

May 18, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister will be interviewed by Primet County Primary School and later will meet Granada Tours schoolchildren

The Queen unveils the Queen Caroline Memorial, Hyde Park, London

Ceremony of the Keys, Holyrood Palace

EC: Culture Council, Brussels

PARLIAMENT

Commons

Business: PRIVATE MEMBERS' MOTIONS
Mr Gerald Bowden
Mr Graham Allen
Mr Robert G Hughes

Adjournment Debates: Reorganisation of Secondary Education in Maidstone
(Ann Widdecombe)

Lords: Starred Questions
Property Services Agency and Crown Suppliers Bill: Third Reading
Environmental Protection Bill: Second Reading
Drug Trafficking Offences Act 1986 (Designated Countries and Territories) Order 1990: Motion for Approval

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Stock market puts on £11 billion in expectation, allegedly fuelled by Lord President and Chancellor, that we shall soon enter ERM. FTSE index up 63.3 points.

Mail: City £11 billion vote for Europe; it claims that the Stock Market soared following an interview by the Chancellor with the Wall Street journal.

Guardian says even if we do become members of the ERM - and the sooner the better - it is not a panacea.

Guardian says Labour's new mini manifesto contains at least 50 separate spending commitments but the document has been edited to prevent the Conservatives costing the plans.

Sir Leon Brittan calls for a European Security Community to provide a vehicle define strategy and a coherent arms procurement policy.

FT suggests this would be in line with last month's Franco-German proposal for a common foreign and security policy.

Gorbachev tells Mrs Prunskiene her offer to suspend new laws after declaration of independence does not go far enough. But the feeling is Moscow and Vilnius are edging towards a deal.

Express says the West's strategy to keep Gorbachev looking like an international leader with a golden future is fine so long as Gorbachev is presiding over the transformation of the Soviet Union. But is that still the case?

Growing doubts over survival of Malcolm Rifkind after senior Ministers clash openly over his remarks following news of closure of Ravenscraig strip mill.

FT says Opposition MPs claim Mr Rifkind was repudiated not only by Sir Geoffrey Howe but also by Bernard Ingham (FT).

Times says you cleared Mr Rifkind's statement.

Express says Mr Rifkind is wrong when he supposes the Govt should intervene. But can you blame him when Nicholas Ridley refers BA's attempt to buy Sabena to MMC.

PRESS DIGEST

Ravenscraig closure may have divided the Cabinet, with Mr Ridley telling colleagues Mr Rifkind had gone "completely over the top", and Sir Geoffrey Howe fuelling speculation about a Cabinet rift with his comments in the House (Independent).

Independent editorial suggests Mr Rifkind is in danger of becoming a "semi-detached" member of the Cabinet. Saying the cross-party alliance which wants to bully British Steel into an uncommercial decision to retain Ravenscraig is short-sighted, it concludes it is an indication of the unhealthy nature of Scottish politics that there is such a marked reluctance to acknowledge what is at worst a necessary evil, and at best a blessing in disguise.

Beef is as safe as rock of Gibraltar, according to technical director of Meat & Livestock Commission, an independent body.

Mail says the popular response to reports about BSE has been one of unjustified panic. But the public needs more reassurance.

Govt scientists hope they may be able to find a way of detecting cows with BSE long before the first clinical signs appear (Independent).

EC says calves born to cows with BSE are banned for export to other member States.

Residents Assn in Havering joins Labour to take control of Council; Tories in Brent refuse to take over after Labour and SLD block their nominations for cttee chairmanship.

Times says hundreds of council workers went on strike yesterday to support colleagues suspended for refusing to collect community charge; 50% unpaid in some areas.

Woman puts on a bet of £10,000 that you will win the next election and take John Smith into your Cabinet in spirit of compromise.

Cabinet to decide next week whether to inject £400million subsidy into Channel Tunnel rail link.

Whitbread to make 1,000 redundant because, it says, of rulings by the MMC on tied pubs.

European Court of Justice rules men and women must be treated equally in occupational pension schemes.

