

November 8, 1990

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

- Prime Minister has talks with PM of Bangladesh; and Israeli Opposition Leader, Mr Peres
 - Pensioners' lobby of Parliament
 - Autumn Statement - public expenditure
 - Bradford North & Bootle by-elections
 - Diplomatic Corps reception, Buckingham Palace
 - UN oil conference on supplies, Geneva
 - DTI - Your business and the environment - executive guide
 - New earnings survey - analyses by occupation
 - UK/Irish Attorneys-General meet on extra-territorial jurisdiction
 - Work of the Prison Service annual report 1989-90
 - Welsh TV Channel 4 annual report
 - **Lords:** Debate on Address - home & social affairs
 - Lord President addresses Chemical Industries Assn
 - Chancellor speaks in London
 - Chris Patten at Citizen in the Environment lunch
 - John Gummer at Prague Agriculture Book Fair
 - John Wakeham addresses French Chamber of Commerce
 - Lynda Chalker addresses British Refugee Council AGM
 - David Mellor addresses AMA annual meeting, Bolton
 - BBC Radio 4 "Analysis" - migration from Eastern Europe
 - BBC TV Question Time includes David Mellor
-

PRESS DIGESTMain News

Your warning to Iraq to get out of Kuwait draws a storm of personal abuse from Baghdad. Price of oil jumps 2.5 dollars. Dow Jones sheds 44 points.

Cardinal Hume, in letter to Times, says war has to be "truly the last resort".

John Biffen, in the House, warns that Britain risks involvement in "another sickening example of winning the war, but losing the peace" if the Gulf crisis escalates into military confrontation.

Iraq to release another 350 Western hostages - mostly Germans and Poles - and 1,000 Soviet technicians.

Bush attacks Heath, Brandt, Nakasone and others who go to plead with Hussain for allowing themselves to be used.

10 British women fly to Baghdad today to plead for the release of up to 100 hostages, in the first direct appeal by wives, mothers and a fiancée Independent.

Head of UN Sanctions Cttee says medicines provided to Iraq under an exemption could be used for chemical and biological warfare Times.

Japan's Govt has effectively abandoned its plans to send troops to the Gulf Times.

Sun says of King Hussain's warning of an ecological disaster from war in Gulf that he is a hypocrite; by his deception he has made war more likely.

Third place forecast for Tories in Bradford North by-election.

Leadership challenge thought to have receded, but doubts over Heseltine's intentions.

Kenneth Baker appeals to Tory MPs to avoid an unnecessary and unwanted leadership battle Independent.

You are seen to be clearing decks for a Spring poll with tighter than usual legislative programme.

Mail comment on USA and USSR: Both superpowers, in their very different ways, are sick.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent editorial says considering how gloomy the Americans are feeling at the moment, it is mildly surprising they did not vote for more change in the mid-term elections. But the results are not good news for Bush. While mid-term elections cannot be read as direct votes of confidence in the Administration, the President's indecision has been reflected in the indecision of the voters. He emerges with less authority in Congress and therefore in the world.

Trade partners of the EC serve notice that they will not settle for the EC's proposed 30% cut in farm subsidies.

Your stance on Europe defended by David Owen Times.

MPs hope to secure a vote on hanging during Criminal Justice Bill's passage.

Sky-BSB gets go-ahead Mail.

137 nations, meeting in Geneva, agree plans to cut emissions of greenhouse gases.

Times Science Editor, Niel Hawkes, accuses you of accepting cant on global warming, saying that the overheated rhetoric in Geneva is premature and potentially very damaging.

Gunman fires shots close to Gorbachev in Red Square during October Revolution parade. Today says Gorbachev was saved by a shove.

Terry Marsh, boxer, acquitted of attempting to murder his former manager; pops describe trial as an expensive and unnecessary farce - Star; a trial brought without forensic, circumstantial or identification evidence - Sun; brought to trial on evidence that wouldn't have convicted him of a parking offence - Mirror.

India's Prime Minister resigns after vote of no confidence in Govt.

Likely successor in Chandra Shekhar, leader of a breakaway Janata Dal group, who has the support of Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) party Independent.

Kohl and the Polish PM, Mazowieki, meet today for discussions on improving relations. But behind the discussions on a grand treaty on "good neighbourliness and co-operation" lies evidence that the relationship is far from easy Independent.

