

THE ANNUAL REGISTER

World Events in

1978

Edited by

H. V. HODSON

Assisted by

BISHAKHA BOSE

FIRST EDITED IN 1758

BY EDMUND BURKE



LONGMAN

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The perils of the Vietnamese 'boat people' are vividly illustrated by this picture of refugees on a sinking boat beached on the Malaysian coast on 4 December 1978

A thrilling Anglo-American finish to the 1978 Derby Stakes; Shirley Heights, ridden by Greville Starkey, wins by a head from Hawaiian Sound, ridden by the American jockey Willie Shoemaker

Devastating floods and a political come-back by Mrs Indira Gandhi were outstanding events of 1978 in India; here Mrs Gandhi is seen on a tour of flooded areas in September

1978 was the Year of the Three Popes: below, the body of Paul VI lies in state after his death on 6 August; above, left, John Paul I, elected 26 August, died 28 September; right, John Paul II, elected 16 October

between pages 368-369

The Commonwealth lost in 1978 two very different elder statesmen: left, Sir Robert Menzies, long-serving Prime Minister of Australia; right, Jomo Kenyatta, President of Kenya

Among the world's political leaders who died in 1978 were (left) Mrs Golda Meir, former Prime Minister of Israel, and (right) Houari Boumédiène, President of Algeria

Famous names disappeared from the roll of the living in 1978: (top left) Micheál MacLiammóir, Irish actor, poet and producer; (top right) Margaret Mead, American anthropologist; (bottom left) Tamara Karsavina, Russian-born ballerina; (bottom right) Anastas I. Mikoyan, long-serving Soviet Minister and member of the Supreme Soviet

On 3 March 1978 an 'internal settlement' which would bring majority rule to Rhodesia (Zimbabwe) after general elections and would immediately install an Executive Council of black and white Ministers was signed in Salisbury: the signatories were, from left to right, Bishop Abel Muzorewa, Mr Ian Smith, Chief Jeremiah Chirau and the Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole

ABBREVIATIONS

AID	Agency for International Development
ASEAN	Association of South-East Asian Nations
AR	Annual Register
CENTO	Central Treaty Organization
CERN	European Organization for Nuclear Research
COMECON	Council for Mutual Economic Assistance
EC	European Community
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa (UN)
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe (UN)
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
ECSC	European Coal and Steel Community
EEC	European Economic Community (Common Market)
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EMS	European Monetary System
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN)
EURATOM	European Atomic Energy Community
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GNP	Gross National Product
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organization
ICBM	Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile
IDA	International Development Association
IFC	International Finance Corporation
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
LAFTA	Latin American Free Trade Association
LDCs	Less Developed Countries
MBFR	Mutual and Balanced Force Reductions
MDCs	More Developed Countries
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OECD	Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
OPEC	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
SALT	Strategic Arms Limitation Talks
TUC	Trades Union Congress
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFICYP	United Nations Peace-Keeping Force in Cyprus
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency
VAT	Value Added Tax
WEU	Western European Union
WHO	World Health Organization

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 Albania
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 Bangladesh
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PREFACE

SOUTHERN AFRICA, the Middle East and further Asia saw the most important international events of 1978. The Annual Register records the 'internal settlement' and intensification of the guerrilla war in Rhodesia, the controversy over independence for Namibia, the call for sanctions against South Africa and other crucial developments in that area; also the Camp David talks, strife in the Arab world and the frustration of hopes for Middle Eastern peace. In eastern Asia there was double turmoil—the far-reaching waves sent out both domestically and internationally by the new regime in Peking, and the post-Vietnam-war struggle in South-East Asia, where Indo-China became a proving-ground of conflict between the two communist great powers.

It might be thought a shortcoming of the traditional and well-tryed structure of the Annual Register, with its sequence of expert articles on different countries and institutions, that major global themes like the dramatic opening of doors between communist China and the rest of the world find no distinct place or comprehensive treatment. For that, however, no apology is needed; for such themes are not peculiar to a calendar year whose events fall to be recorded in these pages but extend often through decades, and those who wish to follow them can find ample material not only in the regional and institutional chapters but also in the documents which enshrine some of their major developments. It is no accident that the Documents section this year includes not only the new Chinese constitution but also the text of the treaties of friendship and co-operation between China and Japan and between the USSR and Vietnam, and the momentous announcement of the opening of full diplomatic relations between the USA and China. The Camp David documents and the terms of the Rhodesian 'internal settlement' can also be found there.

