

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Princess of Wales opens new Care Centre, Abbeyfield Downing House, Manchester (pm) and, with the Prince of Wales attends carol concert in aid of the Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children, Manchester Free Trade Hall (evening)

Prime Minister's interview on CB-TV children's TV programme (pm)

EC Foreign Affairs Council, Brussels

EC Transport Council - *Henry L...*

Publication of Green Paper on Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation

→ DES announces local education authorities' capital expenditure programme 1984/85

Second Reading of the Health and Social Security Bill, House of Commons
Arts Council grants 1984/85 announced.

NUM executive meets to discuss overtime ban

CND demonstration, Maidstone, in protest against civil defence policies

US ban on Soviet nickel imports comes into effect

General Strike in protest against the Ershad regime, Bangladesh

STATISTICS

CSO: Gross Domestic Product (3rd qtr-prov)

BOE: Money stock (3rd qtr)

BOE: Financing of the CGBR (3rd qtr)

BOE: UK banking sector statistics (3rd qtr)

OPCS: Birthweight statistics, 1981/82

OPCS: Deaths from accidents and violence, June quarter 1983

OPCS: Hospital in-patient enquiry, summary tables 1981

PUBLICATIONS

DES: HMI report on a school in Norfolk (10.30)

HO: Statistical Bulletin on placing requests in schools, England and Wales

HO: Statistical Bulletin on recorded crime, England and Wales (Jan-June 1983)

PUBLICATIONS (Cont'd)

- HOC: Public Accounts Committee, 5th Report 1983: MOD, FCO PSA - economy measures in the Civil, Defence and Overseas Estates (12.00)
- LCD: Law Commission Report No 128 on the Registered Homes Bill (11.00)
- MPO: Green Paper on Intellectual Property Rights and Innovation (15.30)
- SO: Statistical Bulletin on recorded crime, Scotland (Jan-June, 1983)
- SO: Statistical Bulletin on placing requests in Scottish schools
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PARLIAMENT

Commons

Questions: Education and Science; Prime Minister

Business: 10-Minute Rule Bill: Tour Operators (Advertising of Foreign Holidays)
Second Reading of the Health and Social Security Bill
Motion on Social Security Contributions and Regulations 1983
Motion on the Fisheries (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order
The case for a plastic £1 coin (Adjournment debate)

Lords: Fosdyke Bridge Bill (HL): Committee
Tourism (Overseas Promotion) (Scotland) Bill (HL): Committee
Roads (Scotland) Bill (HL): Committee
Somerset House Bill (HL): Committee
Amusement Machines Bill (HL): Committee

PRESS DIGEST

Bombing

- Guardian says Cabinet will consider whether to proscribe Sinn Fein on Thursday.
- Another 700 police drafted into inner London for Christmas, including 200 CID and Special Branch.
- Gerry Adams refuses to condemn bombing; Granada "World in Action" programme alleges Gerry Adams masterminded Belfast Bloody Friday massacre and watched IRA shoot a man in the neck - trace his rise through IRA - Adams says Harrods bomb was "example of IRA operation which did not go right".
- Livingstone calls for talks with Sinn Fein.

- Prince and Princess of Wales visit hospital. God will be the judge, he says.
 - Mr Prior, in US broadcast, urges Americans to stop giving money to Noraid; American injured in bombing says, "People back home must be misguided if they are supporting this type of activity"; US Ambassador condemns American organisations raising funds for IRA terrorists after seeing you.
 - Anonymous businessman offers £250,000 reward.
 - Pope condemns bombing as "brutal act of great and mindless violence".
 - Meanwhile, police think bombing gang used 2 cars, one to reserve space for bomb vehicle and appeals for public help with information about them.
 - Irishman sent to prison for 3 months for bomb hoax call on Sunday night
 - Guardian says it was becoming increasingly apparent yesterday that the atrocity resulted from an IRA operational blunder which is unlikely to be repeated; Times says Adams denies rift between military and political wings of Republican movement.
 - Times says IRA objective remains Britain is still a target because IRA believes one bomb in Britain is worth 50 in Ireland.
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Northern Ireland

- D/Star says SAS squads have been sent to bandit country to take out gun-runners and terrorists.

Bombing Comment

D/Star: Criticises 450 MPs who stayed away from Parliament yesterday - pitiful, disgraceful turnout. And Government produced a pitiful, disgraceful knee-jerk reaction when nation demanded real action of the kind being prepared in Eire, including banning of Sinn Fein. Government and politicians dismally failing us all. Not leading but following public opinion.

Sun says Adams is accused of being former Chief of Staff of PIRA and being responsible for deaths of at least 28 British soldiers and 38 civilian. He should be solemnly arraigned for murder.

Express welcomes US Ambassador's attack on American supporters of IRA, which is no more romantic than Mafia. Americans should talk to Gerret Fitzgerald who is 3,000 miles closer to IRA and knows danger from them to his own State; feature gives pros and cons of proscribing Sinn Fein through words of Merlyn Rees and Gerry Fitt; Jon Akass says hurling abuse at IRA after bombing is not much use - the ghoul's thrive on it.