PRESS DIGEST

FT leader welcomes British decision to commit itself to a target for controlling emissions of carbon dioxide, describing it as a watershed in its approach to global warming. When WP is published in the autumn, discussion should focus not merely on the appropriate targets but also on what mixture of regulation and price incentives would best achieve them.

Mail, worrying constructively about homelessness, welcomes trebling of prosecutions for vagrancy in London in past year.

General manager of Lewisham and North Southwark health authority resigns claiming changes will jeopardise services to local people.

Lots of coverage for your Woman's Hour interview on creches.

Today attacks your remarks on working mothers - if they are accepted you will not only be Britain's first woman Prime Minister. You will be the last.

Telegraph - Thatcher to stay until policies entrenched.

Guardian - Thatcher praises value of home life.

Sun, in aftermath of two bombings this week, wants us to require visas for all Irishmen.

Big attack by John Grant, ex Labour MP and SDP, on Paul Boateng - how an IRA bomb in his own backyard brought a quick change of heart from volatile Leftwing MP Boateng.

Guardian leader says Haughey's apparent reluctance to contemplate the apparent flaws in the new extradition procedures fully justified your mournful insistence yesterday that you could not honestly believe they would work.

Two soccer players for Sheffield Utd charged with causing criminal damage, worth £10,000 to holiday jet, flying from Birmingham to Spain.

Telegraph says Stevens report on allegations against security forces in Northern Ireland is the counsel of perfection. Maintenance of confidentiality is almost impossible to secure absolutely.

Mirror, on de Klerk's visit, says if the slaughter of many innocents, black and white, is to be avoided, he will have to use all the forces at his disposal to disarm, disband and crush the Nazi threat to future of South Africa.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent editorial previews your meeting with de Klerk, and goes on to suggest that he is not working for lifting of sanctions, but would prefer the issue to be quietly undermined by the realities of international trade.

Times leader says most European countries are already quietly doing what few will admit - letting sanctions wither on the vine.

Mail features prominently your support for their Romanian Angel Appeal.

Guardian wants the Govt to name names of those who knew about Wallace and Clockwork Orange.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Mr Howard addresses TEC Directors conference, Wembley; later visits Birmingham Employment Service and lunches with editors and local press; later addresses the Institute of Production Engineers
- DEN: Mr Wakeham meets Irish Energy Minister, Mr Robert Molloy
- DES: Mr MacGregor visits Glasgow University
- DH: Mr Clarke attends Yorkshire Regional Health Authority chairman's meeting and lunch, Harrogate
- DOE: Mr Patten visits Gateshead Garden Festival
- HO: Mr Waddington addresses Wessex branch of Magistrates' Association, Basingstoke; later visits HM Prison Elmley Marsh and Hampshire Police
- LPC: Sir Geoffrey Howe visits East Midlands
- SO: Mr Rifkind visits Digital Computers new technology centre, South Newmoor, Irvine; later visits Digital Factory, Mosshill Industrial Estate, Ayr
- DES: Mr Howarth visits Bolton Local Education Authority
- DH: Mr Dorrell visits Gravesend and North Kent Hospital
- DOE: Mr. Chope addresses Institute of Rent Officers biennial conference, Solihull
- DOE: Lord Hesketh attends unveiling of Queen Caroline Statue, Hyde Park
- DTI: Mr Hogg addresses Nottingham Chamber of Commerce on "Inward investment and regional policy"; later opens English Estates managed work space, Derby
- DTI: Mr Redwood opens Thames Valley European Information Centre, Slough
- DTI: Lord Trefgarne gives keynote speech to Institute of Housing annual conference, Edinburgh
- MAFF: Baroness Trumpington visits Devon County Show, Exeter
- SO: Mr Lang addresses the Association of Independent Museums, Dundee
- WO: Mr Roberts visits Irfon Valley Primary School, Llangammarch Wells and visits Newtown Secondary School

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- OAL: Mr Luce attends EC Culture Ministers meeting, Brussels
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TV AND RADIO

"Public Eye" - Divorce BBC 2 (8.00 pm)
Concrete v Countryside

"Any Questions?" BBC Radio 4 (8.05 pm)
With Helena Kennedy, Ian McIntyre, and the Rt Hon David Steel MP
