

PRIME MINISTER

MEDIA MEETING - FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1983

A G E N D A

1. The Weekend Ahead
2. Broadcasting
3. Press Digest

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THE WEEKEND AHEAD

It looks like a nice, quiet mid-summer weekend.

The Sundays are likely to assess the implications of the Pope's visit to Poland and for the economy of this week's combination of bad news - mortgage rates and trade figures.

Otherwise main events are:

Tomorrow

- Vice-President Bush in West Germany;
- Wimbledon;
- Prudential World Cup (cricket).

Sunday

- Italian General Election.
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BROADCASTING

Saturday, June 25

Radio 4            8.46am    Yesterday in Parliament.

Radio 4            10.05am   The Week in Westminster: Discussion on Queen's Speech. Future of Labour Party. Edward Du Cann on Select Committees.

Radio 4            12.02pm   Money Box: Financial problems of everyday life.

Channel 4          7.00pm    A Week in Politics: Will Liberals and SDP merge? David Steel interviewed on the Alliance's future.

~~BBC 2~~            ~~8.30pm~~   Inquiry: Will Britain Work Again? The microchip and its effect on industry is examined. Some see it as a saviour to industry while others regard it as a job destroyer. David Dimbleby and Andrew Neil probe the future of work.

Sunday, June 26

BBC 1            10.35am   The Silicon Factor: Second in a series of investigations into the micro-electronics revolution.

Radio 4            11.15am   Weekend: Actress Gayle Hunnicutt and her husband Simon Jenkins are interviewed by Vivien Smart.

~~Radio 4~~            1.00pm    The World this Weekend: Feature on President Mitterrand's troubles in France. Difficulties in licensing new drugs plus a piece on amalgamation of smaller unions.

Channel 4          2.00pm    Irish Angle: likely to be a profile on Gerry Fitt.

Channel 4          5.00pm    Union World: Gus MacDonald chairs this week's discussion which looks at industry and business from the union man's angle.

Channel 4          5.30pm    Face the Press: not yet finalised.

ITV                9.30pm    Flying into the Wind: Second of four dramas looking at different aspects of education. This week the dyslexic pupil in a rural area.

Channel 4          10.55pm   The Case for Deterrence: Gen. Bernard Rogers US Army, NATO Supreme Commander Europe answer European journalists' questions.

Diary

Prime Minister hosts lunch for, and speaks at launching of the European Democratic Group.

Prime Minister meets Mr Dankert.

Prime Minister meets Vice-President Bush.

Greenham Common women demonstration in Whitehall.

Debate on the Address - Industry and Privatisation.

Statistics:

Balance of payments current account and overseas trade figures (May).  
Sales and orders in the engineering industries (March).

Publications:

Data Protection Bill.  
125th annual report of the Board of Inland Revenue.  
British Business feature on Tycom computers and supplement on British Overseas Trade Board.  
Housing and Building Control Bill.

Ministers:

Mr Tebbit visits South East.  
Mr Younger at reception for nursing organisations, Edinburgh Castle; and speaks to Association of Health Service Treasurers, Stirling University  
Mr Heseltine speaks at Royal United Service Institute on "UK priorities and strategic interests".  
Mr Fowler speaks at National Association of Health Authorities meeting, Harrogate.  
Mr Jopling visits Billingsgate Market.  
Mr Jenkin speaks at annual conference, Institute of Housing, Brighton.  
Mr Pattie speaks to Institute of Strategic Studies on "Ministerial view of defence cost inflation".  
Mr Hurd at launch of European Democratic Union.  
Mr Lamont speaks at INMAC opening, Runcorn.

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PRESS DIGEST

Hanging

- D/Star: An early hanging vote for Commons - hardliners happy.  
Mr Brittan announces early free vote.
- Mail: Tory anger over early vote - some MPs accuse Government of trying to rush a vote to stop restoration of capital punishment.

- Telegraph: Is it not apparent that what we are missing in the law is not only severity but, much more important, certainty?
  - Guardian: page 1 lead - Hanging lobby in fear of defeat, Ministers would prefer vote before Recess and Tory Party conference.
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#### Law and Order

- Criticism of ex-West Yorkshire Chief Constable by MP for selling Ripper memoirs to a Sunday newspaper; Tom Torney says it is sordid and indefensible; fee reported to be £40,000.
- Sun welcomes Government's recognition of social change by proposing to end divorced husband's automatic commitment to provide for ex-wife for life.
- Police uncover nationwide stolen hire car racket: 25 held.
- Value of jewels stolen in Conduit Street armed raid put at £10m.
- Mr Brittan rejects Oxford jail Governor's ideas about summary justice can't condone support for use of violence.
- Rudy Narayan, coloured barrister, says Bar is riddled with racism.

#### Defence

- Mr Heseltine shuts down firing ranges after 5 year old girl hit by bullet; woman killed in April near same spot.
- Prince Edward to join Marines on probation.

### Economy

- Andreas Whittam Smith examines international role of Governor of Bank in Telegraph.

