

2 October 1985

PRIME MINISTER

MAIN EVENTS

Prime Minister gives interview to Miriam Stoppard

Princess of Wales launches "Friends of the Pre-School Playgroups Association", London SW1; later visits Help the Aged HQ, London

Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev begins visit to France (to October 5)

STATISTICS

BOE: Capital issues and redemptions (during month of September)

BOE: Quarterly analysis of bank advances (mid-August)

DEN: Advance energy statistics (August)

HMT: UK official reserves (September)

PUBLICATIONS

HO: Criminal Statistics England & Wales 1985 (15.30)

HO: Government's reply to the 6th report Select Committee on Race Relations and Immigration - Immigration and Nationality Department of the Home Office (14.30)

HMT: Annual Statement on the European Community Budget (1985) (14.00)

PAY

DEM: NHS ambulancemen; (18,000); claim is for substantial increase in pay with introduction of salaried structure which would give parity with qualified firemen; index linking, reduction in working week and improvements to annual leave; settlement date 1.4.85.

MINISTERS: See Annex

PRESS DIGESTLABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE

- Kinnock wins high praise from moderates for taking on Left.
- But Left condemn speech as a gratuitous insult and pledge to continue the fight. Say he is the biggest traitor since Ramsay MacDonald.
- Eric Heffer walks off platform in protest against Kinnock's criticism of Liverpool's Militant leadership - and walks into political oblivion, according to D/Star.
- Sun says "It's war - Labour torn apart as Kinnock gets tough with Lefties. A sensational split with Left. Amazing scenes of hostility and scuffles on floor.
- Mirror: Neil slays 'em. Finest speech by any party leader for decades.
- Express says Labour Party was in deep turmoil last night. Kinnock has either smashed the Labour Party for years to come or put it on the road to election victory.
- Mail leads with "The courage of Kinnock". The best and most courageous speech of his life, but it starts a row. Ted Knight, Lambeth, says he doesn't want Kinnock in No 10.
- Telegraph says the Hard Left were in an ugly mood last night.
- Guardian says Kinnock established his authority with a speech that thrilled his friends and dismayed his enemies.
- Times says Kinnock galvanised the conference and moderates said his speech was a masterpiece.

LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCEComment

- D/Star says Kinnock met the leadership challenge head on and passed with flying colours. Now the question is whether the Labour Party at large can match his courage.
- Sun: Any hope Kinnock had of becoming Prime Minister was destroyed in a few astonishing minutes at the conference. The extraordinary scenes showed how badly he had misjudged his own party. However tough his show-down with Scargill today, it will make no difference - the whole country saw what happened on television.
- Mirror: The speech of a real leader. Militants may have the vote but Kinnock has the heart of the party. He showed the true face of the party with conviction, compassion and courage.
- George Gale, in Express, says not since Gaitskill has a leader spoken with such passionate courage and conviction.
- Express leader, under the heading "Not up to the job" says demonstrations of political and moral courage by Kinnock do not convince. They come too late in the day. The time for them was during the miners' strike. He thinks he can school his party in power winning ways. In truth, neither the man nor his party is up to the job.
- Mail leader says Kinnock came of age with a courage born of desperation, but he has left it very late. The Militant Tendency has been allowed to colonise the very vitals of the Labour Party. Even if he were to succeed in saving the Labour Party from them, there would remain much which many would consider past redemption.
- D/Telegraph says Kinnock's was a major gamble and a politically and personally courageous act. It remains to be seen whether this marks a turning point in British politics. What can be said is that Kinnock has rescued the party from total collapse.
- Guardian says it was the bravest and most important speech by a Labour leader for a generation, but today he must make another one. One or even two pieces of vintage oratory cannot by themselves transform the historic electoral decline of Labour.
- Geoffrey Smith, in Times, says the bitterness in the party has gone too far for unity to be restored by a single speech. The significance of the speech is that the battle has been fully joined.
- Times leader, under heading "Exit a man of the Left", says Kinnock's speech settled nothing. From the evidence of this conference the Labour Party is not much disposed to help its leaders come to terms with the political realities.
- FT says yesterday's speech, a model of its kind, was only chapter one. Kinnock was absolutely right to do what he did. But it is clear the Hard Left is unrepentant and does not care if it harms Labour's electoral chances.

POLITICS

- Norman Tebbit, in Conservative Newslite, says there is no real opposition. Conservatives are the only party capable of governing responsibly in the interests of the whole nation.

RIOTS

- Trouble in Peckham and Toxteth last night.
- Mob confronting police in Toxteth on eve of Princess Anne's visit to Liverpool, set cars ablaze. Church leaders tour streets appealing for calm.
- Petrol bombs thrown in Peckham.
- Home Secretary tells ethnic minority leaders that agitators in inner cities must be stopped.
- Express says masked gangs in Toxteth dragged motorists from their cars, beat them up and then set fire to their vehicles.
- Black activists disrupt meeting in Brixton between police and community leaders.
- Times says the blame for Brixton violence may lie beyond social deprivation; Government, LA and residents agree that since 1981 efforts have removed it from list of most severely distressed areas in London.

COAL INDUSTRY

- D/Star, continuing its investigation of the coal industry, highlights the propaganda battle in the Notts coalfield over the formation of a breakaway union featuring the Workmen's Allocation Fund now financed by the NCB.
- McGahey said to be recuperating from breathing difficulties in an East German sanatorium.
- Reports that Yorkshire NCB is planning to shed 8000 men by the end of the decade.

