

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister attends Anglo/French bilaterals, Paris (Foreign Secretary, Home Secretary, Secretary of State for Agriculture and Minister for Trade also attend)

British Gas share price announced - press conference

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PARLIAMENT

Commons Debate on Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome on a motion for the Adjournment

Business: Adjournment Debate  
The proposed closure of the Neurosciences Unit at the Brook General Hospital (Mr S Barnett)

Select Committees:

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PRESS DIGEST

MI5

- Sun: "Maggie is rocked by new spy book row". You and Sir Michael Havers are accused of plotting to protect Nigel West from prosecution because he is a prospective Tory MP.
- The DPP is considering action against former agents and policy will interview Mr West under his real name of Rupert Allason.
- Star: Sir Robert refused to admit to the existence of MI6.
- Leader says better to allow publication of Wright's book and then totally discredit it.
- Mirror: Sir Robert blundered by earlier admitting that Dick White had been head of MI6 - therefore acknowledging its existence.
- Mail: "Maggie accused of MI5 blunder".
- Today: "Thatcher faces "collusion" row.
- Times: p1, lead: Kinnock slams Thatcher over MI5 spy book. You are in danger of becoming embroiled in a damaging and embarrassing political controversy over the Australian spy book case. Inside, coverage of the trail says Sir Robert Armstrong agreed that your 1981 Commons Statement about

Sir Roger Hollis had not been a comprehensive account of the investigation into claims that he was a Soviet double agent. Sir Robert also declined to admit the existence of MI6.

- FT: Opposition calls for Statement from Prime Minister on MI5.
- Telegraph: Police inquiry on MI5 "leaks". Thatcher questioned on spy case.
- Independent: Thatcher accused of security cover up.
- Guardian: "You have become embarrassingly embroiled" in latest MI5 controversy when Attorney General announced police inquiry into leaks by former security service officials and workers.
- Sir Robert Armstrong admitted that a statement by Mrs Thatcher to the Commons about allegations that Sir Roger Hollis was a Soviet spy was not a comprehensive account of the investigation.
- Most of the questioning was designed to establish that the British Government has no consistent policy towards disclosure of information about the activities of intelligence agencies.

#### AIDS

- Sun: "Aids: Cabinet fear violence in the streets". Ministers emerged grim-faced from their meeting yesterday. The prospect of bloodshed as terrified citizens make reprisal attacks on homosexuals and drug addicts is now seen as a real threat.
- One senior Cabinet Minister predicted last night that AIDS will be an important issue at the next election.
- Ministers were left in no doubt that the virus is spreading like wildfire.
- The BBC has made a shock commercial warning that casual sex can kill.
- AIDS sufferers are to be allowed to jump the council housing queue in Islington.
- Mirror: Full page interview with Tony Newton headed "Is this the end of our permissive society?"
- Express: "Vigilantes fear over gay plague". The Government is bracing itself for a backlash against homosexuals.
- More than half the nation's dentists are wearing face masks to protect themselves against AIDS.

- Mail: The Archbishop of York yesterday attacked the teaching of positive attitudes to homosexuality - 'gay studies' - in some of Britain's schools.
- 'Cabinet discuss AIDS backlash'.
- Two actors who will take part in the first TV AIDS commercial have demanded anonymity because they fear people will believe they are carriers.
- Times: More money for AIDS research to be announced by Mr Fowler in Commons today.
- Expert from London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine says compulsory screening would be unworkable and impractical.
- Telegraph: IBA backs AIDS commercials at peak hours. BBC will show sample ad on 1 December.
- Guardian: Ministers remain divided about important parts of their initiative against AIDS. Mr Rifkind opposes Mr Fowler's argument for the supply of free needles for drug addicts.

## IRAN

- Sun: Leader says Ted Heath treads the boards again like an ageing actor-manager hungry for the limelight, to sneer at you for supporting President Reagan over Iran.
- Express: President Reagan's secret arms deal with Iran threatens to plunge America into its worst constitutional crisis since Watergate.
- Article advises "Don't write the old boy off yet" but he will have to "rein in the cowboys".
- Mail: Leader says the spell of the Great Communicator is broken.
- The President is facing his most serious crisis.
- Today: Leader: "Rambling Ronald not fit to lead".

- Times: President Reagan has failed to quell the furore and is being challenged by sceptical congressmen of both parties.
- FT: President Reagan under growing pressure to review foreign policy decision making after a poor press conference performance in which he failed to persuade Americans that arms were not traded for Iranian hostages.
- FT: Leader critical of the President's leadership and special profile doubts his "political health".
- Independent: Muddle over Iran arms sinks Reagan deeper into mire. The Ayatollah gloats at the President's discomfort. Editorial says Reagan ignored his instincts.

