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10/6

PRIME MINISTER

DIARY



Falkland Islands:

NATO Summit, Bonn.

EC: Transport Council, Luxembourg.

US Administration expected to rule on European steel producers imports.

Mr Trudeau visits Yugoslavia.

Mr Fowler meets Nurses' Whitley Council.

Union Day - opposition to Employment Bill.

Duke of Edinburgh's birthday.

EEPRU Conferences, Scarborough.

POEU Annual Conference, Blackpool.

Publications:

Parole Board Annual Report 1981.

Census 1981 County Report - Greater Manchester, Part 1.

OPCS Longitudinal Study 1971-75 Series No 1.

Lord Chancellor's office: 23rd Annual Report of the Public Records Office 1981.

Pay:

Water service/staff: further discussions.

London Transport/Railway Conciliation Grades: further discussions.

Parliament

Commons

Questions: Prime Minister (Home Secretary), MAFF.

Business: Supply (19th allotted day).
The subject for debate to be announced later. Motions on Members' pay and allowances. The Chairman of Ways and Means has names opposed private business for consideration at 7 0'clock.

Lords: Local Government Finance (No 2) Bill: Report 1st day.
Social Security and Housing Benefits Bill: Third Reading.

Ministers - see Annex

FALKLANDS

- The main Falklands story is the attack on the landing vessels Sir Galahad and Sir Tristram off Fitzroy and before adequate anti-aircraft defences had been established. There is still some doubt about the position of the Plymouth when attacked. The reports are based largely on ITN and BBC on the spot dispatches. MoD have confirmed that casualties were much heavier than previously thought and speculation suggests up to 20 dead (40 in some later editions). Some stories refer to this as a setback in our Port Stanley offensive. Mail says that the attacks expose "the most deadly weakness of the Task Force - its lack of early warning radar". US Administration has vetoed the use of Awac planes.
- During Monday and Tuesday 11 Argentine planes were shot down.
- A pooled report from the Falklands and carried by most papers talks of the extremely unpleasant conditions of the British troops on the Falklands.
- The Hercules oil tanker is said to be limping into Rio. Ministry of Defence publicised the intercepted message from the Argentines warning the ship before their attack.
- A letter from a seaman on the Invincible refers to their dodging a torpedo from an Argentine submarine.
- Reports of the Prime Minister's American television interview focus on the expressed readiness of the UK to meet the cost of defending the Falklands if necessary and also our request for help in looking after Argentine prisoners. Mail says she requested use of American ships and C130 transport planes.

Arms Sales

- FT story says that Argentina received up to 300 tons of military equipment from Libya in the past 10 days but is now having difficulties financing new purchases. Israel is mentioned as a main source and there is reference to the involvement of Cargolux in runs from Capetown to Uruguay.

Argentina

- Military spokesman claims that Britain is not strong enough to attack Port Stanley. Other Argentine sources suggest that Britian may pursue seige of Port Stanley rather than all out assault; Argentine troops are running short of essentials and many suffering from hepatitis and other ailments.
- Authorities to release 244 political detainees ahead of Pope's visit. Anti-Government organisations protest that visit will be used only for propaganda. But about 1,000 women relatives of the "disappeared ones" plan to demonstrate in the main square on Friday and Saturday.
- Galtieri announces that he will retire in 2 years. It is thought he will continue to resist pressure for return to constitutional government.
- Argentine confident of securing further grain contracts with the Soviet Union.

United States

- Opinion poll shows 56% of US public still behind Britain while only 19% support Argentine case.

- New York Times call the Haig-Kirkpatrick row "tomfoolery". It is suggested that Mr Haig deliberately failed to inform the Ambassador in time to change the US vote.

President Mitterrand

- Confirms support for British but warns there must be a limit to conflict and announces intention to put forward proposals to end fighting and give Argentina an honourable way out.

Leader Comment

- D/Telegraph stresses the need to remind the world of Argentina's responsibility for the conflict given the propaganda which it will attempt to make out of the final assault on Port Stanley. In a second leader it defends the FCO against witch hunts and praises the skill of our team at United Nations.
- Guardian emphasise the suffering on both sides and despair that no one any more is talking of peace.
- Mail says all excuses for delaying the final push have been used up. This bloody business must now be brought to an end.

Costs

- Times story says that extra costs so far are thought to amount to £500m. The Treasury are bracing themselves for a fight in the annual public spending review.

Media

- A dispatch yesterday from Max Hastings complains about restrictions on correspondents. An MoD Press Officer in the Falklands has called it an inaccurate distortion written in a fit of pique.
- Times reports that a group of journalists were returned to a Task Force ship remote from the action because they did not have the right "kit" or "training".

World Cup

- BBC follow ITN in dropping its opening programme and excluding coverage of Argentine matches.

British Ships in Argentina

- Two Sea Container Limited ships have switched registration from Bermuda to Liberia and continue trading out of Buenos Aires.

OTHER MAIN STORIES TODAY

- Lebanon conflict - Israel destroy Syrian anti-aircraft system and take Damour.
- NUR call for all-out rail strike from 28 June.
- TUC Health Service Committee announce further one day strike on 23 June and ask other Unions to take action in support. All hospitals reduced to accidents and emergencies only.
- Teachers likely to get arbitration award of 5.9% today.
- Select Committee rejects Scarman recommendation for fully independent police complaint procedure and recommends complaint office headed by independent assessor.

Ministers

Mr Fowler attends BUPA lunch, Cafe Royal, London (1.00pm).

Mr Jenkin visits Teesside.

Mr Whitelaw speaks to the Parliamentary Information Technology Committee.

Mr Tebbit addresses Association of Conservative Peers (4.00pm).

Mr Pym attends NATO Summit, Bonn.

Mr Howell attends EC Transport Council, Luxembourg.

Mr Sproat attends EC Transport Council, Luxembourg.

Sir George Young addresses Building Component Manufacturers luncheon.

Mr Shaw visits London Docklands.

Mr Macfarlane attends Football League Executive Staff Association Annual dinner.

Mr Clarke attends National Association of Health Authorities Annual Dinner, Brighton Centre.

Mr Baker speaks at Financial Times conference, Intercontinental Hotel.

Mr Baker speaks at BETA Business Efficiency Exhibition, Savoy Hotel.

Mr Butcher attends press launch for IT'82 Boat.

Lord Mansfield attends inauguration of Beatrice Oil Field.

Mr Waldegrave visits Leicester University.

Dr Vaughan attends ROSPA Golden Jubilee conference, Birmingham.

Mr Gray attends opening of Beatrice Oil Field.

TV/Radio:

Mrs Chalker on BBC TV 'Question Time'. (10.25pm).