

Irish Independent Online

13-May-1999

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US First Lady Hillary Clinton listening to the proceedings yesterday after she received the Freedom of Galway City and collected an Honorary Degree from the National University of Ireland, Galway

Message of hope on the path to peace

By NOEL SMITH

HILLARY Clinton left a powerful impression on more than 1,000 invited guests yesterday during her brief visit which was hailed as "truly historic" by the President of the National University of Ireland, Galway.

Mrs Clinton appeared to be in relaxed and chatty mood as she donned the academic robes to be conferred with a Doctorate in Laws by the university.

Officials said later that Mrs Clinton, who received several presentations to mark the visit, was "very deeply moved" by the warmth of the reception.

It was her wide-ranging, 30-minute address in the large, red-carpeted and historic quadrangle of the university that really gripped the audience and led



Today's Weather

Win the new



to rapturous applause.

She told people always to have hope in the search for permanent peace and she paid public tribute to the progress already achieved.

Shortly afterwards, after being conferred with the Freedom of the City by Mayor Angela Lynch-Lupton, Mrs Clinton spoke of how much she would like to return with husband Bill and daughter Chelsea. Chelsea, she said, had "fallen in love" with the west of Ireland and its people. The golf would be a magical attraction for Bill and she herself was overcome by the welcome of the people.

Anti-Nato protestors were kept well away from the First Lady who had travelled by motorcade from her overnight stay at Glenlo Abbey hotel, Bushypark to the university.

The protest was organised by the Galway-based 'No to War Campaign' and the Socialist Workers Party but was kept some 500 yards away from the First Lady.

However, anti-war chants, including "Stop the Bombing" and "No Welcome for Hillary Clinton", could be heard in the distance as the motorcade arrived.

In receiving what is the city's top civic honour, the First Lady joined a glittering list of dignitaries previously honoured, including past US presidents John F Kennedy and Ronald Reagan, Pope John Paul II and former Irish presidents Douglas Hyde and Eamon de Valera.

Clearly delighted with the honour, Mrs Clinton said she was "extraordinarily pleased" to receive the prestigious award and joked in signing the honours list she couldn't help but notice that she was in the company of many "distinguished gentlemen".

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Radiant and confident... US First Lady
Hillary Clinton pictured in Galway
yesterday where she received an Honorary
Doctorate from the National University of
Ireland

First Lady shines as plaudits, and rain, pour down

By MIRIAM LORD

HILLARY Rodham Clinton was out on
her own yesterday.

And as you can see, she was very happy
to get out of the House.

In the parlance of the Flood Tribunal,
all the signs were that Hillary was "on
a frolic", and doing very nicely, thank
you. This sort of thing could give a First
Lady ideas.

Her husband Bill may still be Leader of
the Free World, but yesterday, Mrs
Clinton captured an entire city. First she
takes Galway, then she takes Manhattan
... she should be in the Senate in no
time.

Actually, by the time Hillary left the
City of the Tribes, she had also taken



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two calfskin vellum scrolls, another Honorary Doctorate to add to her swelling collection, sundry pieces of bog oak, one engraved crystal platter and a special sculpture called Twin Spires. From the distance, it looked like a genetically-modified cow with about eight legs.

At this rate, the Clintons must have amassed enough parchment from Irish cities to wallpaper the Oval Office corridor and enough oak to soundproof it.

Wherever the unaccompanied Hillary goes these days, she is chaperoned by an unstated empathy from the people who watch and listen to her. Speculation and unasked questions are permanent companions. When she speaks, everyone searches between the lines for signals.

In Galway University, the City Fathers honoured Hillary Clinton as First Lady of the United States.

But the academics, while acknowledging her official position in America, seemed more concerned with Hillary Clinton "the remarkable and worthy" intellectual, lawyer, champion of women and children's rights, and a "great natural resource".

Then there was the way she looked. Strained and tired, said some. Radiant and confident, said others. More signals and signs there, and plenty of opportunities to scrutinise and empathise. Some even thought she dropped hints about her intention of running for the US Senate.

Mrs Clinton, having overnighted in Glenlo Abbey, first met a number of students and lecturers in the freshly painted Aula Maxima Hall.

Assembled guests were marched in and told to stand in line and wait, then the First Lady was ushered inside and walked along the receiving line like a President at a rugby international.

Arranged on a set of steps at the top of

the hall were the photographers, who were told not to step out of line and not to bump into the piano. They couldn't see very much, until Hillary finally walked towards them, looking up and into a stained glass window.

The photographers lurched forward, but not quickly enough for a man from the White House, who whipped a blue nylon rope out of his briefcase, chucked it to a man on the other side, then pulled it taut in front of them. He could have been lassoing a steer.

