

WEDNESDAY, 15 OCTOBER

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister meets 'Welephant', the mascot of a fire safety campaign aimed at children.

Prime Minister opens new nuclear magnetic resonance whole-body scanner, Guys Hospital; meets Sudanese Prime Minister

Princess of Wales opens new computerised tomography scanner, St Thomas's Hospital

Visa controls come into effect

Prime Minister of Sudan begins visit to UK (to October 16)

Nuclear Planning Group - Ministerial meeting (to October 22)

Association of District Secretaries annual conference, Portsmouth (to October 17)

British Motor Show, NEC, Birmingham

STATISTICS

CSO: Cyclical indicators for the UK economy (Sept)(11.30)

PUBLICATIONS

FCO: US No 3 (1986) Exchange of Notes between Government of United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Government of USA amending supplementary treaty of 25/6/85 concerning the extradition treaty 8/6/72 (14.00)

HMT: Economic Progress Report

PARLIAMENT

Lords

NHS (Amendment) Bill: Committee

PRESS DIGESTREAGAN/GORBACHEV

- Russia softens its line on SDI; Karpov says a deal is still possible but the story is already off the front pages of the pops.
- Kinnock tries to limit questions on Labour defence policy to 10 minutes on LWT's Weekend World this weekend, but programme refuses to give in.
- Sun: Russia offers deal on cruise. John Vincent says Iceland was a huge frame up by Russia for propaganda purposes to split Western opinion.
- Today: P1 - Now it's TV Wars - a reference to the propaganda efforts by both sides on TV. Inside - "Star Wars need not prevent deal - Karpov".
- Mirror: P2 - Gorbachev slams Star Wars peril. George Gale says Reagan first had to refuse the Soviet offer. The failure of the Iceland talks is good news for success would have meant a Western defeat.
- Express: p2 - Euro N-deal now possible, say Russians.
- Mail: Russia offers Europe deal; there's still hope, says Reagan.
- Independent: New US drive to revive talks on Euro missiles. US will propose total elimination of all medium range nuclear missiles from Europe when Geneva talks resume.
- Guardian: says you are going to Washington "perhaps as early as next week".
- Telegraph: P1 - Missile deal hopes raised by Kremlin.
- Times: Russia last night held out the prospect of a deal to cut nuclear arms in Europe, not linked to the SDI; President Reagan says there is still a chance of holding a summit in the US.
- Shultz and Shevardnadze are to meet in Vienna next month.
- Russia is preparing a big propaganda display over the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, expected to begin today.

ECONOMY

- "Too little too late" is popular verdict on rise in interest rates.
- Fears that a further rise in interest rates may be necessary after 1% increase - speculation that mortgage rates will also go up.
- Opposition accuses Chancellor of squandering reserves to prop up £ rather than raise interest rates before or during Conservative Party Conference. Hattersley calls it "political corruption".
- Chancellor says wait-and-see policy has staved off higher rise.
- Telegraph: leader asks "Bank rate retreat by Lawson".
- Guardian: leader says EMS membership surely can't be put off much longer.
- Independent: Nationwide Building Society says mortgage rate is certain to increase by 1 per cent, perhaps 1.25 per cent.
- Times: leader says in terms of economic management the last fortnight has not been the government's finest hour. There should not have been the prolonger tussle with financial markets. By staying out of the EMS Britain is paying a high price for the illusion of political freedom; Kenneth Fleet says the Bank and the Chancellor do not see eye to eye. His credibility in the City is law.
- Article on growing problem of mortgage arrears and repossession of homes.
- FT: Most building societies resigned to raising mortgage rates in the near future. Editorial comment asks why Britain has to be odd one out in Europe with exceptionally high interest rates and points to "serious flaws" in the British economy. Urges the Chancellor to clarify UK monetary policy in his Mansion House speech/
- Industrial production is stagnating, despite increased spending (Times).
- Times: OPEC is locked in an intense round of "camel trading" to finalise a new quota agreement.

