

PRIME MINISTER

MEDIA MEETING - MONDAY, 25 JULY 1983

A G E N D A

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

THIS WEEK - HIGHLIGHTS

This is an extremely bitty week, with the Government clearing up before the Recess. The main stories seem likely to be:

- the Labour Party's continued travail (TUC/Party Liaison Committee today; and Labour Party NEC on Wednesday);
- will the TUC consult with Mr Tebbit on trade union law (Wednesday); and intervene in FT dispute (today)?;
- EC/USA steel row (EC Steel Council today);
- Eurofishing row (EC Fisheries Council today);
- votes on Ministers' and MPs' pay (tomorrow);
- Penrith by-election (Thursday);
- judgement in case concerning confidential contraception for under 16s (today);
- Gerry Adams in London (Wednesday).

Among potential Government announcements are:

- Harm/Alarm choice;
- White Paper on transport in London (tomorrow);
- Freeports (today);
- plans for sale of assets (today);
- revised cash limits (tomorrow);
- Mercury connection arrangements;
- Sunday shopping inquiry;
- consultative document on caning;
- FA/Football League initiative to deal with hooliganism (Tuesday).

You will be regularly in front of media and public:

- Cable and Wireless signing ceremony (today);
- read lesson at Wilberforce memorial service (tomorrow);
- meet Lobby and give radio and tv interviews (Thursday);
- represent The Queen at RAF Cranwell (Friday).

Other points:

International:

- Hong Kong talks resume, Peking (today);
- CSCE concluding meeting, Madrid (Tuesday-Thursday);
- Irish Foreign Minister meets Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr Prior (Wednesday);
- Contadora Group, Panama City (Thursday);
- World Council of Churches, Vancouver (all week).

Industry

- Annual reports: British Gas (today); NCB (Wednesday);
British Shipbuilders (Wednesday);
- Opening of new Heathrow terminal (Wednesday);
- ICI court case on tax value of ethane (today).

Economic Indicators:

- Trade figures (tomorrow);
- strike figures (Wednesday for Thursday).

Ministers:

- Mr Brittan sees Mrs Whitehouse (today); Probation officers
(Wednesday); and Prison officers (Thursday);
 - Mr Fowler meets District Health Authority chairmen, Birmingham
(Friday).
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BROADCASTING - THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, July 25

BBC 2	6.05pm	<u>Hang on, I'll Speak to the World:</u> Repeat of documentary on BBC External Services.
BBC 1	8.10pm	<u>Panorama:</u> Repeat programme on how high technology secrets cross the Iron Curtain to USSR.
ITV	8.30pm	<u>World in Action:</u> Investigates the 41 barrels of dioxin from Seveso found recently in N. France and returns to Seveso.
Channel 4	9.30pm	<u>Ear to the Ground:</u> Rapid decline in rural areas.
Radio 4	10.00pm	<u>The World Tonight.</u>
Radio 4	10.30pm	<u>Science Now:</u> A weekly review of scientific developments.
BBC 2	10.50pm	
BBC 2	10.50pm	<u>Newsnight.</u>
Radio 4	11.15pm	<u>The Financial World Tonight.</u>

Tuesday, July 26

Radio 4	8.05pm	<u>File on 4:</u> Topical issues programme: German Reunification.
Radio 4	10.00pm	<u>The World Tonight.</u>
ITV	10.30pm	<u>Against the Grain:</u> How British agricultural policy is changing the look of the countryside.
BBC 2	10.50pm	<u>Newsnight.</u>
Radio 4	11.15pm	<u>The Financial World Tonight.</u>
Radio 4	11.30pm	<u>Today in Parliament.</u>

Wednesday, July 27

Channel 4	7.50pm	<u>Comment:</u> A Conservative MP (as yet unnamed).
Channel 4	8.00pm	<u>Timewatch:</u> Includes investigation on why Secret Service failed to detect Burgess and Maclean and interview with Oxford mole recruited to Moscow in the 1930s.
BBC 2	8.30pm	<u>Opinions:</u> Former investment banker, Jonathan Steinberg, tries to make sense of the West's "current economic crisis" and proposes new solutions.

Wednesday continued

Radio 4	10.00pm	<u>The World Tonight.</u>
BBC 1	10.55pm	<u>Newsnight.</u>
Radio 4	11.15pm	<u>The Financial World Tonight.</u>
Radio 4	11.30pm	<u>Today in Parliament.</u>

Thursday, July 28

Radio 4	10.00pm	<u>The World Tonight.</u>
BBC 2	10.35pm	<u>Newsnight.</u>
Channel 4	11.15pm	<u>What the Papers Say:</u> Richard Ingrams of Private Eye looks how the news was reported over the last week.
Radio 4	11.15pm	<u>The Financial World Tonight.</u>
BBC 1	11.20pm	<u>The 20th Century Remembered:</u> Lord Hailsham remembers his early political career.
Radio 4	11.30pm	<u>Today in Parliament.</u>

Friday, July 29

Radio 4	10.00pm	<u>The World Tonight.</u>
ITV	10.30pm	<u>Angell Town:</u> Documentary on housing estate whose design and management has been a disaster.
BBC 2	10.45pm	<u>Newsnight.</u>
Radio 4	11.15pm	<u>The Financial World Tonight.</u>
Radio 4	11.30pm	<u>Today in Parliament.</u>

Diary

Prime Minister attends Cable and Wireless signing ceremony, Mercury House.

