rawlings (Ghana); Momoh (Sierra Leone); Mugabe (Zimbabwe) and Hoyte (Guyana).
- Mirror says Foreign Secretary's chances of moving South Africa away from apartheid are "microscopic". South Africans are preparing for a seige and some are glorying in the prospect.
- Express sees visit to Soweto as a reprisal against South Africans.
- Mail feature on the middlemen who learned their business in the Rhodesian days who are arriving daily in Johannesburg with one motive in mind - profit out of sanctions.
- Guardian says Sir Anthony Kershaw expects a small concession to Commonwealth pressure in the form of bans on exports of minerals, fruit and vegetables or air links. Hugo Young favours some sanctions, not because they are likely to "work" but as a solemn act of gesture politics. There is an offensive glibness about some British proponents of sanctions. We should accept that this drama cannot soon be terminated - ie there is no such thing as a "solution" - but we owe it to the oppressed to back them with the only signals their oppressors begin to understand.

YOUR OPERATION

- D/Star P2: Maggie to have hand operation. She'll have to wear a sling.
- Sun P7: Maggie to have op over her "clawed" hand.
- Express P1: Thatcher set for op on hand.
- Mirror P2: Very short piece: Finger op for Maggie.
- Mail P2: Maggie to have surgery on hand.
- Telegraph P1: Thatcher to have operation; bound to raise some questions about your health.
- Guardian P1: PM laying down reins for hand operation.
- Times P1: Thatcher to have surgery on hand.
- FT: P6: Thatcher to go to private clinic for hand operation.

ECONOMY

- Oil price falls - and, it is suggested, news of your operation - hit pound; down to \$1.4770.
- D/Star leader, hailing the new "head start" scheme to give jobs to 300 inner city youngsters, praises the revival of Armstrong motorcycles, the success of the Howden Group leading the world in wind generated electricity and Martin Baker aircraft who have 75% of world market in ejector seats.
- Telegraph feature shows we are doing rather well out of overseas investment.
- Guardian, commenting on Mr Tebbit's idea of differential unemployment pay asks why on earth does the chairman float such things unless as a semi-detached pundit for an increasingly semi-detached Government?
- Hawke pulls out of South Pacific summit next month as Australian dollar plummets and mood of economic crisis revails.

INDUSTRY

- Sun leader on coal industry asks: remember Scargill's warning of impending doom? Today NCB will report an operating profit of nearly £500m. Ian MacGregor deserves credit.
- Employer who urged others to keep pay rises below 4% got rise of 31% last year.
- Air filters in factories have concentrated radioactivity from Chernobyl and some must be treated as low level nuclear waste, according to NRPB.
- Transport Users' Council for Eastern England wants Government to set up an independent study into running of B/Rail because of despair about some of its services.
- AEU wins sole representation at NE earth moving equipment factory with no strike deal.
- Treasury blocks appointment of a critic, John Kay, director of Institute of Fiscal Studies, to SIB.

EDUCATION

- Kenneth Baker demands details of Haringey's plans for compulsory classes in homosexuality.
- Leader of Professional Association of Teachers blames sloppy, under-qualified teachers, many of them without an O-level maths pass, for helping to create a nation of mathematical dunces.
- Guardian says five out of six teacher / unions have signed a £2.9bn pay and conditions deal but there is no hint as to whether the Government will foot the bill. NAS/UWT refuses signature.
- Times quotes NUT as saying if Secretary of State impedes the agreement he will deserve all he gets from parents.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Ombudsman finds Liverpool City Council guilty of maladministration over a home improvement scheme which denied some tenants a bath for months; council may have to pay up to £200,000 compensation.
- Bradford seeking £100m development aid from EC.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Chairman of National Consumer Council says at least 3.5m working days are lost every year by people queuing in outpatients departments.

POLITICS

- You give go-ahead for big national poster display to draw attention to Government's contribution to major public works.
- SDP/Libs to pick a front bench team towards the end of the year; SDP moves towards Libs by calling for a standstill on building of new nuclear power stations.
- Guardian leader sympathetic to Steel in relationship with Owen, and Geoffrey Smith, in Times says if Owen finds that the only way to be true to SDP convictions is for ever to keep them at a distance from Liberals there can be no future for the Alliance.

LAW AND ORDER

- 23 year old man, arrested in Stockwell, London, DHSS office, being questioned over murders of 8 elderly people. Mail names him as Kenneth Erskine.

PEOPLE

- Patrick Jenkin not to contest next election.

AFGHANISTAN

- Withdrawal by Russia of 7000 troops does not impress West - greeted "coolly" by Western observers.
- Express says Kremlin is starting Afghan pull-out".
- Guardian makes this its front page lead headed "Russian olive branch to China" saying it is considering pulling a substantial proportion of its troops out of Mangolia.

SUDAN

- Telegraph leads with thousands starving in Southern Sudan, with food held back by civil war.

BEIRUT

- 26 killed, 90 wounded in rush hour car bomb.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MOD: Mr Younger hosts lunch for Inner Circle

DEM: Lord Young opens Saudi Arabia exhibition, London

MOD: Mr Lee visits flight refuelling, Wimborne

DEM: Mr Trippier attends Automobile Association lunch, London

FCO: Mrs Chalker addresses European Atlantic Group

DHSS: Lady Trumpington visits Bethlem and Maudsley Hospitals

DTI: Mr Butcher visits Reed Paper, Maidstone, Kent

DTP: Mr Bottomley visits Ford's Research and Engineering Centre, Basildon

DTP: Mr Mitchell launches new taxi service for Galleon Taxis, New Milton

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTP: Mr Moore visits the French Transport Minister, Paris

MOD: Lord Trefgarne visits Sicily

DTP: Mr Spicer visits Airbus Industries, Toulouse (all day)

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TV AND RADIO

"Soundings"; BBC Radio 4 (16.05): The Moral Meal - looks at the morality and politics of food

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