INDUSTRY

- Ford plan to invest £1,460m in Britain over 5 years. Express says the Knock Britain Brigade will have some fancy talking to do to explain this resounding vote of confidence.
- Engineering unions to lodge substantial pay claim today plus a cut of 4 hours in working week to 35 hours.
- Sealink's officers agree peace deal.
- FT: John McGregor promises that the privatisation of Government services is to be extended to all suitable activities in every Government Department. Competitive tendering in the 6 Departments where it has so far been tried was saving the taxpayer £22m a year.
- Mail: leader on Jaguar's latest success says the salvation of British industry will come, if it does, not from nanny-style interference by politicians and Civil Servants but through the efforts of producers at all levels to treat the customer as king.
- Government approval to big new shopping complex in green belt - William Waldegrave.
- British Rail Unions agree to shed 1,500 jobs (Independent).
- Smiths Dock, on River Tees, launches last ship today (Independent).

POLITICS

- Sun, Star and surprisingly Mirror ignore Labour's launch of "Investing in People".
- Today: has picture of Shadow Cabinet alongside long piece on launching booklet.
- Express: small piece on "Labour launches red rose poll guide".
- Today: leader highly critical of action by students, tutors and principal of Ruskin College against tutor who wrote an uncomplimentary article about Liverpool Labour Party and published in the Times - example of a dangerous trend in British society of denying a platform to none with disagreeable views.
- FT: Labour launch their new glossy brochure with a multi-media razzmatazz, but, no mention of defence policy. A separate campaign follows later in the year.
- Times: says if presentation could win general elections in place of policy Labour might feel confident, but only those who believe the medium counts more than the message is likely to believe this is the answer to the Party's needs.

- Independent: Kinnock declines to give pledge of full employment at launch of document.
- Mail: heads its report of launch "Kinnock's menu without any prices"; leader says we must hope that increasing pressure will show up these Labour policies for what they really are - the old quack remedies which would reroute us down the old road of decadence and despair.
- Telegraph: P2 - Kinnock's vote catching booklet.
- Guardian: P4 - short piece on the theatrical launch with picture of Kinnock holding baby.
- John Biffen's speech goes quietly.
- Treasury report claims that Ministers and officials are dragging their feet over privatising tasks in Government Departments.
- Labour strategists aim to make the government's record on public services and the use it has made of N Sea oil revenues their number one target in the run-up to the General Election.

MEDIA

- Judge orders Harlech TV to hand over film of Bristol riot to police; Harlech says the action can only put journalists at risk.
- Express: leader says BBC's "modest" outlay of £8m for daytime TV, that it still seems too much for an organisation constantly pleading poverty and dreaming up more schemes for getting more cash out of the licence fee payer.
- "Question Time" editor Barbara Maxwell says you have never been invited on the programme because you hold too high an office (Independent).

IMMIGRATION

- Wide coverage of Asian "stampede" to get into Britain before visa deadline.
- Terry Dicks MP accuses Ministers of incompetent handling of issue.
- Star: asks why pick on Indians and Pakistanis? The new regime should apply to everyone whatever their colour or creed; hotel Britain is overbooked.
- Times: Heathrow had its busiest day on record yesterday with up to eight times the normal number of Asians seeking entry to the UK as the midnight visa deadline approached.
- Mail: leader says virtually all Western countries are threatened with what could, in the absence of preventive action by Government prove an historic mass inward movement of population from the East. In earlier times such invasions would be repelled by armed force. In these more civilised times, they are held at bay by under-strength armies of officials, in this case just in the nick of time. It all goes to show how right the Government was to introduce visas.

LAW AND ORDER

- Policeman who bit off another officer's ear during rugby match must serve 6 month sentence, Appeal Court decides.
- Law Commission proposes to end the stigma of illegitimacy.
- Times: Douglas Hurd is to seek Cabinet support to override the opposition of the Lord Chancellor and much of the legal profession to moves designed to encourage tougher sentencing for violent crime.
- The Home Secretary has a legal fight on his hands over plans to out-maneuvre opposition by some police authorities to the use of plastic bullets and CS gas.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- The government is heading for a re-run of the dispute over RSG which saw one of the biggest rebellions of Tory MPs this Parliament.

EDUCATION

- Times: A "right to buy your school" could be included in the Conservative manifesto.
- Giles Radice calls plan for city technology colleges a gimmick.
- FT: John Biffen sees educational reform as the next priority for the Conservative Government.
- FT: feature assesses the scheme for 20 city Technology Colleges but asks where the colleges are to find the 1,400 capable teachers needed to carry their proposed curriculum.
- Independent: Cabinet split over deal on teachers' pay. Issue is being handled by an ad hoc Cabinet Committee. You are said to be intrigued at possibility of buying off teachers once and for all.
- Guardian: says industrialists fear that their involvement in the colleges could affect their relations with local authorities.
- Parents shut down Tottenham School in protest against gay sex lessons.
- Hackney, said to be Britain's poorest borough, is planning to spend £100,000 fighting discrimination against gay town hall staff.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Royal College of Psychiatrists says drink causes more deaths than hard drugs - safe drinking level 1½ pints.