Talks between European Community and United States open on steel restrictions.

Talks on future of Hong Kong resume, Peking.

EC Steel Council, Brussels.

Court case on tax valuation of ethane.

EC Fisheries Council, Brussels.

Judgement on Mrs Gillick's action on confidential contraception for under 16s.

British Gas accounts published.

New DTI rules on disclosure of directorships.

Meeting of Consultative Council on local government finance.

Consolidated Fund debate.

Announcement on Free Ports initiative.

Announcement on Employers' abuse of sick pay scheme.

TUC Employment and Education Committees meet to consider YTS allowances.

TUC Finance Committee meets print union on FT dispute.

Statistics:

Bricks and cement production (2nd qtr).

New vehicle registrations (June).

Institutional investment (1st qtr).

Publications:

SI on new rules on disclosure of directorship.

The Supplementary Benefit (miscellaneous amendments) Regulations 1983.

The Supplementary Benefit (Equal treatment) Regulations 1983.

Pay:

Scottish Agricultural Board meets to consider objections to award made on June 1, 1983.

Parliament

Commons

Questions: Energy; Transport.

Business: Motion on the summer Adjournment.
Consolidated Fund (Appropriation) Bill: All stages.

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Politics

- Hattersley's manifesto in Times - unapologetically the candidate of improvement; higher levels of expenditure essential to objectives.
- Heffer says he doesn't know what Kinnock's programme is.
- Kinnock says he's happy to have any one of his rivals as deputy and warns hard line Left wingers will wreck Labour Party if they gain control.
- But threat by leading moderates to depart front bench if Kinnock/Meacher wins leadership.
- Peter Shore says Labour Party must appeal to new earning classes in offices.
- Mirror diary claims authentic version of Foot and Hattersley row:
H: "What sort of leadership is this?" F: "Don't talk to me like that. I'll have your head off. I'd have the skin off your back." H: "You could not knock the skin off a rice pudding."
- George Gale, Express, says Hattersley should be standing as deputy to Shore on a ticket that could win Labour a General Election.
- Telegraph says prospect of Kinnock/Meacher leadership has deepened gloom among senior centre-right figures.

Comment:

Guardian says if suggestions that Kinnock and Hattersley cannot work together are correct we might just as well forget about Labour Party as potential party of government. Meacher represents the tendency in the Party which refuses to read the message of the election defeat.

Sun says the band of brothers are behaving more like a pack of demented alley cats - they never seem to change.

John Grant, SDP, in Telegraph, tells Mr Hattersley that the (Labour) party is over - why not join another (SDP); Social Democrats appear to have received his application form already.

Unions/Pay

- TUC expected to consult with Mr Tebbit on legislative plans - especially on political levy; only extremists like Scargill likely to be against; Express says Mr Tebbit should listen but warily, for it makes a lot of sense for unions to talk. But while proposed reforms are useful they do not go to the heart of the matter.
- TUC to see NGA today and urge them to end FT dispute; Bill Keys, SOGAT, says his union won't break strike even if NGA is suspended.
- Banks union to hold strike ballot on whether to allow later Christmas closing.
- Unions seek talks with Mr Brittan over plans to privatise cleaning of Home Office establishments.
- Telegraph says Treasury is planning a tougher line on nationalised industry chairmen and board members' pay after average rises of 10% last year.
- NUR expected to draw up disruption plans today in response to workshops' closure.
- Kinnock wants statutory minimum wage and statutory maximum income.

Industry

- Mr Lawson to announce sale of assets today to raise £500m.
- New Weston mine at Selby closes because of flooding; NCB says it is major setback.
- Electricity Consumers' Council contrasts efficiency of boards and says people in London and Yorkshire (12% workforce reduction) are paying more than they need compared with Southern, South Western and Eastern boards (more than 28% reduction); Express wants their monopoly powers removed.

Public Expenditure etc

- Mirror says you plan to squeeze NHS and social security payments; as a result Messrs Fowler and Clarke are said to be on point of resignation.
- Mail, commenting on reports that you are struggling against some members of Cabinet for tax cuts says one might have supposed Cabinet Ministers would be vying with each other to see which could save most money. Can it be that Ministers who instigate or accept cuts are unpopular with Civil Servants and public whereas popularity for tax cuts goes only to you and Chancellor?
- Telegraph says manpower levels and wages are coming under special scrutiny as Ministers look for ways of eliminating overbids; some Wets alarmed at effect on services of your reported call for tax cuts.
- Guardian, like Telegraph, put over Mr Fowler's denial he is not leading opposition to removing overbids.
- Times leads with story that middle ranking Ministers and backbenchers are alarmed at prospect of unemployment benefit being de-indexed and says Mr Fowler means to fight.
- Times says local Government consultative meeting on finance today will be told council spending in England at end of '84-85 could be £1.8bn over target.