A taxi-driver told us he knew one of the waitresses working at the event, and she had been told not to wear black tights or a skirt above the knee. "Would have been the other way around for Bill!" he chuckled.

The rain belted down before the procession from the Quadrangle to the Conferring Hall. The band of the Western Command sheltered under a chestnut tree and played a Spanish Gypsy dance. But they couldn't drown out the noise from the protesters down the way, reminding us how wonderful it is to live in a democracy.

Then somebody started playing the bagpipes. But you could still hear the protesters. Luckily, the rain stopped just in time for the procession, which moved through the college grounds at a snail's pace. Members of the university and the city council processed gravely in their colourful robes behind the city sword and mace.

The VIPs walked in a small group some distance behind, and behind them, looking distinctly undonnish, walked the Secret Service. A man and a woman, both with earpieces, chewing gum and in black teacher's gowns.

Inside, seasoned Hillary watchers, people who claimed to have met her on lots of occasions, said that she wasn't travelling with such a large entourage yesterday. That she wasn't as perfectly prepared for the occasion as she would be normally. For example, where was the man who goes everywhere with her

carrying the box containing The Speech?

Perhaps that may be why she didn't receive a standing ovation at the end of the two ceremonies. Bertie Ahern's partner Celia Larkin, who was seated in the front row, made an attempt to rise to her feet as the final applause began, but they remained rooted to their seats around her, so she sat down again.

Celia attended officially as the "representative from the Taoiseach's constituency office", which would have been very handy for anyone from Dublin Central who happened to find themselves around campus yesterday. They could have asked her to request the boss to make representations for them.

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Around the world

FROM TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

BRITAIN

Tune in to kids, Mrs. Clinton urges

LONDON—Modern society has come a long way in caring for children, but it must do a better job of listening to young people, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said Thursday.

Citing last month's school shootings in Littleton, Colo., Clinton said that everything society does pales in comparison to keeping children safe.

"There may be no easy answers, there may be no single solution; we're well aware of that," she said at a conference called "Hearing Children's Voices" in London. "But we have a responsibility to listen to young people, to change attitudes and to offer a helping hand."

After the conference, Clinton and her British counterpart, Cherie Blair, met with a family of three generations who had fled Kosovo.

Later, Clinton flew to Italy. She is en route to Macedonia, where she is to tour camps of refugees from Kosovo.

KILLERS
ARE

attacking peace says first lady

By Rosie Uffindell

HILLARY Clinton spoke out yesterday against the killers of Lurgan solicitor Rosemary Nelson.

The US first lady said the murder was an attack not just on an individual but on the rule of law and the peace process itself.

Speaking in Belfast at the Vital Voices conference promoting the role of women in democracy, she said the murderers must not be allowed to succeed in their bid to derail the peace process. They must be brought to justice, she said.

"Her murder must be the final rebuke for all who would try to destroy the peace process," she said.

Mrs Clinton, a lawyer herself, made the speech the day after Ulster Unionist security spokesman Ken Maginnis stood by controversial comments alleging that Rosemary Nelson was "at worst, sympathetic" to the IRA.

Mrs Clinton told 400 delegates in the Spire Centre - and another 800 who joined by video link from Craigavon, Derry and Cavan - that peace was about taking risks, making compromises and moving forward.

She praised politicians David Trimble and Seamus Mallon, who both spoke at the event, and Secretary of State Mo Mowlam, who sent her apologies for not

attending, for their commitment to the peace process.

Mrs Clinton pledged America's continued support for the peace process.

"We will stand with you. We will stand with all who take risks for peace."

"We will stand with all who are interested in building opportunities and accepting responsibility for the future."

Among the guests at the Spire Centre event, sponsored by the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust, were SDLP leader John Hume, his wife Pat and Belfast Lord Mayor David Alderdice.

First Minister David Trimble praised Mrs Clinton and the Vital Voices project for helping provide resources and partnerships to further the role of women.

He said the "courage and commitment" of Northern Irish women had done much to "maintain the fabric of civic society through the many dark days of the last 30 years".

SDLP assembly member Brid Rodgers said Mrs Clinton's presence at the conference had raised the profile of women's participation in democracy.

Mrs Clinton left the conference before lunch to fly to London, where last night she met Kosovan refugees with Cherie Blair, wife of Britain's prime minister.