TRANSPORT

- Strathclyde calls on 14 rival bus operators to use commonsense in battle for passengers (Independent).

MITTERRAND VISIT

- Sun: wants you to hand Mitterrand bill for spoiled lamb cargo; he is responsible for the behaviour of French police; Michael Jopling calls for full compensation and immediate action by French to stop repeat of lorry hijacking.
- Express: says we are not the only country with hooligans. France produces its share as Lyons sheep farmers have just demonstrated. Thier action was disgraceful and inexcusable. You must tell French Government we expect to see no more lorries hijacked.

WESTLAND

- Star: says it is a piece of crass arrogance to deny Civil Servants right to give evidence before Select Committees and should be opposed by everyone who cherishes free speech and democracy.
- Today: says the Government's policy is high-handed.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- The use of "supergrass" evidence to obtain convictions for terrorist offences in Northern Ireland has received a further setback with the failure of a woman informer to give evidence.
- IRA aims to enter Irish Parliament (Independent).

FOREIGN AID

- Runcie rebukes Whitehall over niggardly aid (Independent).

USA

- America agrees to extradite William Quinn who is alleged to have murdered a London policeman 11 years ago.

ZIMBABWE

- Sun: says that if Magabe cuts off pensions to 40,000 Rhodesians you should pay them out of Zimbabwe aid.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Times: David Steel leaves Pretoria, saying the Botha government is the only stumbling block to peace.

PEOPLE

- Elie Wiesel, Nazi death camp survivor, wins Nobel Peace Prize, with Geldof's approval.
- The Duke of Devonshire plans to speak from the SDP front bench in the Lords on foreign affairs and conservation.

ARTS/CULTURE

- Natural History Museum set to go ahead with admission charges (Independent).

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- MOD: Mr Younger meets Swiss Defence Minister
- DEM: Lord Young launches English Tourist Board/MSC National Tourism initiative
- DEM: Mr Clarke visits Leeds
- DOE: Mr Ridley addresses Royal Society of Arts, London
- HO: Mr Gurd address AGM of Metropolitan Police Federated Ranks; later addresses Wiltshire Constabulary Mess Night
- DTI: Mr Channon presents first Design Business Awards
- DTp: Mr Moore inspects BR East Coast Electrification
- WO: Mr Edwards attends dinner on board HMS Jupiter, Cardiff Docks
- MOD: Mr Freeman meets Swiss Defence Minister, Heathrow
- DEM: Mr Trippier visits Blackburn District Group Training Association; later launches Pendle Business Club
- DES: Mr Walden visits Manchester University and Marinetech Northwest
- DOE: Lord Skelmersdale visits Commission for New Towns promotional bureau, London
- DOE: Mr Patten addresses National Contractors Group lunch, London
- DHSS: Mr Newton addresses Royal National Institute for the Deaf meeting, London
- DHSS: Mrs Currie attends Health Emergency Planning Officers Seminar, York
- OAL: Mr Luce gives arts sponsorship speech, North Wales
- SO: Mr Ancram meets Scottish CBI to discuss rating reform, Glasgow
- DTI: Mr Pattie visits Rolls Royce, North West
- DTI: Mr Butcher attends management centre conference; launches recycling video
- DTp: Mr Spicer presents awards at dinner for the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators, London
- HMT: Mr Brooke addresses London Banks Personnel Management Group

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DOE: Mr Tracey visits Lausanne (to October 17)

DEN: Mr Hunt meets FRG State Secretary to discuss energy efficiency,
Bonn

FCO: Mrs Chalker departs for CDU conference, Bonn (to October 16)

DTI: Mr Shaw visits Oslo

DTP: Mr Bottomley attends European Forum on Road Safety policies,
Aix-en-Provence

TV AND RADIO

"Mavis on 4", BBC Radio 4 (16.00) - the Wednesday edition has a regular
feature on 'Our Public Servants'

"Drug Alert" BBC Radio 1 (17.45) - starts week-long campaign

"Analysis", BBC Radio 4 (20.15) - Ian Davidson discusses Mr Deng
Xiaoping's Russia Card