PRESS DIGEST

Mazowieki will press Kohl for swift border treaty to confirm the Oder-Neisse line when they meet today FT.

Lech Walesa to step down as leader of Solidarity whatever the outcome of the presidential elections which he is tipped to win FT.

South Africa's Dutch Reformed Church formally declares apartheid a sin Independent.

US drugs chief has quit - claiming he believes his job is done FT.

QUEEN'S SPEECH DEBATE - PRESENTATION

The main themes: you give stern warning to Saddam Hussain in speech; you clear the decks for Spring poll in programme.

Star p1 - Maggie clears the decks for snap poll. Prime Minister comes out fighting. Wiped the floor with Kinnock. Vintage Maggie. Threat of stalking horse receded.

Sun p2 - Get out or go down in flames, Saddam! Maggie's war cry to Iraq's tyrant. You clear way for Spring election.

Today p2 - We are ready for war with the Barbarian. Leader says you came close to playing Falklands card. It could all so easily rebound. Your popular style is unshakeable determination; yesterday you came alarmingly near to bravado.

Mirror p6 - Thatcher urges Gulf crisis to save her own skin. Tories clear decks for a poll - but Maggie may not have courage to call it.

Express leads with "Stormin' Maggie - she trounces sniping Neil; last warning for Saddam. Leadership challenge fast diminishing. Inside: Maggie clears decks for a summer poll.

Mail p1 lead - God speed to our troops. Electrifies house at end of an otherwise lacklustre speech. Inside: Maggie speeds the wheels of Britain - ie transport Bills.

Telegraph p1 lead - Thatcher warns Iraq that Allies are set to fight. Your position bolstered. Your critics divided over tactics. Kinnock's lacklustre speech.

Guardian p1 lead - Thatcher plays the Gulf card. "War leader" warns off Heseltine.

PRESS DIGEST

Independent p1 lead - "Thatcher stands her ground on EC", but heightens doubts about your leadership giving no quarter on the Conservative rift over policy towards Europe. Shortly after the debate, a senior backbencher agreed to manage a contingency anti-Thatcher campaign for a leadership challenge for a candidate yet to emerge. Heseltine receiving conflicting advice about standing, and Sir Geoffrey Howe receiving advice he should stand.

Times p1 lead - "Thatcher defies critics on EC and leadership; hint of war in threat to Saddam". You rally Conservative MPs with a confident Commons performance in which you play down policy differences between yourself and Geoffrey Howe and signal your determination to fight for your own vision of the EC. With no sign of a stalking horse emerging, Tory MPs feel you have strengthened your position by out-scoring Kinnock.

QUEEN'S SPEECH SUBSTANCE

Sun says it was the big yawn. When is BR going to be privatised? We should be told.

Today takes a good deal of satisfaction in the Queen's Speech since it says it has campaigned for most things on the list. But it wants you to do more.

Express says you looked a winner all the way. The very idea of a stalking horse saying neigh to you seemed quite absurd. And Kinnock seemed to be more of a stalking mouse with the emptiest speech since his last one. His only achievement: to bring the Tories closer together.

Mail says the legislative programme sounded an irrelevance and your much heralded confrontation with Kinnock contrived when over the Houses of Parliament beat the wings of war. "As the storm gathers, Britain is fortunate that this Prime Minister, already tried and tested, is still at the helm".

Paul Johnson, in Mail, says you show no signs of metal fatigue. Heseltine's inept intervention has helped you. Kinnock demonstrated he lacks the killer instinct. It can even be argued that you are in a stronger position than before Howe resignation.

Colin Welch, in Mail, contrasts the promise of a broken, demoralised and out of touch Prime Minister with what we got yesterday - strident, combative, argumentative, confident, fantastically resilient.

PRESS DIGEST

Telegraph leader on "A light programme" regrets your judgment in bringing back War Crimes Bill but says other parts of the programme are excellent. But none of the new measures will shake the world and that is what you intend. A general election is approaching. The IGCs, Autumn Statement, interest rates, opinion polls and the psychological state fo the Tory Party are all more important in the future debate.

Guardian sketchwriter says the best you could say of Kinnock's speech was that he was indicating a desire to stay on as Leader of the Opposition after the next election; the best that can be said of yours is that you didn't make your position worse.