● President's prize: P3;
Editorial: P10



● MESSAGE OF HOPE ... Mrs Clinton clearly enjoying herself at the Vital Voices women's conference yesterday
Picture: Hugh Russ

Friday May 14 1999

THE IRISH NEWS

1 Jan '92 2:28 P.13/15

The Daily Telegraph front page 14/5/99



Picture: PETER MACDIARMID

BABY TALK: Cherie Blair asks Kosovo refugee Dijana Robaj about the teeth of her six-month-old daughter Veneta, as Hillary Clinton looks on, during a visit by three generations of the Robaj family to 10 Downing Street. Earlier, Mrs Blair and Mrs Clinton attended a legal conference in London at which they issued a rallying call for the rights of children around the world

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HONOUR: Hillary Clinton with President's Prize winners Noreen Christian and Alistair Kilgore, Irish News editor Noel Doran, left, and News Letter editor Geoff Martin, right. Picture: Bob Hamilton

Champions of peace honoured

US First Lady Hillary Clinton yesterday joined with the editors of the News Letter and Irish News to honour the two latest recipients of the President's Prize.

The prize is a project set up by both newspapers during President Clinton's first visit to Belfast in 1995 to promote closer community relations.

The two winners, who met

Mrs Clinton after the Vital Voices conference in the Spire Centre, are Noreen Christian and Alistair Kilgore.

Founder-member of Cornerstone Community, Noreen Christian is a Roman Catholic nun who works with people on both sides of the peace-line in west Belfast. She is active with the Forthspring Initiative which brings Roman Catholics

and Protestants together at the Methodist church on the Springfield Road.

After taking early retirement from Ashfield Boys Secondary School in Belfast in 1997, Alistair Kilgore took up the post of Deputy Director of the cross-community Corrymeela Centre in Ballycastle, where he has been a volunteer for the past 25 years.

News Letter

ESTABLISHED IN 1737

Morning View

Quiet heroes epitomise our very best

THE two latest recipients of the President's Prize epitomise all that is good in our at times bitterly divided society.

Former Dominican nun Noreen Christian and Corrymeela Community officer Alistair Kilgore hail from very different backgrounds but the work they do is motivated by the same passionate desire to build bridges of reconciliation.

Coincidentally, both have experience of working in Africa, a continent where problems of poverty, pestilence and war make our own difficulties seem minuscule in comparison. Perhaps that is why they returned determined to help heal divisions in a country which in other ways has so much going for it.

The award was established by the News Letter and Irish News following the peace poll held by the two newspapers in 1993. Nowadays the task of reconciliation is not nearly as daunting as it was in the worst days of the troubles, but it remains an essential requirement for the creation of a new society in which people can participate and prosper regardless of tradition or creed.

Those who, at grassroots level, have dedicated themselves during the darkest days to improving the quality of life in their own communities and across the divide, succeeded in laying the foundations on which the peace process was built.

Noreen Christian and Alistair Kilgore are outstanding examples of how ordinary people can change things for the better. We should all be proud of them, and all others like them.

By GARY KELLY

AMERICA'S First Lady Hillary Clinton chose a conference on the empowerment of women to launch a blistering attack on the murderers of Lurgan solicitor Rosemary Nelson.

Speaking before 400 women and a sprinkling of men at the Vital Voices conference in central Belfast yesterday, she said that the murder was an attack on the rule of law and a blatant attempt to derail the peace process.

"It is important that her killers must not be allowed to succeed - they must be brought to justice," she said.

Mrs Clinton, who praised the efforts of Northern Ireland's political leaders to cement the peace process, said that the people involved in the Vital Voices project showed that the forces for justice and empowerment were stronger than ever.

"Vital voices is part of a larger effort that I have been privileged to view...the way that people have pulled together to



PAMELA BALLENTINE

High praise for Pamela

PAMELA Ballentine is the latest UTV personality to grab the attentions of a top American.

For the TV presenter's bravura performance in linking the Vital Voices conference was warmly praised by Hillary Clinton, who hinted that the White House might have some use for her polished Ulster tones.

The First Lady thanked the blushing presenter for doing the "most fantastic job".

"That voice is absolutely wonderful. We hope we can borrow Pamela and her skills again," she gushed.

Her words of approval were reminiscent of the praise heaped on UTV colleague Kate Smith by actor Tom Cruise, who compared her blue eyes to Paul Newman's.

Said Pamela: "Having only just met Mrs Clinton very briefly beforehand, it was a very nice gesture."

make peace real in their lives."

She said that the work of Vital Voices was part of a global democracy movement that was giving women the opportunity to shape their own destinies.

Before an audience that included First Minister David Trimble, Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon and SDLP leader John Hume, the First Lady said she knew how hard they were working to bring the institutions of the fledgling

Assembly to life.

The conference, which took place at the headquarters of the Presbyterian Church in Fishervick Place, included a video link-up to women involved in the Vital Voices project in Craigavon, Londonderry and Cavan.