INDUSTRY

- B/Caledonian pulls out of Euro fare price fixing ring with the intention of cutting Continental rates.
- Thomson Holidays eliminates holiday surcharges and changes to bookings with a "no consolidation" guarantee.

ECONOMY

- Treasury more optimistic about prospects for world growth at IMF conference

HOUSING

- Mirror picks up FT leak on DoE housing report which shows £20bn needs to be spent on Britain's stock of council houses.
- Guardian says the Government's brazen neglect of housing is the most difficult to understand. The DoE report must not be lost. It is the starting point for restoring some sanity to housing policy.

EDUCATION

- John Vincent, in Sun, says teachers live in ignorance of the facts that govern their profession - pupil/teacher ratio is better than ever; real expenditure on each child has risen under you; size of classes is falling. Teachers are even better off than when you took office.
- Telegraph says LEAs could increase their pay offer to teachers by nearly 1% by using money saved and invested during the dispute.
- Lord Young calls for education and training to be directed far more towards the needs of industry and work.

TRANSPORT

- Sun says the massive crackdown on car tax dodgers should not be necessary. It should be scrapped and replaced by 30p on gallon of petrol.

HEALTH/WELFARE

- Guardian says Norman Fowler has set up a review to re-examine his proposals for social security reform, including abolition of SERPS, after a hostile public reaction.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Liverpool's attempt to give redundancy notices to teachers ends in farce; union leaders advise headmasters to hand them out but teachers not to accept them.
- City's £30million loan to Liverpool will not bale out the leadership; to be used to finance house building and other capital works.
- Derek Hatton attacks Liverpool's Church leaders who yesterday criticised him in the Times.
- FT says the Government's plans to reform the rating system are in disarray and you have called Ministers together tomorrow to try to sort out the problem before the party conference.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

- Guardian says DTI officials have been told to stamp all documents going to the USA "UK Confidential" to prevent their release under the US Freedom of Information Act.

MIDDLE EAST

- Israeli planes fly 3000 miles to attack Arafat's HQ in Tunisia. Arafat escapes. Reprisal for murder of 3 Israelis in Cyprus last week.
- John Ellison, Express, describes the incident as an ambush on the path to peace.
- Britain to conclude a £100m arms deal with Egypt.
- Moslem group holding Russians issues pictures of them with guns at their heads - reports that 2 of the 4 kidnapped have been shot.

IRELAND

- Unionists are threatening to resign seats in Strasbourg, Westminster and Belfast if an Anglo/Irish deal is struck against their wishes.

ARGENTINE

- David Steel to meet Alfonsin at conference in Madrid.

EAST/WEST

- Mitterrand declines to attend Reagan's Western Summit.

PEOPLE

- Terry Duffy, President of the AUEW, dies.
- Nelson Mandela to have prostate operation.
- Bill Heseltine to become the Queen's Private Secretary.

SOUTH AFRICA

- Botha tacitly admits South African troops are helping UNITA (Guardian).

MINISTERS (UK VISITS, SPEECHES ETC)

- DEM: Lord Young speaks at "New Technology in Training Conference", London
- DEM: Mr Clarke visits MSC programmes, East Midlands
- SO: Mr Younger opens Pinney's new factory, Annan
- MAFF: Mr Gummer visits farms in the Eastern Region
- MAFF: Lord Belstead visits Midland and Western Region
- MAFF: Mrs Fenner attends opening ceremony of Tiffany Food Ltd. Gillingham
- DEM: Mr Trippier addresses Small Business Bureau Northern Conference, Leeds
- DOE: Mrs Rumbold visits North East
- DOE: Mr Pattern addresses Building Conference jubilee dinner, London
- DOE: Sir George Young visits Newham Voluntary Agencies Council
- FCO: Lady Young addresses Mahatma Gandhi Foundations dinner
- DHSS: Lady Trumpington opens London School of Prosthetics, Roehampton
- HO: Mr Shaw visits Devon and Cornwall police
- HO: Lord Glenarthur addresses Prison Board of Visitors annual conference
- SO: Lord Gray attends Energy Industries Council's annual dinner, London
- SO: Mr Mackay attends Scottish Red Cross Branch Officers Conference, Gullane

MINISTERS (OVERSEAS VISITS)

- DOE: Mr Tracey attends Second European Conference for Ministers responsible for the architectural heritage, Spain (to October 4)
- HO: Mr Mellor addresses American drug Conference, Geneva
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TV AND RADIO

"Labour Party Conference"; BBC 1 (09.20; 10.50; 14.00); BBC 2 (15.50); Channel 4 (09.30; 14.00)

"Brian Hayes Programme"; LBC Radio; (10.00): Brian Hayes talks to Harvey Thomas about how to change the image of a political party

"Landlord and Tenant"; BBC Radio 4; (Noon): First of a six-part guide to housing including housing law and practice

"Woman's Hour"; BBC Radio 4; (14.00): Interview with HRH Prince Andrew

"Diverse Reports"; Channel 4 TV; (20.30): Dr John Rae, Headmaster of Westminster School looks at the public school system

"Conservative Party Political Broadcast"; BBC Radio 4 (13.35); BBC 1 (21.00); ITV (22.00); BBC 2 (22.35)

"Enterprise"; BBC Radio 4; (23.30): Examines some of the differences between small businesses in Britain and the United States
