

30 July 1986

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

HM The Queen opens the new home for the Civil Service Benevolent Fund in Dunbar to mark centenary of the Fund (Scottish Secretary attends); hosts reception for officials and competitors attending Commonwealth Games

Labour Party NEC

Foreign Secretary returns from Southern Africa

British Gas Corporation information office media launch

STATISTICS

DEM: Overseas travel and tourism (May) (11.30)

Dtp: New vehicle registrations (June) (11.30)

PUBLICATIONS

DEM: Small firms annual report

HoC: 6th Report Foreign Affairs Select Committee - South Africa (1100)

HoL: European Communities - Dumping of waste at sea (11.00)

HoL: 16th Report EEC Sub-Committee B-Disclosure of significant shareholders (0830)

NAO: Audit Commission for local authorities in England and Wales (1100)

NAO: Royal Mint trading fund account 1985/86 (11.00)

PAY

DEM: NHS ambulance officers; (3,700); claim for restoration of differentials; settlement date 1.4.86

DEM: NHS hospital pharmacists; (3,700); substantial increase sought; settlement date 1.4.86

PARLIAMENT

Lords

Housing and Planning Bill: Second Reading

NHS (Amendment) Bill: Second Reading

UQ to ask HMG what action they propose to take after receiving the Report of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group.

PRESS DIGESTSOUTH AFRICA

- Botha rebuffs Foreign Secretary's mission; I can never commit suicide by accepting threats and prescriptions from outside forces. Compares Mandela with Brighton bombers.
- Sir Geoffrey Howe says further measures are likely to be taken against South Africa in the coming months.
- You will come under stronger pressure for sanctions this weekend.
- Kinnock blames you for making Foreign Secretary try.

- D/Star P1: Howe told: Keep your nose out.
- Sun P2: Howe sent packing by defiant Botha! South Africa bid crushed.
- Mirror P2: Botha slams the door on Thatcher; Get lost, you are told.
- Today P1 lead: Howe visit blasted by Botha; President's fury over 'meddling' ends peace bid.
- Express P1 lead - Get lost! Snub pushes Maggie closer to sanctions. Botha as good as tells the world: Impose sanctions and be damned; leader says the most pessimistic predictions have so far proved correct. If the pressure for sanctions now proves irresistible, Botha should be neither surprised nor disappointed.
- Mail P1 lead: Botha slaps down Howe. Leave South Africa to the South Africans.
- Telegraph P1 lead: Howe mission collapses. Unyielding Botha rejects pressure from outside. But Botha is ready to meet other Southern African leaders as well as leaders of the EC to identify and address the problems that affect us and others. Back page political correspondent reports growing pressure for sanctions.
- Guardian P1 lead: Howe's mission ends in debacle. Botha rejects hysteria from the West. Pretoria threatens own sanctions against front line states; leader says Botha finally and offensively refused to come to the relief of the British Government whose argument for delaying sanctions now ceases to exist. Appeasement has failed again. The only way forward is to look for sanctions that will directly affect the ability of white minority to govern.
- Times P1 lead: Botha sends Howe home empty handed. Cabinet to seek further action. USA clearly stunned by virulence of Botha's attack.
- FT P1 lead: Howe hints at further measures after rebuff from Botha.

SOUTH AFRICA (Cont'd)

- Reagan Administration has just concluded a deal allowing a 4% rise in US imports of South African textiles.
- Marius Goring wins High Court order against ban on British actors working in South Africa. Mail leader says the court has punctured union pretensions to moral leadership. Let us have no pass laws here.
- Bill Jordan, AEU, asking his members to donate an hour's wages to raise cash for starving in Africa.

PALACE ROW

- George Gale, in Mirror, says Sir William Heseltine's letter is not good enough to rectify the damage done by Michael Shea's blabbing.

WESTLAND

- John Vincent, in Sun, says Defence Select Committee's absorption in the trivia of leaks shows an alarming lack of a sense of proportion.
- Guardian says Civil Service unions are to confront the Cabinet Secretary about the lack of ministerial accountability in the affair.

ECONOMY

- CBI Trends find gloom among manufacturers who expect output to remain flat to October; 6000 jobs a month expected to go in coming months.

