

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY

EC: Agriculture Council, Brussels.

Deadline for Rates Reform Green Paper responses.

Mr Whitelaw sees GLC leaders on race and policing.

SDP and Liberals conclude seats share-out.

Revised D-Notices published.

British Association of Social Workers Conference, Bath.

National Union of Journalists Conference, Coventry.

National Union of Insurance Workers Conference, Bournemouth.

HO Bicentenary Lecture: Sir Cyril Philips - "The Making of the English Police".

Mr Prior meets Mr Collins.

Mrs Gandhi to announce prospect of UK engineering contracts.

Statistics:

National Income and Expenditure in the 4th qtr and year 1981.

Unemployment and unfilled vacancies (Feb-final).

Employment in the production industries (Jan).

Overtime and short-time working in manufacturing industries (Jan).

Stoppages of work due to industrial disputes (Feb).

Publications:

Employment Gazette.

Pay:

NHS Medical Laboratory Scientific Officers: further discussions on increase in line with RPI.

University Technicians: Management response to claim for 12 per cent.

Parliament

Commons:

Questions: Foreign and Commonwealth, Foreign and Commonwealth (EC).

Business: Remaining stages of the Oil and Gas (Enterprise) Bill.

- Select Committees: DEFENCE: Ministry of Defence Organisation and Procurement. (Witnesses: Department of Industry).
- PUBLIC ACCOUNTS: Finance assistance to Chrystal Ltd and Antrim Crystal Ltd; Provision and Later Sale of Sports Complex; Financial Assistance for provision of facilities for youth clubs. (Witnesses: Mr K P Bloomfield and Mr J H Parkes, N.I. Office).
- SOCIAL SERVICES: Public Expenditure White Paper: health expenditure. (Witnesses: DHSS).
- EMPLOYMENT: Youth unemployment and training. (Witnesses: The Institute of Careers Officers).
- TREASURY AND CIVIL SERVICE COMMITTEE: The Government's Expenditure Plans 1982-83 to 1984-85. (Witnesses: HM Treasury officials).
- WELSH AFFAIRS: Scrutiny of Welsh Office Departments. (Witnesses: Welsh Office Finance Group).
- Lords: Short debate on the problems of the regeneration of inner, middle and outer areas of old cities.
- Short debate on the Consultative Document on the Reform of the Law relating to Copyright, Designs and Performers' Protection.
- U.Q. on the Queen's Flight.

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

European Council

- The French in the dog house, with Mandate lead story of Euro Council.
- Your remarks that you are stubborn and have much to be stubborn about, plus the fact that you are not palmable-offable come through strongly.
- Some suggestions that you refuse to attend lunch after Council because of annoyance with French.
- Thorn upset; ridiculous for any of Head of State or Govt to throw out any set of proposals even as basis for discussion without suggesting alternative.
- Guardian says Brussels professionals nonetheless expect a settlement by end of May; but no one expects Agricultural Ministers to get far this week.
- Sun is by far the most virulent - all 9 other countries hopping mad with Mitterrand; and a feature brands French as biggest crooks of Europe - broken virtually every rule in the EC book to feather their own nests; leader says Sun has never liked French - you have come up with a French phrase which roughly translated means "Go take a running jump".
- Times says you will not give way to French.
- Also plenty of coverage in qualities of other aspects of Council; and Peter Jenkins, Guardian, finds that 25 years on there is a stirring towards something new, both in terms of the EC and Euro/American relations though no one can quite see what it is, at this stage.

Falklands

- This is the next big story - and the story in the pops - with gunboats, including Navy oil tankers and nuke submarines heading south for a confrontation with the Argentine.
- Decision to scrap Endurance abandoned.
- Lord Carrington says position is potentially dangerous and Richard Luce says our duty is to protect Islands; and Mail says we must.
- Riots in Argentine over economy.
- Express cartoon says that while we are strong enough to blow the world to bits we aren't strong enough to remove 10 Argentine scrap metal men.

Other comment:

- David Watt, Times, says it is one of the most incongruous and unnecessary international disputes that have broken out; Argentine well worth investment of some time, however, to improve relations.
- FT sees patient diplomacy as way forward in hope that Argentines are sabre rattling and have enough sense not to draw them.
- Guardian says it is wise to speak softly even when you are carrying a big stick but when you aren't it's essential; something slightly ridiculous about the nature of these events.

Economy

- Japanese exports drop 12% in Feb.
- Pay rises for manual workers up 10% in year to Oct 81; company profits up 25% in second half of 81 but living standards static.
- Hopes of early US economic recovery set back as leading indicators fall 0.3% in Feb.
- Saudi Arabia play it cool on support for Nigeria who identifies oil purchase cuts.
- Du Cann and Barnett join forces to create wider role for PAC and C&AG; and Barnett tables amendment to allow C&AG to investigate local govt.

Industry

- Burman company wants workers to take £9-18 a week pay cuts some redundancies, cut backs in bonuses and higher productivity to save jobs; but Sun says executives will keep salaries and perks.
- B/Aerospace announced increased profits of £71m.
- Britain to restore cuts in bilateral aid to India in exchange for big engineering contracts.
- Allegations that BSC executives in South Wales took bribes for steel during steel strike being investigated.
- Overseas sales of Landrovers rise 45% in Jan; workers now on Saturday shifts.
- Ford to make 1700 redundant at Thames Foundry.
- British Technology Group to invest up to £15m in biotechnology.
- Govt introduces £20m scheme to help smaller engineering firms invest in high technology.
- Opposition accuse Govt of blind vandalism in getting rid of 16 ITBs without plans for replacing them.
- Govt planning to sell off its computer design centre.