#### ECONOMY

- Sun: The Chancellor is on course for a 2p tax cut in the Budget and if the economy grows he intends to lop off another 2p in 1988.
- Mirror: "Tax shock for U-turn Tories". Nigel Lawson admits that Government spending has scuppered chances of an early cut in income tax to 25p in the Pound.
- Express: "Cabinet hopeful of tax cuts".
- Mail: "Income tax blow".
- Times: Chancellor holds back on 25p tax rate.
- Independent: Lawson dashes 25p tax hopes.
- FT: Chancellor confirms stance on level of sterling and reaffirmed he does not want to see the Pound fall significantly further below other leading currencies.
- FT: Sterling has another nervous day on the foreign exchanges after an opinion poll showed Labour Party had recovered its lead over Conservatives.
- FT: Outlook for export and jobs bleak according to British Chamber of Commerce Survey.
- FT: Main economic indicators too erratic to asses the underlying trend of output growth.
- FT: City faces money supply confusion because of changes in the way the Bank of England is to compile the figures.

#### CITY

- Times: Stock Exchange makes special arrangements for British Gas issue in attempt to prevent small sales from clogging up computers.

LAW AND ORDER

- Sun: Police yesterday unearthed several bones in the hunt for two more possible victims of Moors murderer, Ian Brady.
- Star: Detectives have appealed to the Home Office to grant Myra Hindley 72 hours freedom to help with their search.
- Rapes have soared by 30 per cent Other offences are also up.
- Leader calls for a new war on crime.
- Express: Hindley could face new charges.
- Leader on the latest crime figures says it is just as well that the Government has put its crime fighting measures at the centre of its legislative programme.
- Mail: "Gun menace as violent crime soars".
- Telegraph: Rape up 29% as crime rises to record level.
- Independent: Moors graves search begins: Myra Hindley has not been broken by 20 years in prison: editorial says her release would be an affront to society.
- Legislation is to be introduced giving the courts power to deduct fines at source from benefit payments made to social security claimants - because record numbers are facing prison because they cannot meet their debts.
- Guardian: More crimes were committed in England and Wales last year than ever before.
- Guardian leader says "The Government should hide its head in shame over 1985 crime figures". The new Bill is a deeply inadequate response to the challenge which the new figures represent.
- Times: Police Federation calls on soccer clubs to ban supporters.

:crime statistics show that high proportion of sex offences are against children.

POLITICS

- Mirror: You came closer to resigning earlier this year, over Westland, than most people realised at the time. On Sunday, 26 January, the night before the debate on the issue, Tory Whips summoned a group of middle-ranked Ministers and warned them you might be forced out of office. You told several Ministers you might not be there after 6 pm. In the event your luck held.
- Times: MPs successful in yesterday's Private Member's ballot were bombarded with proposals for legislation, including tighter definitions of obscenity. Such a Bill would have your enthusiastic support.
- Commons Select Committee chairmen agree to fight any Government attempt to restrict their powers.

MEDIA

- Times: Hurd pegs TV licence at £58 in debate on Peacock.
- Mirror: Joe Haines says ITN made a silly mistake in transmitting the News at One from No 10. It's independence could be at stake.
- Mail: Herbert Kretzmer, reviewing the BBC programme "An Englishwoman's Wardrobe", says that although you may be "the best man in the Cabinet", when it comes to clothes you are as feminine as any woman.
- Independent: Hurd pays licence fee and resists BBC ads.

NUCLEAR

- Express: A new CND protest will tip off the world's terrorists about the movement and storage of Britain's nuclear weapons, security chiefs fear. CND is to blow all the confidential details in a document called "The Road Transport of Nuclear Warheads".
- Leader calls it treachery.

EDUCATION

- Express: The government has demanded to know why Cardiff University has dropped disciplinary action against students who shouted down Enoch Powell and have given their approval to heckle future speakers.
- Telegraph: CBI's Terence Beckett says education system does nothing for bottom 40%.
- Times: Divisions in teacher unions encourage Baker to stand firm, on day unions and employers meet to sign draft agreement.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- FT: Policies limit council spending seriously flawed according to Public Accounts Committee Report.
- FT: Mr Ridley says Government must invest "carrots and sticks" to help with the regeneration of older cities. Urban Development corporations should be encouraged by liberalisation of the planning procedures for example, but penalised if national wage bargaining took no account of the local labour market.
- Times: Environment Secretary expected to warn councils today that he is ready to act against "creative accounting".
- :PAC criticises existing powers to curb local authority capital expenditure..
- :ILEA may take Government to court in attempt to stay at County Hall.
- Guardian: John Cunningham says Tory attacks on Labour councils are "despicable racism". Mr Ridley announced plans to force more local authorities to sell land which Whitehall regards as under used.