The Government of the People's Republic of China having promulgated a new system of transliteration from Chinese into Western characters, both the new and the old forms of proper names are given in the article on China: e.g. Deng Xiaoping (Teng Hsiao-p'ing). Where Chinese names appear elsewhere, however, the old spelling has been retained for the present volume.

No change has been made this year in the arrangement of the Contents. The Editor welcomes a number of distinguished new contributors.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Advisory Board again gratefully acknowledges its debt to the Royal Institute of International Affairs and other institutions for their advice and help with sources, references and the provision of documents, figures and maps. The Board, and the bodies which nominate its members, disclaim responsibility for any opinions expressed or the accuracy of any facts recorded in this volume.

THE ANNUAL REGISTER

200 years ago

11 May 1778. *The death of Chatham*. The death of the Earl of Chatham, called forth the strongest marks and expressions of grief, with the greatest eulogism on his public virtues, from one side of the House, and was attended with the most exalted and lasting testimonials of public esteem and gratitude, with which departed merit can be honoured, from the whole. This celebrated nobleman (but once more celebrated commoner) who had for several years been a victim to a most excruciating disorder, which reduced him to a state of extreme feebleness with respect to his bodily powers, still retained all that vigour of mind by which in better days he was so much distinguished; and was seized with a fainting fit, the forerunner to his death, some days before in the House of Lords, in the midst of an eager speech which he was making upon American affairs. Thus, he may be said to have died as he lived, in the service of his country.

150 years ago

June 1828. *County Clare election*. Mr O'Connell . . . knew that his oratory must be guided by the rules of 'Agitation'; that his rhodomontades must be addressed to the passions. Like his friends, therefore, he did not condescend to speak rationally, but contented himself with talking very wildly about trampled rights—bending necks to masters—bloody bloodhounds—base ministers, and very grandiloquently about the mighty things that he, Daniel O'Connell, would achieve when he got into a parliament in which he could not sit . . . The election itself, however, was not attended by any scenes of violence, or any disturbance of the peace; it was conducted with less outrage than not unfrequently disgraces a popular election in England. The Catholic leaders exerted themselves to restrain all attempts at creating disorders . . . After a few days polling, Mr Fitzgerald was convinced that he could not continue the contest with any hope of success, and Mr O'Connell was declared to be duly elected.

100 years ago

13 June 1878. *Opening of the Berlin Congress*. The first meeting of the Congress of Berlin was held . . . at the Radziwill Palace, the new official residence of Prince Bismarck, and the Foreign Office of Berlin . . . Of dinners and interchange of visits the correspondents had more to tell than of the negotiations, and there were graphic accounts to be had of the health and dresses of the different members of the Congress. Prince Gortschakoff was ill and quiet; Count Andrassy well and active. Lord and Lady Odo Russell had a grand reception at the British Embassy, and all the members of the English special mission had a Sunday dinner with the Crown Princes at Potsdam. The British and Austrian Plenipotentiaries conferred with Count Schouvaloff, and the telegrams said the conference was important. A present of strawberry-leaves was sent from high quarters to the Earl of Beaconsfield, supposed to be emblematic of his future; and Prince Bismarck's big dog knocked Prince Gortschakoff down. The flying rumours of the day were busy with small things and with great.

50 years ago

4 November 1928 *Mussolini speaks*. In a rousing speech the Duce reminded his audience that intervention in the war [in 1915] was not forced upon Italy, but was the result of her own free initiative; while the ultimate victory, after intense sacrifice and suffering, was, he declared, 'shiningly' Italian. Amid demonstrations of enthusiasm the crowd answered with a resounding 'Yes' to Signor Mussolini's concluding question, 'If necessary, would you do again tomorrow what you did yesterday?'

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Anti-Shah demonstrators in Teheran, mourning those killed in previous riots in November, display the portrait of their leader Ayatollah Khomeini	Frontispiece
Israel's Prime Minister Menachem Begin and US President Jimmy Carter embrace to the applause of Egypt's President Anwar Sadat as agreement at Camp David is announced on 17 September 1978	<i>between pages 176-177</i>

ANNUAL REGISTER

FOR THE YEAR 1978

EDITORIAL

THE future of the English language is a matter of no small importance to the Annual Register. These volumes are written in English, they are read and studied by English-speakers all over the world, and their editors and contributors strive to maintain a high standard of English prose. But the matter is of immense concern far beyond our own self-regarding interest, and that concern embraces the spoken as well as the written word.

