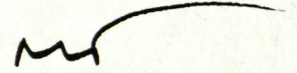


November 7, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS



- Irish Presidential election
- Queen's Speech - State opening of Parliament
- Prime Minister leads Debate on the Address
- Indian Prime Minister faces vote of confidence
- EC informal Education Ministers meeting, Siena (to Thur)
- Karl-Otto Poehl visits London
- Campaign for national cartoon museum launched
- Nature Conservancy Council news conf on sea birds
- Chief Inspector of Railways annual report
- Lord Chancellor gives interview to D/Express on family law
- Tom King gives lunch for regional press
- Tony Newton at Leeds Man of the Year lunch
- Channel 4 "Parliament" programme with Cecil Parkinson

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PRESS DIGESTMain News

You flush out leadership challengers - by setting timetable for any election.

Mirror headline says it all: You Tarzan; Me Clever; Jungle Queen Maggie lures Heseltine into leadership poll trap. Sun says he has thrown in the towel.

Some Tories say a stalking horse will still stand, but Heseltine (who says he won't) is felt to have blown it. And Express says a Conservative groundswell is uniting behind you.

Mail says any candidate will hold off as long as possible as the whole party machine will attempt to roll over anyone who even breathes a challenge.

Local party rebuffs Heseltine as you spring your Tarzan trap. Today accuses him of doublespeak.

Tony Marlow MP in letter to Independent, says you should go for the sake of the party.

CBI call on Govt to get its act together before it is too late.

Speculation that tomorrow's Autumn Statement would be followed by a base rate cut has been countered with signals that monetary policy will remain tight FT.

Times leader says a gradual reduction in interest rates need no longer be postponed for fear of stimulating excess demand. It adds that in the months ahead the Treasury should not be afraid of cutting rates as and when required to stabilise domestic economic conditions.

House prices have slipped 0.2% again in October following a rally in September FT.

Your stance on pound supported by 63% of Britons, according to Assn for Monetary Union.

Sun confronts Delors over his plans to scrap pound; he kisses Sun reporter's hand. It goes on to explain how Delors (and the EC) waste our money.

Agreement on EC negotiating package of GATT - John Gummer says in all major measures British position has been upheld.



PRESS DIGEST

Independent says the wrangle over agriculture shames the EC and radical reform of the CAP must now be tackled.

Times leader says had Britain been responsible for this fiasco European federalists at home and abroad would, rightly, have condemned you for lack of commuataire spirit in resounding terms. For some reason these strictures are not directed at France and Germany. Other EC Govts, no less nationalist in their protectionism, are happy enough to shelter in the Franco-German shadow. Even the Dutch and Danes have been cowed into silence by Franco-German diplomacy.

New car sales down 11.7% this year.

Democrats do less well - and Republicans much less worse - than expected in US mid term election, but Democrats pick up governorships of Texas, Florida, Kansas and Oklahoma.

Star continues to insist there will be war in the Gulf by the end of the week, claiming all Arab Allies have now agreed to full scale war.

Telegraph says Bush won't be ready to go to war before Christmas, according to most political and diplomatic estimates in Washington.

In a letter to the Independent, a British resident still in Kuwait describes falling morale and food stocks, routine Iraqi tortures and killings and calls upon the West to attack and overthrow Saddam Hussain.

Willy Brandt calls for Iraq peace talks.

Ted Heath expects another 50-60 hostages to be released this weekend.

Express criticises former statesmen like Brandt and Nakasone for going pleading to Hussain. You would have thought, it says, their experience of high office would have made them act with greater responsibility.

Mail describes them as "faded stars" queuing up to plead with Iraq.

Gallup poll shows nearly 75% of voters believe the quality of education is declining and more than 66% blame Govt, according to Telegraph.



PRESS DIGEST

Powers to sack bad teachers are not being used enough says Tim Eggar FT.

NHS cuts 4,500 beds to save cash as health authorities blame closures on need to wipe out long-standing debts before the health service 'market' comes in next April Independent.

Independent editorial says Mr Waldegrave faces a difficult winter as the new Health Secretary, with the NHS in as much trouble as in the winter of 1987. His choice is to fudge the books or obtain more money. He is faced by the political necessity of averting an NHS crisis.

National Radiological Protection Board have warned all householders in Devon and Cornwall to have their homes checked for naturally recurring radon because they are concerned it can cause cancer FT.

The IBA is expected to take back the five BSB frequencies and re-advertise them, but in effect allows Sky to absorb BSB in wake of their merger Independent.