- Britain no longer in top 10 shipbuilders.
- Mail says B/Rail is making a pompous and patronising ass of itself over no smoking in restaurant and buffet cars.

Unions/Pay

- Signs that TGWU call for general strike of its members at Heathrow in support of baggage handlers who have been out for 8 weeks has flopped.
- BL Bathgate workers accept £3.84 on advice of shop stewards after claiming £20.
- 15 NUJ officials strike during union conference over pay.
- Gas unions decide to go to arbitration.
- RSNT likely to be re-shaped after rostering row is over; opposition to re-appointment of McCarthy.

Labour Law

- Mr Tebbit may introduce a second Bill to allow employers to lay off people during strikes, require secret ballots and to change political levy system.

Media.

- BBC buys Oscar winning British film "Chariots of Fire" for £1.1m to show in 1984.

Local Authorities

- 6 Worcester and Hereford dinner ladies carry on privately after getting sack - charge 45p and take wage cuts.
- Basingstoke Council planning to employ a financial adviser for council tenants.

Law and Order

- Home Sec gets mad with Livingstone for his attack on London police racism and bigotry and also lays into Foot for highly irresponsible talks about riots this summer.
- Sun says Livingstone's remarks appalling irresponsibility and with Hattersley, sneering at McNee, forms a deadly duo; heaven help this country if law and order were to fall into their feeble hands.
- Life in gaols squalid and degrading according to first report from Chief Inspector of Prisons.
- Government gives support to curfew plan for young thugs.
- Sun says Law Commission wants a new crime of riot with sentences of up to 14 years.
- £100m Krugerrands into bullion VAT swindle being investigated; 19 detained.
- Outbreak of violence and mugging in Bournemouth.
- Paul Johnson, in Mail, says last thing Chief Constables want is to be dragged into politics; they are being dragged in through desperation; all part of an orchestrated campaign by Left Wingers on GLC to grab control of law and order.
- Mail says GLC to spend £40,000 on a news sheet monitoring police - £34,865 on Community Alliance for Police Accountability, and £14,200 on Lambeth Police Monitoring Group.

Ireland

- Irish Republic police declare war on IRA and call for its total defeat; police association says it wants to subject Irish people to totalitarianism and military dictatorship.
- Richard Burke leaves Opposition to become EC Commissioner; eases Haughey's majority problem and dismays Opposition.

Welfare/Medical

- Death grant may be replaced by much higher funeral grant for needy.
- Govt suppressing CPRS alcohol report.

Politics

- More newspaper pressure on SDP to define policies - Mirror says breaking the mould is a platitude not a policy.
- Policy split between Liberals and Alliance and within Alliance mentioned in connection with defence, incomes policy and labour law etc.
- Labour planning compromise on Lords - to appoint enough to give it build rather than get shut; Benn says people have been against Lords since 1066.
- Some SDP MPs want Owen or Mrs Williams to stand against Jenkins to give warning they expect a Left of centre party.
- Substantial Labour victory in National Union of Student elections to replace communist hold on leadership.

People

- William Rees-Davies MP ordered to pay compensation to family who rented Corfu villa - dirty, damp and smelly.
- Mail says Prince Charles and Princess Di are planning to sell Highgrove and take over Belton home of Brownlows.

Pope

- Hume says he felt slightly ashamed having to tell Pope about opposition to his visit and threat of demos.
- Opposition intensified by report that Pope should head Anglican/Catholic Church.

International

- USA - space shuttle lands safely after third flight.
- El Salvador - 5 right wing parties to form ruling alliance; outlook for Duarte poor.
- Poland - Walesa's latest child taken to see him.
- France - Carlos, the international terrorist, being blamed for explosion on train which kills 5.

B. INGHAM
31 March 1982

Ministers:

- Mr Tebbit speaks to Jewish Blind Society, Painter's Hall. (12.00noon).
- Mr Fowler attends ICI lunch, London. (1.00pm).
- Mr Nott visits British Aerospace, Warton, Lancs.
- Baroness Young addresses Royal Society of Chemists.
- Lord Carrington visits Israel (until 1 April).
- Mr Walker and Mr Buchanan-Smith attend EC Agriculture Council, Brussels.
- Mr Morrison attends CBI members meeting, Reading. Discussion with NTI (5.00pm).
- Mr Waddington speaks to North West Electricity Board, House of Commons. (7.00pm).
- Mr Mellor visits the South West on Energy Supply Interruptions.
- Mr Baker speaks at BMMA seminar.
- Mr Wakeham visits BBC Kingswood Warren.
- Mr Shaw visits Water Research Centre, Medmenham, Oxon.
- Lord Bellwin chairs RSA 1982 Thomas Cubbitt Lecture on "Democratic Architecture".
- Mr Stanley launches Tenants Exchange Scheme. (Press Conference).
- Mr Sproat speaks at Sea Trade launch.
- Mr Channon visits Hatfield Polytechnic and the National Reprographic Centre. (11.30am).
- Mr Clarke visits new District Health Authority, Peterborough.
- Mr Finsberg visits Nottingham University Hospital.
- Mr Newton attends MENCAP fund raising launch, Bakers Hall, London. (12.00 noon)
- Lord Elton attends reception for Thai Ambassador, Kensington Town Hall. (6.15 pm).
- Mr Blaker meets TGWU delegation from Chatham dockyard.
- Mr King speaks at Caravan Club 75th Anniversary lunch, Guildhall.
- Mr Wiggin visits HQ AFSOUTH, Naples (until 2 April).
- Mr Luce visits Mexico and Bermuda (until 9 April).