Telegraph: Phrase "no panic measures" reflects complacent, inadequate attitude out of tune with public opinion. Morally outrageous that an organisation which publicly endorses campaign of murder and terrorism should be allowed to posture as legitimate political party. Mr Prior's arguments feeble and absurd. Banning Sinn Fein is essential to convincing IRA they can't win. Difficult to believe Adams is not open to prosecution. Also comes out in favour of internment. We should not be deterred from correct policy by misleading and erroneous view of the past.

Economy

- Guardian claims Chancellor yesterday gave broad hint of tax cuts, with priority on higher thresholds if economy grows & future spending is held in real terms; Times features Mr Lawson's remarks to Select Committee the unemployment no longer seems to be rising and may even be falling.
- Sterling up to \$1.4205.
- Youth unemployment might be reduced if young workers' pay were cut, according to D/Employment paper.

Law and Order

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- Geoffrey Dickens wants Judge Brian Gibbens sacked for remarks in child sex case.
 - Judge says media grossly distorted what he said and raises question of contempt; jails offender for 2 years; Lord Chancellor calls for transcript.
 - Sun defends its alleged omission of 5 words as not changing meaning and says Judge should hand in his wig and gown; Guardian says it is highly questionable whether omission of 5 words makes much difference.
 - Mail story about school for delinquent children in St Vincent where 13 problem pupils from Lewisham and Camden have caused havoc; headmaster of nearby school says: "I wish British would not send their problems to St Vincent".

Defence

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- More than 150 arrested at demo at US airbase near High Wycombe; Home Office to give further help to Thames Valley with cost of policing
 - Brian Sedgemore MP accuses editor of Guardian of breach of confidence in returning leaked MOD letter.
 - FT says way Government went about obtaining return of leaked document gave cause for concern; whole business conducted with unseemly haste.

Scott Lithgow

- Varying estimates - 4-8,000 - of jobs at risk at Scott Lithgow shipyard because of Britoil's cancellation of rig contract - Britoil claim rig is already 500 days behind schedule.
- Labour MPs want emergency debate.
- Mail leader says it is not just workers who are to blame for being so far behind schedule; management has fallen down, too. All concerned have failed to keep up with time.

Electricity Prices

- Sun says "Wet Walker" merely asked Electricity Council to "consider" 2% price rise.
- Telegraph says Area Board chairmen are angry and threatening revolt over price rise, will consider position on January 19.
- Ian Aitken, Guardian, says speculation over whether Mr Walker could survive continues; he made clear in Commons he had lost battle to hold down prices.

Industry

- Lord Rayner to succeed Lord Sieff as chairman of Marks and Spencer.
- Mirror reports privatisation legislation as "Tories sell off gun factories"; more than 18,000 Civil Servants to be made private employees, Guardian says privatisation will cost Government £100m because of shortfall in pension fund.
- Yugoslavia orders 5 Airbus; and Airbus Industries decide to go ahead with project
- Farmworkers' earnings up 12% this year.

- NCB estimates overtime ban has cost miners £25m.
- || Guardian says Tom King is examining tightening up Trade Union Bill, especially on postal ballots for top jobs.
- Government approves £315m Shell Esso North Sea gas pipeline.
- Strong support for you from Lord Hanson in his Hanson Trust annual statement.

Rates/Local Government

- Mail leader criticises Government for failing to forge a real local li between revenue and responsibility; should have been at least as resolute about finding a solution to problem of rates as they have been about dealing with unions. Rate-capping is tinkering when we need a new system.
- NALGO tells 16,000 members not to co-operate in plan to scrap Metropolitan Counties.

Politics

- Norman Tebbit replaces Livingstone as evil villain in panto - result of censorship by Left-wing councillors in Lewisham; script had to be re-written also to eliminate sexist words.
- || Script of interview with Thames TV children released; does not make much news.

Education

- Express says Government is demanding a shake up in education to improve standards and plan to bring back 11-plus is being debated.
- Sir Keith Joseph to close two colleges and 22 courses (Guardian).

Health

- Restrictions on the use of doctor stand-ins.
- → Telegraph says Westminster and St Stephen's Hospitals, which healed bomb victims, both being considered for closure.

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

MOD: Mr Heseltine visits HQ UK Land Forces, Salisbury

MAFF: Mr Jopling tours Smithfield market

SO: Mr Younger hosts lunch for Charles Douglas - Home, Editor of the "Times", and meets Sir Henry Plumb, London

HMT: Mr Lawson speaks at the Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street

MOD: Mr Pattie visits RAF Honington

DEN: Lord Avon speaks at official opening by Prince Charles of new JEL factory, Manchester

DHSS: Mr Patten visits the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases, Queen Sq WC1 (11.00)

HO: Mr Waddington attends Senior Citizens from West Indian Communities lunch, Westminster Cathedral Conference Centre (1300)

ODA: Mr Raison visits ODA departments, Abercrombie House, East Kilbride

SO: Lord Gray meets the Salmon and Trout Association, London

DTp: Mr Mitchell attends Lloyds List lunch, (13.00)

MAJOR VISITS

DTp: Mr Ridley attends EC Transport Council, Brussels

TV AND RADIO

"CBTV"; ITV; Prime Minister interviewed by CBTv reporters (16.45)

"Utopia Limited"; Channel 4 TV; "Where do we go from here?"; last programme in series asks how the Third World can be dragged out of the poverty trap in which it finds itself (18.30)

"Out of Court"; BBC 2 TV; last of current series which looks at those who make, break and enforce the law (23.00)