

PRIME MINISTER

PRESS DIGEST

Williamsburg

- The relatively short closing statement reflects overall tone of "unity and co-operation in pursuing common economic and political goals".
- Reagan rebuffed on US deficits.
- Concept of an International Monetary Conference endorsed but Geoffrey Howe pours cold water on the idea. Telegraph headline "Thatcher policies endorsed by Summit" - the Summit set the tone for yesterday's campaigning. Foot attacks it as "more reminiscent of Hollywood than the real world".
- David Owen appalled that PM did not obtain dual key control of Cruise.
- Pops highlight PM's all action move from Summit to hustings and are rivetted by details of her journey.
- Mail comment contrasts PM in the limelight at Williamsburg with the two would-be woebegone PMs-in-waiting.
- Harold Jackson in the Guardian says Summit leaders declaration on defence and arms control was Mrs T's idea and goes into the "behind the scenes" disagreements.

Election

- Alliance up 4% in TV-AM telephone poll.
- Labour and Alliance decline Sir Robert Armstrong's invitation to discuss machinery of Government changes.
- Healey elbows out Foot to take leading role in exposing Conservatives "real programme" composed of leaks and Ministerial kite flying and lists "horrors in store".
- Steel leads Alliance attack seeing Mrs T as "convener of shop stewards" needing to free herself from the conscience of her own Party to implement "concealed Manifesto".
- Labour to abolish VAT on entrance to sports events.
- Patrick Jenkin and Nigel Lawson underline Tory pledges to extend de-nationalisation.
- Lord Home calls on voters to "wipe Labour off the map".
- Times leader considers landslide implications but says Governments will have to learn to spend less before they can tax less.
- Express says Foot thrust aside by Hattersley and Healey but Labour still heading leftwards towards the rocks. Same paper urges readers against the temptation of voting Alliance.
- Heavy coverage for "Gang of Four" struggle to keep their seats.
- Norman Fowler responding to Labour challenge says he will publish Tory plans for future Health Service.
- Sun's election desk reports upsurge of interest in Alliance.

- Guardian notices Tory plans to curb speed of express coaches on motorways and highlights Tories plan to extend role of private sector in NHS hospitals drawing on confidential draft circular to be released by Labour Party today.
- Telegraph leader sees "diverting novelty" in Labour and Alliance demoting their leaders during the campaign.

Defence

- Moscow reacts to Summit arms control declaration saying it shows "destruction of detente".
- Express and Telegraph say Carrington is front runner to become head of NATO and that he would have Mrs T's blessing if he does.
- National Association of Teachers in further and higher education vote to cut their link with CND.
- Staff at Quaker HQ to withhold tax as protest against Government's "preparations for war".
- European NATO Governments including Britain oppose call big increase in conventional arms spending by US Supreme Military Commander Europe.

Economy

- CBI's most optimistic forecast for 4 years attracts attention. Sun headlines it "boom time Britain boost for Maggie".
- Professor Patrick Minford, Head of Liverpool Research Group, in controversial economic forecast gives unequivocal support to Thatcher. Criticism is expected since the Group has £65,000 grant from SSRC at the expense of the Cambridge Economic Policy Group which had its grant slashed.

Civil Service

- Sir Donald Maitland writing in "Management in Government" sees need for Civil Service morale boost and says his old Department, the FCO, devoted inadequate attention to Parliament.
- Civil Service Commission say "poor image" is one reason for failure of Whitehall to attract sufficient "high flyers" - last year only 22 out of 44 places were filled.
- Peter Hennessey describes how the Government machine goes on "automatic pilot" in election time.
- Guardian leader sees Government getting "tetchier and twitchier" about "leaky mandarins" and draws attention to new "super secret" security classification for documents introduced in Whitehall.

Overseas

- Times leader says Greenland's goodbye to the EEC is a reminder of "prodigious confusion" that would accompany Britain's attempt to get out.
- Norway to announce three-Party non-Socialist coalition Government today to replace Conservative minority administration.
- Spain to buy US combat aircraft in preference to Tornado, the European confender.

Ireland

- Second IRA man hunted by the police in connection with possible plot to assassinate one of the Party political leaders turns up in the Republic.
- Disagreements emerge from yesterday's first meeting of the New Ireland Forum at Dublin Castle.
- John Akass in the Sun pays tribute to the "decent brave man" Gerry Fitt battling to keep his West Belfast seat.

Employment

- Express says people march for jobs is a flop - barely 300 arrived at Luton yesterday.
- Dockers working at Felixstowe, Britain's most successful privately owned port, earned an average £12,000 a year with some making £20,000.
- Top Japanese companies investing here praise British workers and say "strikes are rare in the private sector".



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