Local Authority

- Row in West Midlands council over decision to fund employee's libel action against Private Eye.
- South Yorkshire Council providing rock music workshops, motor cycle scrambling, water sports and computer sessions to prevent unemployed youngsters getting bored.

Education

- STOPP opposed in advance to move by DES to give parents a say in whether children are to be caned; Sun says it is a crackpot idea - there is no case for treating pupils differently for same offence, Government should decide on discipline in our schools - it has nothing to do with EuroCourt busybodies.
- Nigeria said to owe £3m in fees to British colleges.

Medical/Welfare

- Express feature on opening of Stoke Mandeville extension yesterday - thanks to Jimmy Savile.
- Children at risk in playgrounds because of heavy lead content of paint on equipment.

Law and Order

- Police fly to Dortmund to interview German tourist witness in hunt for killer of one of two girls dumped by roadside in Midlands.
- 2 youths killed when they jump over wall and down cliff at Newquay after being chased by Scots; 9 killed in weekend road accidents - AA attacks successive Governments' neglect of motorway maintenance.
- Mrs Seger, who lied to British authorities claiming husband was political prisoner in Turkey when he was in UK may now be deported with family; but Mail says Home Office has decided not to deport her after all.

- D/Star welcomes Scottish Law Commission's proposal that rape victims should no longer be questioned in court about character and sexual history and says it should be adopted throughout UK.
- Sun on reported inquiry into Sunday trading laws, says there's no need for one; they are a shambles and should be scrapped.
- Terrorist alert after jailing of Armenian and discovery of bomb near Old Bailey.
- Guardian says Home Office is increasingly concerned about conflict between governor and staff at Holloway; Albany prisoner smuggles out prisoner's account of what was behind rooftop demo.
- Police Foundation claims probationer policemen are being pressed by senior officers to get a quota of motoring offences to demonstrate their willingness and ability to report drivers.

Media

- Possibility of ITV blackout at weekend because of threatened strike by freelance technicians over 20% pay claim.
- Morning Star needs another 7,000 daily circulation to balance books.

Helicopter Crash

- American air crash investigator prevented from inspecting wreckage; this is not surprising says Mirror, because Government has refused to hold open investigations into major disasters. But public has a right to know and Tom King should order immediate public inquiry.

Ireland

- IRA blow up Belfast hotel; anti-tank gun attack on West Belfast Army lookout post.
- 3 IRA terrorists living life of luxury on bail in France - guests of Communist dominated union branch of bank which owns chateau where they are staying.

International

EC: Times records threat to price of Christmas pudding as Commission meets today to decide levy on sultanas and raisins with 5p on price of pud at stake.

Spain: Telegraph says Spanish Government have re-started building of ship repair yard at Algeciras bringing threat to Gibraltar dockyard commercialisation.

CSCE: Malta holds out against agreement.

Central America: Mail says Reagan is under pressure from military to step up involvement and military activity; but Guardian says opposition to Reagan's stance fear he may be on brink of armed intervention

Falklands: MoD denies report that 4 torpedoes hit HMS Invincible but failed to explode.

Middle East: 4 killed in renewed fighting within PLO in Lebanon; and rival Iran and Iraqi groups fight on the streets of Cardiff - 5 injured. Reagan calls Israeli Foreign and Defence Ministers to Washington for talks on Lebanon; Israelis say this will make no difference to their plans to pull back forces.

Belgium: Walloons want to end pension and land rights given to Duke of Wellington in perpetuity at Waterloo.

Alaska: Greenpeace protestors return from Siberia and get a frosty welcome in Nome.

World Bank: says developing countries face catastrophe if economic recovery tapers off.

Ministers:

Mr Heseltine gives interviews to Financial Times and the Sun.

Mr Brittan meets representatives of the Anti-Apartheid Movement; Mrs Mary Whitehouse; and attends reception for UK Anglo-Asian Conservative Society.

Mr Jopling and Mr MacGregor at EC Fisheries Council, Brussels.

Mr King and Mr Mitchell visit Transport and Road Research Laboratory, Crowthorne.

Mr Parkinson and Mr Lamont at Steel Council, Brussels.

Mr Clarke at reception for Egyptian Minister of Health (Egyptian Embassy).

Mr Waddington lunches with Council for Racial Equality.

Mr Mitchell dines with Mr Dent, Chairman of Civil Aviation Authority.

Mr Baker at Cable and Wireless signing of contract ceremony, Mercury House.

Lord Gowrie speaks at opening of ICOM 83.

Mr Rifkind visits Paris for talks with M. Chandernager.