In his speech, Mr Trimble told Mrs Clinton that his hope was that when they met again, the Assembly would be up and running.

Referring to the delay in the move to a Northern Ireland executive, he said "It is a deep source of frustration not to be able to get on with the job. I'm determined that we will sooner rather than later achieve devolution as a means to empower the whole of the community."

Taking up the theme of the deadlock in the political process, Mr Mallon said that was important to move to a politics that goes beyond factionalism towards inclusion.

"We must remember that the peace process doesn't belong to a small group of political leaders or Governments, it belongs to the massive majorities that voted for it in the island of Ireland, north and south."

Before leaving, Mrs Clinton said: "I look forward to more opportunities to return and also to host and welcome you to the United States."

Outside, meanwhile, a small but vocal group was acting as a "vital voice" of protest against the NATO bombing of Serbia.

Barbara Muldoon, of the Socialist Workers' Party and the No to War Campaign, is an ardent feminist who believes in the promotion of women's rights.

She said: "I appreciate the sincere attempts of people in Northern Ireland in the search for peace. But there is very little sincerity about a woman, who comes over talking about peace but is part of an administration that has killed innocent Serb civilians."



Hillary Clinton gets a warm Belfast welcome

"Hillary Blasts Nelson's Killers."

Irish Independent

Online

15-May-1999



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Win the new



Amongst women there is belief in peace

By MAURICE HAYES

HILLARY CLINTON'S visit to Belfast on Thursday to address the Vital Voices conference revealed another force in Northern Ireland politics which is growing in potency and is not yet being sufficiently recognised.

The womens' movement has its well known champions in politics like Monica McWilliams but its influence goes much deeper. In many ways, women have been the secret weapon of the peace process.

It was mothers who intervened to prevent their sons dying, who blunted the edge of the hunger strike as a weapon of protest. It was women too who suffered while their husbands and sons were killed or imprisoned who decided that enough was enough and began to exert the sort of pressure in the areas in which the paramilitaries were based which pushed them, on both sides, towards a peaceful resolution of political problems.

It was women too who were concerned about the bread and butter issues, about health and housing and social disadvantage, about training and jobs for their kids and a chance for themselves to escape from the traps which gender, family, and a male dominated culture had placed them in. The womens movement in Northern Ireland is more strongly characterised by these pragmatic issues than by feminist theology. They have come from community groups and from community development rather than from any theoretical position and they have found their voice. In the evidence of the Vital Voices conference it is an increasingly confident and assertive one, and one that must certainly be a force in politics before long, particularly at a local level. Community development in Northern Ireland was a creature of the troubles.

It took root first in the nationalist communities partly to compensate for the services which government agencies were withholding or providing on an unsatisfactory basis, partly as an expression of solidarity, and partly as a means of building self confidence and leadership among communities which were demoralised, disadvantaged or dissolutioned.

The result has been the growth of a community sub-structure of great strength and tenacity which underpins political activity in the north. Interestingly enough, the movement was much slower to take off in Protestant areas.

Partly this was because of an historical dependence on the ruling party, which equally let down the Protestant working class. There was too, something of a religious basis. Community was something which came more easily out of the Catholic tradition: Protestantism tended to stand for personal responsibility, individualism and self reliance. One was warm and wooly and imprecise about relationships, the other clear and sharp and unambiguous. Whatever about that, community development is now taking place in protestant areas too and is the stuff which sustains the smaller loyalist parties



Today's Weather



and provides their base in the community, if not their electoral support. A recent survey intended to find out why there was a disparity in grants from European Peace and Reconciliation funds in Catholic and Protestant areas found that it was directly related to the number of applications and to activity. Community development (and the capacity to apply for and to use grants) was much more advanced in nationalist areas.

Whatever else has emerged, there is the growing involvement of women in community activities. This was a slow development at first, but is gaining momentum as women gain confidence. Many of the early beginnings were supported by charities like the Ireland Fund but recently dispersment of non-charitable money by the international fund for Ireland and the European Union Programme for Peace and Reconciliation have made a major impact.

It was revealed at the conference that over 1,000 grants had been made to women's group which had moved them from tea and social chats to grappling with social and economic issues, to personal development and leadership, to courses in entrepreneurship and local development, to training and tourism and computers and further education. One got the sense of an army on the move which would soon begin to make an electoral impact, not necessarily in a single party, but through all the political parties (apart perhaps from the more chauvinistic elements on the unionist right). George Mitchell in his account of peace making in Northern Ireland paid tribute to the small women's representation which had gained entry to the forum through a slightly skewed electoral process. They did however perform a function out of all proportion to their representational strength in mediating between the parties, in softening the edge of conflict, and in general pushing the traditional parties away from romanticism and ideology to the practicalities of daily life.