INDUSTRY

- Times: News International claim 1,600 former employees have applied for payments under £58 million final offer.  
   :British Group chairman Sir Ralph Halpern was paid over £1m last year - the first British company chairman to do so.  
   :Consumer Protection Bill welcomed despite some reservations from consumer lobby.
- FT: Consumer Protection Bill could become law within months.
- Telegraph: Goodyear busy off Sir James Goldsmith with \$600m deal for his Hanson Trust's 12.5 million shares.  
   :Investigations ordered into cracks in cargo ship Derbyshire which sank six years ago.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Telegraph: Pensioners get freeze-up fivers. New severe weather payments scheme replaces past much-criticised system.

:Competitive tendering policies so unrealistic that they discourage many contractors, says John Hall of Contract Cleaning and Maintenance Association.

ENERGY

- Telegraph: Diary says your intended Christmas reading of Layfield Report has been met with concern by Energy Ministers familiar with its record of delays.

POLITICS

- Telegraph: Bruinvels Bill may toughen penalties for serious crimes.

EDUCATION

- Guardian: Baker announces substantial increase in projected numbers of students in higher education from now until end of the century.

EMPLOYMENT

- Guardian: Government announced it wants to introduce YTS into the Civil Service by April in spite of known opposition by unions.

EAST/WEST

- Guardian: Reagan administration's retreat from Reykjavik which Mrs Thatcher helped engineer last weekend is coming under fire from the US arms control lobby as an irrelevant distraction.

FALKLANDS

- Guardian: President Alfonsin has assumed direct control of Argentina's Falklands policy reflecting concern at the deadlock with Britain.

NORTHERN IRELAND

- FT: Tom King confirms that decision due soon on whether to give the private sector a big share in electricity production in Northern Ireland.
- FT: Sir Geoffrey Howe urges Unionists to partake in serious discussion and to be in the business of concessions.

PEACOCK REPORT

- FT: Independent producers welcome Mr Hurd's announcement that they are to have a larger share in broadcasting output.

OVERSEAS

- Times: Melina Hercouri launches competition for design of new museum to house Elgin Marbles at base of Acropolis.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

DEM: Mr Clarke visits Leeds; gives interview to Radio Nottingham

DOE: Mr Ridley visits Leeds

SO: Mr Rifkind visits South of Scotland Electricity Board's Hunterston Power Station, Ayrshire; later delivers address to the Institute of Chartered Accountants' dinner, Edinburgh

DEM: Mr Trippier visits Rochdale Industrial Health Service open day

DEN: Mr Walker opens British Combustion Equipment Manufacturers' Association, London

DEN: Mr Walker opens British Combustion Equipment Manufactures Association Conference Piccadilly

DHSS: Mr Newton attends Regional Health Authority Chairmen's meeting, Wakefield; later opens day centre, Stanley Royal Hospital, Wakefield

DHSS: Lady Trumpington visits Gloucester District Health Authority, Gloucester

DOE: Mr Waldegrave addresses Oil Industries Club, London

DOE: Mr Tracey opens dry-ski slope, Rochester

DTI: Mr Shaw opens alps electric factory in Milton Keynes

DTP: Mr Bottomley visits north west Norfolk

DTP: Lord Brabazon visits Medway Port

MAFF: Mr Gummer visits South West Fisheries

MAFF: Lord Belstead addresses 30s Farmers Club dinner, London

SO: Lord Glenarthur addresses Glasgow Consular Corps, Glasgow

WO: Mr Robinson attends All-Wales Conference on Crime Prevention, Cardiff

WO: Mr Roberts attends Freight Transport Federation lunch, Cardiff

WO: Mr Edwards addresses All-Wales Conference on Crime Prevention, Cardiff; opens bone marrow transplant unit, Health Hospital, Cardiff

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MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

DTI: Mr Channon visits Japan (to November 29)

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TV AND RADIO

"A Week in Politics"; Channel 4 (20.15): With Nick Ross

"Any Questions?"; BBC Radio 4 (20.45): With Sir Marcus Fox MP, Diana Warwick, the Rt Rev Robert Williamson and Magnus Magnusson