Chancellor to be offered Dorneywood.

Bishop Cahal Daly named Catholic Primate of all Ireland.

Judge Pickles told by Lord Chancellor he can no longer accept media fees.

The Lord Chancellor says many more women and blacks will become Judges - but not until the next century Independent.

Politicians and the public must stop worrying about whether the life for prisoners is too soft or too hard and start considering how to reduce the chances of inmates re-offending on release from jail, Judge Tummim tells the Times.

Six killed in motorway crash fireball in Midlands.

Judges start to crack down on lenient sentences - doubling and trebling drink drive sentences. A welcome from Mail.

Community policeman in Leeds knifed 30 times and kicked and beaten unconscious by mob of 30 coloured youths.

Coverage in Mirror, Express, Mail, Telegraph, Independent, Times, Guardian (majoring in Hussain's global ecodisaster of Gulf war) of your Geneva speech.



PRESS DIGEST

20 killed in Iranian earthquake Independent.

You have agreed to see Lithuania's President at Downing Street next week Times.

Kiev students threaten to disrupt army October Revolution parade Independent.

First Soviet stock exchange to start in two months FT.

Gorbachev is to give the 15 Soviet republics virtual freedom to quit Soviet Union if they choose FT.

FT leader on how best to aid eastern Europe says the offer of debt relief, necessary as it will be, should be conditional on the adoption of a determined reform programme. That is why Poland, which has proved the most radical of the East European countries, deserves first place in the queue.

Centre for Economic and Policy Research report claims the rebuilding of Eastern Europe economies could bring financial instability and force realignments within the EMS FT.

Indian PM expected to fail no-confidence vote today, but Gandhi likely to refuse offer to form new Govt and endorse as next PM the leader of breakaway faction of current ruling party Independent.

Nawaz Sharif sworn in as new Pakistani PM Independent.

Inkatha linked to train massacre in South Africa two months ago Independent.

Chamorro faces revolt by Contras FT.

Brundtland swings Norway back to EC FT.

TORY PARTY

Mirror says Tarzan is up the creek without a paddle. Michael the Mug, Tarzan, the Tory Ape Man, has made a right monkey of himself.

Express says the message from his constituency to Heseltine is clear: Belt up. He would be wise to do so. Instead he should concentrate his fire on the misbehaviour of our EC partners rather than your imagined misbehaviour.



PRESS DIGEST

Mail says Heseltine's constituency party were not disposed to be cast in the role of dumb waiters serving poisoned fruit to the Prime Minister. Nothing could show more clearly how far the most fancied contender for the succession has overreached himself.

Guardian believes Heseltine's hopes of early succession to leadership have all but collapsed.

Peter Jenkins, writing in the Independent, reviews Heseltine's aspirations to lead the Conservative Party. After looking at Heseltine's options he concludes that the theatre Heseltine has built around himself demands a flamboyant climax. At some point a Man of Destiny must dare or destiny will turn away in disappointment.

Norman Tebbit, in Independent, says no major figure will stand against you for the Conservative leadership because it would be suicide for them. As Heseltine firmly rules himself out, backbench dissidents still hope Sir Geoffrey Howe might be persuaded to stand, but your friends do not believe he has the stomach for the fight.

Once humiliated Hurd emerges as a power. Philip Stephens writes about the rise of a man thought by many to be capable of leading the Party FT.

Bradford's Tory candidate proclaims herself innocent victim of media "crucifixion" as Conservative campaign edges closer to emphatic defeat Independent.

Times says there is growing pressure to overhaul the Conservative party's by-election team after a lacklustre campaign in the marginal Bradford North constituency.

Martin Jacques, in the Times, says that one of the minor political miracles over the past decade has been Labour's change of stance over Europe. But their new Europeanism is very muted in policy terms. It is defined by posture rather than substance. Under no circumstances must Labour move too far away from you. Nothing must be said which could provide a hostage to fortune. The Tories must be offered no target to aim at.

GULF

Broadly based peace initiative has been launched by four non-aligned members of the UN Security Council (Malaysia, Cuba, Columbia and Yemen), reflecting their desperation to avoid the outbreak of war in the Gulf Independent.



PRESS DIGEST

Sun says John Stokes MP was too harsh when he told families of hostages to stop mewling. But many of the hostages had chosen to work in the Middle East and knew the risks. There can be no deals with Hussain.

After publicly belittling the morale and fighting ability of the Iraqi army, the Americans are circulating an intelligence document to their troops in the Gulf which gives a sobering and almost contradictory assessment of Iraqi forces Independent