INDUSTRY

- B/Aerospace announces 2,500 redundancies at Weybridge.
- D/Star leader on Ian MacGregor's performance in coal, says the latest figures are a formidable victory by any standards, though won at a very high price - and another 20,000 jobs are to go this year. Mail leader exclaims: Didn't he do well for Britain and for coal? He has left pits on course to break even.
- Scargill accuses MacGregor of "cooking the books".
- Times says results of Sizewell inquiry are likely to be delayed until next year, sparing the Government the pre-election political embarrassment of a decision.

- Claims that garages are ripping off drivers by advertising low prices but leaving pumps set at higher ones.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- D/Star thinks the idea of the Government proclaiming it is building new hospitals, schools and roads with signs is a splendid idea and should be made compulsory on local authorities.
- A woman social security officer jailed for fiddling the books in Preston, still being paid £160 a week and has a good chance of walking back into her job - Peter Bruinvels: "utter lunacy".
- Another Mirror horror story - five hospitals told parents of a dying newborn girl that they had no beds because Government cuts had left them short of nurses. Apparently the child has survived. Leader says that until the Government is prepared to meet the full cost of saving life and easing pain there will be too many children like this who only just survive.
- Mirror photo of your hand being examined in hospital over caption: "Why are they always moaning about queues for the hospital? I never have any trouble" (as a private patient). Today leader says if ordinary people have to wait months while you jump the queue altogether, they will not forget it at the ballot box.
- Telegraph leader says Norman Tebbit's remarks on variable dole payments were an honest attempt to grapple with an intractable problem but they were injudicious, and his economics are faulty. To have the lowest rates of benefit in the most depressed areas would be more logical but also more impolitic.
- Official figures, according to Guardian, show the health gap between rich and poor grew sharply during first four years of Conservative Government.
- Row over Norman Fowler's claim that Labour's social security plans will put 5p on standard rate of tax.

EDUCATION

- Government demands a no-strike pledge from teachers in return for £3bn peace deal (Today).
- Express leader says the Government is right to be concerned about the deal since its cost is double what they had in mind. And for that they would not be getting what they have been demanding all along. Ministers have a duty to parents and taxpayers to hold out for something better. Mail leader says however that Mr Baker should pay up and make the best of it but that means insisting that the fine print does ensure regular assessment, payment by results and an end to disruption.
- Oxfordshire Labour county councillor to quit for sending his daughter to a private school.
- Guardian leader eventually gets round to saying Mr Baker will be wise to wait until the heads of agreement have been filled in with real commitments.

HOUSING

- Concern about level of mortgage repossessions; linked to jobless.

LAW AND ORDER

- Woman estate agent, 25, feared kidnapped by mystery client in Fulham.
- MPs angry at Boy George getting away with a £250 drugs fine - Peter Bruinvels says its "laughable"; Jerry Hayes "outrageous"; Ted Garrett: "makes a mockery of police efforts to eliminate drugs".
- Black mob of 39 attack and rob bus passengers on Saturday in Camberwell.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- King/Barry agree tighter border control.

NORWAY

- Oslo's anti-terrorist squad says it cannot guarantee your safety in Oslo but Foreign Ministry dismisses the claim. Evidence of internal police dispute.

BEIRUT

- New car bomb kills 25.

SPORT

- Iranian team banned from Stoke Mandeville Games after political demos on track.

BERNARD INGHAM

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DES: Mr Baker visits Polytechnic of Central London
DOE: Mr Ridley visits Birmingham
MAFF: Mr Gummer visits Torry Research Station
MAFF: Lord Belstead attends "Sheep 1986", Malvern
DOE: Mr Waldegrave interviewed for YTV 'First Tuesday' programme on coastal pollution
DEM: Mr Trippier visits Reading; gives interview to local radio
DHSS: Mr Whitney visits Royal Marsden Hospital, Surrey
DTI: Mr Pattie launches 'Caring Technology' - IT for disabled leaflet
DTP: Mr Bottomley visits Haltwhistle to see bypass proposals

TV AND RADIO

"Inside Castro's Cuba", BBC Radio 4 (20.15): The second of two documentary reports by Bernard Jackson
"Diverse Reports"; Channel 4 (20.30): Just not cricket - a look at sport in crisis