The English language is neither static nor monolithic. It grows, sheds, changes, and it has different versions—different vocabularies, different turns of phrase, different modes of expression—among the various peoples who speak and write it, and who enlarge and alter it in their own ways. In itself this mobility is to be welcomed, not deplored, but it poses problems, not only in intercommunication but also in recognition and defence of common standards, without which the language would fall apart as a means both of utility and of art.

Dr Robert Burchfield, chief editor of the Oxford English dictionaries, in a paper delivered to the American Library Association in Chicago on 26 June 1978,* expressed his conviction

that the two main forms of English, American English and British English, separated geographically from the beginning and severed politically since 1776, are continuing to move apart, and that existing elements of linguistic dissimilarity between them will intensify as time goes on, notwithstanding the power of the cinema, TV, *Time* magazine and other two-way glueing and fuelling devices.

Dr Burchfield was reported to have said at a subsequent press conference that, given another 200 years, the two forms would have become mutually unintelligible.

If his prediction were to prove true of British English and American English, it would presumably be equally true of British English and Australian or, say, Caribbean English. The consequences would be no less devastating beyond the native English-speaking countries. English has become the pre-eminent language of world-wide politics, diplomacy, commerce and scientific and intellectual interchange. In some countries it is an optional language for parliament, administration and law; in many it is a compulsory subject in secondary schools and an instrument of university education. How are these peoples to fare if there is not one English which they can learn and speak but two—or three or four—‘mutually unintelligible’ forms in the lands to which they look as the fount

* Reproduced in *Encounter*, October 1978.

of the language? The prospect opened is not a mere bifurcation of English but a Babel within Babel.

For the Annual Register the prognosis is much more than a matter of interesting speculation. Having already been published for 220 years, it can confidently expect to survive for another two centuries, the span of a prediction which if fulfilled could destroy its present world-wide circulation among all those who read and understand a common language, English.

Is the prediction sound? Those who foresee such a separation of several forms of English often draw a parallel with the transformation of Latin, the language of the Roman Empire and the *lingua franca* of Europe in the Dark and Middle Ages, into the half-dozen Romance languages we know today, with their regional variants. But the analogy is weak for two reasons: first, the barbarian invasions not only pushed back the Latin-bearers to their homeland, but also so reduced trade and other communication among the Empire's former territories that for centuries their peoples—though not their educated elites—were largely isolated from each other; and the same is true of the Germanic peoples whose languages, including English, separated from a common stock from the fifth century AD onwards. Secondly, though Latin was the *lingua franca* of those educated elites, by the Middle Ages it was no longer the vernacular tongue of any country, not even of its native Italy. By contrast, there is now a vast web of continuous communication of all sorts among the peoples of the world, and English, the *lingua franca* of their elites, is also the vernacular of over three hundred million of the most advanced and powerful among them. No deduction from ancient examples can apply directly to the fate of English in a world of radio broadcasts, television satellites, pop records, cheap air travel, constant academic, political and business exchanges and an international spate of popular as well as technical or learned literature.

Prophecy was not, indeed, the main theme of Dr Burchfield's Chicago address, which was concerned chiefly with the history of opinion in Britain and North America about the divergence of their languages. His quotations ranged from Dr Johnson, who deplored 'some mixture of the American dialect' in a book he was reviewing, 'a tract of corruption to which every language widely diffused must always be exposed'; through Samuel Webster, who held that 'American English, no longer in his eyes a mere dialect of English, was on a separation course from any variety of English spoken or written in Great Britain'; to T. S. Eliot, American by birth and British by adoption, who a century later believed the opposite. Specific defence of Dr Burchfield's prediction of future divergence awaited an article he wrote in the London *Observer*,* citing a large number of words and phrases drawn from American books or periodicals which he thought, with reason, would be unknown to British readers: 'badmouth', 'boffo', 'schlock', 'gooper', 'living with some turkey in a yurt', and so on.

* 30 July 1978.