### Pope

- Pope meets Walesa after talks with Jaruzelski; no budging by Government on talks with Solidarity.
- Reagan hails visit as ray of hope for Polish people; no-one can crush their spirit.
- Vatican newspaper describes Poland as a country in a state of war.
- Mirror says his 8 days in Poland have been unforgettable and he won't be allowed back in a hurry. But too much should not be expected of visit. No possibility of Poland being free outside Soviet system so long as it exists. After nearly 40 years inside Soviet fortress still a Polish democracy trying to get out.
- Guardian says Government has proposed close co-operation with Church; leader says question of whether Polish powers temporal or spiritual won from visit won't be answered for months. That the Pope's moral messages were interpreted as an attack on regime underlines the regimes's dubious moral legitimacy.
- Times says Moscow shows anxiety in spite of silence; leader says visit has confirmed strength of Polish unity and has raised further Church's moral stature and strengthened Christian faith in atheist states.

### Politics

- // Sun takes Tory MPs to task for baiting Foot in debate on Address - not a pretty sight, Churchill recommended magnanimity in victory.
- Sun leader says Jem Mortimer, like Scargill, expects the public to change their views on disarmament and trade unions rather than Labour Party - with that kind of arrogance King William will be celebrating diamond jubilee before Labour catch a whiff of power.
- Tribune says Kinnock/Hattersley leadership ticket would be a nightmare - simply perpetuate disastrous fudge that has cursed party.
- Telegraph says Harold Walker is a popular choice as Deputy Speaker.
- Telegraph says behaviour of trade union leaders during Labour leadership preliminaries will have converted another large number of trade unionists to Mr Tebbit's plans.
- Ian Mikardo fined £20 for car obstruction during election campaign - complains of police harassment.

### Unions/Pay

- Scargill threatens to keep balloting members over pit closures until they vote for a strike after critical report on industry from Monopolies Commission. Express calls Scargill "yapping jackal of slagheaps"; he doesn't care whether pits are exhausted, dangerous, losing millions or alternative better paid work - just wants to fight; Mail says Monopolies Commission has come up with damning conclusions; closure programme must be speeded up, for more than a decade bargaining power of miners has damaged coal - and Britain; how successfully Ian MacGregor meets challenge and how staunchly Government backs him could be a significant test of Britain's will to recover; Times says at moment NCB is wasting a third of its investment and large amount of management efforts shoring up uneconomic pits.
- Selective strikes planned from Monday against privatisation of B/Telecom.
- TGWU members at Merthyr Tydfil close cemetaries in dispute over barmaid's job at leisure centre - cause funerals to be postponed.
- Sun says moderation rules on railways and 4.5% settlement will still keep them ahead of inflation. How about some fare reductions?
- NUPE bars 1,200 ambulance men from taking part in nuclear war exercise Fire Brigades Union also refuses to co-operate.
- Express campaigns for better pay deal for clergy - raises questions about distribution of Church Commissioners' £1.4bn resources.
- FT still strikebound, talks did not materialise yesterday.
- Equal Opportunities Commission says progress on equal pay has come to a halt these last five years.
- Water employees want to continue with national pay deal.

### Industry

- Legal and General launch scheme to create 1,500 jobs in small business over 3 years, offering technical and financial support.
- US Ambassador summoned to D/Trade yesterday in row over US inquiry into Laker collapse; told Britain is ready to ban companies co-operating with inquiry.
- Weir Group announce 400 redundancies at Albion pump plant.
- National Freight Corporation now offering shares to employees who don't have any; those who took them our initially have trebled their money.

- Government to ban import of any products containing blue asbestos after signing of EC agreement.

#### Local Authorities

- Visit of Mayor of Moscow to GLC from July 9 will cost £12,000; will be target for campaign by Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry.

#### £ Coin

- Mail leads paper on 'The Pound Britain Doesn't Want'; fewer than one third of 250m £1 coins minted in circulation because of spontaneous consumer rebellion; Washington had to abandon \$ coin for same reason; leader says you should prove you are a populist by withdrawing it from circulation.

#### Health/Welfare

- Opposition protests at 3.7% uprating for pensions - a little more (4.3%) for those on Supplementary Benefit. Brynmore John says it will leave pensioners without adequate protection against inflation.
- Mr Tebbit to block YTS pay rise from £25 a week.
- Health Authorities in conference tells Mr Fowler they will not co-operate if Government tries to force them to privatise services.

#### Housing

- 2 associated with Strongbridge Housing Association leave Tory Group of GLC on eve of debate of report on association.
- Underspending on housing investment last year was £800m - Guardian.

#### Education

- Schools Council urges more primary school teaching of mother-tongues; 100 languages spoken by children at State schools.

EC

- Ted Heath says your £450m rebate was a reasonable arrangement; nothing to apologise for.
- Some hope of cheaper pub drinks and petrol as Commission outlaws exclusive distribution systems.
- Commission says farm spending now running 40% above last year's levels
- Papandreou, in press conference, promises to try to increase EC own resources during presidency; says Community will break up unless it restores principle of rich contributing to poor.
- Times says Dankert serves notice that EuroParliament may stop our refund.

Ireland

- De Lorean says you and Cabinet want to destroy his Belfast plant because you were embarrassed by lack of sectarian violence there.

International

France: agrees to lease 5 Exocets to Iraq, according to reports.

Chile: Strike against Pinochet fails to get widespread support.

Czechoslovakia: Police harassing Western journalists and cameramen in Prague for World Peace Council.

Middle East: Andropov letter to Arafat who is beset by PLO dispute.