

Tuesday, 15 November 1983

PRIME MINISTER

Main Events

Mrs Milka Planinc, President of the Federal Executive Committee of Yugoslavia, begins visit to UK.

New US Ambassador, Mr Charles H Price II, arrives in Britain.

'Financial Times' 2-day conference "to assess the performance of the Thatcher Government since 1979 and its aims in its second term of office", opens, London.

EC Agriculture Council, Brussels.

EC Development Council, Brussels.

Sino-British talks on the future of Hong Kong, Peking.

UN General Assembly debate and vote on the Falkland Islands.

Memorial service for Lord Wakefield of Kendal, Westminster Abbey.

Introduction of Lord Wilson of Rievaulx and Lord Bruce-Gardyne to the House of Lords.

British Telecom decision on 39 engineers served with dismissal notices for not crossing picket lines.

'Daily Mail' Beaujolais nouveau race.

Launch of "Crisis at Christmas" appeal to help homeless young people.

Robert Aldridge, designer of Polaris, Poseidon and Trident nuclear warheads, speaks against INF, House of Commons.

International oil and gas exhibition - "Petroleum Technology, Australia '83", opens, Perth.

New Zealand All Blacks v South and South-West Division, Bristol.

BBC/ABS go to ACAS for talks on outside broadcast dispute.

Announcement by ODA of Chief Executive for the Falkland Islands.

Statistics:

Adoptions in England and Wales, 1982.

Marriages and Divorces, 1982.

Parliament
Commons

Questions: Social Services; Prime Minister.

Business: 10-Minute Rule Bill: Working conditions of Government Trainees.
Second Reading of Coal Industry Bill.
Opposition Prayer relating to the Education (Fees and Awards) Scotland Regulations.
The case of Margaret Livesy currently serving life imprisonment (Adjournment Debate).

Select Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments.
Committees: Private Bill Committee:
Ginns and Gutteridge, Leicester (Crematorium) Bill.

Lords: Debate on the need to examine new ways of reducing crimes of violence in the light of the recent decision of the House of Commons that capital punishment should not be reintroduced.

Ministers - see Annex

PRESS DIGEST

Arrival of Cruise is the big story with Prime Minister's Magyar visit and Bruce Kent's activities in equal second place.

DEFENCE

- The arrival of Cruise is covered extensively. Heseltine's statement is reported with Labour's suggestion that he had not known earlier in the day that the missiles were arriving being vigorously denied. Frank Johnstone in the Times describes "the operational deployment of Mr Heseltine" and his reluctance to discuss reasons for his early departure from Aldershot. His urgent meeting with the PM intrigues the papers but it was "not about Cruise". Kinnock says people will not forgive PM for relying "first-use weapons" to be deployed when the US owns and controls him and has recently shown its contempt for British views. Times expects Government to announce operational capability has been achieved around December 15. Greenham women promise to continue their campaign of civil disobedience. They are prepared to dig up roads and slash tyres to stop missiles leaving the base. Mail editorial wants dual key but calls for "steady nerves and hard bargaining" and says Cruise "can be a spur to new nuclear treaty". Express says almost everyone was "caught napping" including MoD senior officials. Sun editorial says "we can trust them (Americans) all the way". Guardian leader writer argues for a more equal defence partnership between Europe and the US.

- Guardian says Britain and NATO tried to dissuade Reagan from putting forward new arms limitation proposals but that he "brushed aside" their advice. Moscow rejects the proposals.

PM'S SPEECH

- Papers highlight her plan to visit Hungary in the New Year and note the timing to coincide with the arrival of Cruise. Mail headlines Maggie "the peacemaker" and sees the trip paving the way for Soviet talks. Star and Sun headline "Iron Curtain visit for Iron Lady".

BRUCE KENT

- All papers join forces to clobber the "turbulent priest". Cardinal Hume calls for a transcript of Kent's speech to the Communist Party and asks Kent to explain himself. John Selwyn Gummer says multi-lateralists and unilateralists can unite on one thing - "Bruce Kent must go".

ECONOMY

- Several papers note the "boost for Britain" in the latest figures from CSO showing industrial output up to highest level for more than three years and overall energy output up 3.3% with boom in spending continuing. Geoffrey Goodman in the Mirror says the improvement is largely due to North Sea oil and gas.

INDUSTRY

- Times and others note release of Gallup poll findings by British Telecom Trades Union Committee - last December 37% were against the sell-off but by October the antis were 46%.
- FT sees electricity price battle looming when Electricity Council meets on Thursday and John Akass in the Express says that the beauty of gas for HMG is that it provides "tax on tap".
- Attorney General tells MPs he has no power to intervene in the Reuter's flotation.
- Sun notices miners have lost an average £30 because of Scargill's three week overtime ban.
- Guardian draws attention to HMG providing £1.3m to P & O to refurbish their Scottish ferry St Clair at a privately-owned repair yard.
- FT notices Ford workers reject 5.5% revised pay offer.

POLITICS

- Times reports Civil Servants face new curb on political activities contained in new guideline to be issued soon by Department of Employment to its staff. Civil Service Unions protest against "denial of civil liberties".
- Times picks up Kinnock's new policy unit - Campaign Strategy Committee - which meets today for the first time. Unions, Shadow Cabinet and the NEC are represented and Gwynneth Dunwoodie accepts job of co-ordinating their campaign roles.

GOSSIP

- Hickey in the Express draws attention to Maggie's "fruit juice and salad" diet. Guardian diary sees embarrassment in Downing Street over David Hart "one of her social and economic advisers" who went spectacularly bankrupt in 1975.

- Guardian diary is also amused at the calls being made to industrial writers by Treasury Press Office and Lawson's Private Office suggesting interpretations of events and figures.

OPEC

- Times says OPEC Strategy Committee Ministers meet in London today hoping to stimulate oil demand and expected to seek meeting with Walker to discuss Britain's oil output.

FALKLANDS

- British officials dismayed and disappointed over hardline Argentine statement opening UNGA debate.

OFT

- Gordon Borrie's attack on the professions notably lawyers and accountants over their lack of competition and poor deal offered to consumers.

Romola Christopherson

ROMOLA CHRISTOPHERSON
15 November 1983

MAJOR VISITS

- MOD: Lord Trefgarne attends Eurocourtral meeting, Brussels, for talks on Air Traffic Control
- FCO: Lady Young visits Costa Rica (until 17 Nov)
- ODA: Mr Raison attends EC Development Council, Brussels
- DTP: Mrs Chalker visits Spain to attend Road Haulage Association annual conference (until 16 Nov)
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TV AND RADIO

- "Utopia Limited"; Channel 4 TV; "Burning Issue"; 5th of 10-part series on Third World issues looks at the importance of firewood for many countries (18.30)
- "File on 4"; BBC Radio 4; looks at overcrowding in prisons (19.50)
- "Nicaragua: A Nation's Right to Life"; ITV; 'personal report' by John Pilger on the situation in Nicaragua (22.30)
- "Out of Court"; BBC-2 TV; looks at the law; those who make, break, and enforce it (22.20)
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