Hugo Young, in Guardian, asks why was your speech so easy in the event? Because Heseltine went into auto-destruct at the weekend. The Tory Party was willing you to succeed. A routine castigation of Kinnock which had point. And because you were back in control.

Guardian leader says it all remains pretty perilous for you. Along with the economy, the Gulf and our future in Europe, you are an issue.

Reviewing the debate, Peter Jenkins, in Independent, says the election campaign has begun. While your speech yesterday may aid you in any possible leadership contest, you changed your position on the party's most divisive issue, Europe, not one jot. With the hustings open, Labour's inconsistency matters less than the Govt's middle and the electoral significance of Europe is that it reinforces a time-for-a-change mentality by advertising your character, disarray in the Govt, and divided state fo the Party.

Independent: Mixed reception for proposed transport plans, with broad welcome for improved road safety and tougher penalties, but road improvement proposals using private finance dismissed as either irrelevant or impractical. Criminal Justice proposals seen as liberal but yet tough. In its Westminster sketch the Independent says Kinnock blew his whole speech with the intrusion of the phoney interruption. This lost him the sympathy and attention of the House.

Under the heading "Mistress of the House" Times leader says whatever your shortcomings your dominance over the Commons is impressive. Kinnock had some good lines, but his style lacks the vital ingredient of a good speech, incisiveness. It adds that unlike your predecessors, your stomach for a fight after many years in office has not shrunk. But you are far from out of trouble.

PRESS DIGEST

Times leader discusses the proposed "Red Routes" saying in an otherwise lacklustre legislative programme, Cecil Parkinson's department will take the lion's share of the last full session before a General Election.

Independent editorial says that you failed yesterday in your most vital task - to reunify the Conservative Party by adopting a less extreme attitude towards Europe, reiterating your resolute hostility towards European economic and monetary union. You are becoming an intolerable party leader and you made a challenge to your leadership more likely, more justifiable and more urgent.

FT - You pledge full UK role in European co-operation. Your more emollient tone was seen as an attempt to head off a leadership challenge next week. Michael Heseltine has been urged to stand.

FT leader on your speech says it represented a middle of the road position within the Tory Party. That will do for party unity for the moment. Whether it will last will depend on your colleagues perceptions of whether a year of low-key hard slog is possible to maintain, and, if it is, whether they really believe that will be sufficient to enable you to proclaim that the Govt deserves a fourth term.

EC

Taxpayers in EC to fork out extra £200million in next few months to buy up surplus beef.

INDUSTRY

Caledonian Airways appoint 30-year-old woman as managing director - the first to run an airline in Britain Times.

Travel agents accused of failing to deal properly with the complaints of 400,000 dissatisfied holiday makers last year, leaving them frustrated and angry Times.

Jaguar 12.5% pay deal jeopardised by fear of change in working practices Times.

Survey shows that secretarial salaries have increased by 28% in some parts of the country Times.

Up to 60,000 small family farms could be forced out of business in Britain over next 5 to 10 years if EC subsidy cuts are implemented Times.

PRESS DIGEST

Sainsburys announce 27% improvement in interim pre-tax profits to £273.4million. The grocery chain is to issue £200million of convertible capital bonds to fund an extensive capital expenditure plan FT.

EDUCATION

Mirror says Tories have finally buried Kenneth Baker's national curriculum with Tim Eggar's call for "flexibility" and "choice".

HEALTH

Survey claims that more than 82,000 patients on waiting lists could have been treated this year if hospitals had not had to close 3,563 beds Times.

GMC planning new disciplinary procedure to act against incompetent doctors Times.

Some casualty patients having to lie on trolleys for up to 24 hours before admission to King's College Hospital in London, because of bed shortages Independent.

More than 3,500 hospital beds - equivalent to more than 2% of all NHS acute beds - will lie unused this year for purely financial reasons on health authorities' group estimates FT.

LAW & ORDER

Law firms hoping to be given "franchises" to offer legal aid may need to obtain British Standards Institute kitemark Independent.

MEDIA

BSB squarials will be withdrawn from sale today and the first of what could be hundreds of job losses were announced by BSB last night Times.

Sunday Correspondent asking shareholders for more money to ensure survival.

Independent negotiating 30% sale to Italian and Spanish papers.

CONSERVATION

Prince of Wales calls on the Govt to introduce major tax reforms to encourage the preservation and repair of historic buildings Times.