Women like Monica McWilliam, Pearl Sagar, May Blood and Geraldine O'Regan, Geraldine McAteer and Broa Hynes, are the surest guarantee that the society will not go into reverse that peace in the end will prevail.

One has to think too that had it been left to these women the business might well have been finished by now. As it is, it is slower than most of the public clearly would prefer. Both unionists and republicans seem to have frozen on the last hurdle. Everyone accepts that the outcome is tantalisingly close but republicans seem incapable of making the final gesture or saying the necessary words which will reassure unionists and unionists are unable to move without a clear and visible sign that arms are being put out of use, which the others seem increasingly incapable of making. At least however the atmosphere has improved and the body language. While there is disappointment and dismay at the failure to complete the agreement there is no sense that this will not happen eventually. The general feeling is of a system which might stall but which is irreversible. The public cannot only not stomach, it cannot imagine a return to war. The fact that unionists and Sinn Fein are talking is seen as a plus, that they are not slanging each other in public and speak of each other with due restraint.

THE CONTINUED sectarian attacks on Catholic houses and workplaces is a worry. On the other hand, the discussions David Trimble is engaged in with the Garvaghy Road residents gives some hope of relief, if not yet of an ending of the dreary Drumcree saga. So too does the withdrawal of pickets from Harryville Church and the decision of the Orange Order more widely not to congregate at Drumcree this year, and the likelihood that the Ulster Unionist Party will shortly break its formal links with the Orange Order. Meantime, the parties edge closely together without actively touching. Of all the

false dogmas in Northern Ireland, the doctrine of unright time is the most pernicious.

Hillsborough was right for unionists, but republicans were not ready. Now republicans want a settlement but unionists want to wait until after the European elections. Then there will be Drumcree, then the marching season, and then and then and then. Meantime, there are problems in the health service, social and economic problems which are crying out for the attention of a locally based administration. The women's movement could teach them a thing or too about getting on with it.

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Designed by Trinity Commerce

Skopje, Macedonia

Hillary Clinton set to visit refugees

By Deborah McGregor
in Washington

When First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visits refugee camps in Macedonia tomorrow, her official mission will be to convey a message of compassion from her husband and all Americans to the displaced Kosovars.

But Mrs Clinton, who has been waiting weeks for the right moment to visit the Balkan refugees, will also be delivering her own messages of hope and encouragement based on recent meetings with more than a dozen heads of US aid foundations to discuss ways to provide relief to Kosovo's ethnic Albanians.

President Bill Clinton said his wife's mission would be "to clarify our compassion and concern for the predominantly Moslem Kosovar Albanians who've been driven from their homes and seen their loved ones murdered".

Mr Clinton recently visited refugees in Germany.

Aides to Mrs Clinton said the First Lady had been eager to visit the refugees but had been looking for the right moment to do so. Many US celebrities and politicians have paid high-profile visits to the refugee camps in recent weeks.

Her visit will also serve as a sign that Mr Clinton remains unwaveringly committed to continuing the air war until Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav president, agrees to Nato's demands.

Mrs Clinton's visit comes at a time when speculation about her political ambitions continues to run high. She has yet to decide if she will be a candidate for the US Senate, representing New York.

But her high-octane travel schedule, which has included numerous speaking engagements in that state, has fuelled the notion that she is seriously considering running.

Some analysts have suggested that the Kosovo situation may present difficulties for the First Lady, because it could appear inappropriate for her to enter a full-blown political campaign effort while the nation is at war.

If she were to launch a Senate bid, she would also be battling the "carpet-bagger" label, since she hails not from New York but from Illinois.

Recent opinion polls suggest Mrs Clinton's earlier lead over her opponents has essentially evaporated.

Mrs Clinton plans to stop in London before heading to Macedonia.

● Tony Blair, the prime minister, is expected to pledge his support next week for Bulgaria to make an early start in negotiations to join the European Union - matching a similar promise made to Romania.

He will visit Albania and Bulgaria to review the refugee situation and meet political leaders.

A government official said the prime minister been impressed by the great strides the Bulgarian government had made to reform its political and economic institutions, and the solidarity it has shown with Nato.

PM-Macedonia Hillary Clinton, 1st Ld-Writethru, a0525,0469

First lady arrives Macedonia to tour refugee camps

Eds: LEADS thruout to UPDATE with Clinton arriving in camps, color, quotes.
No pickup.

With PM-Yugoslavia-Kosovo, Bjt

AP Photos planned

By MELISSA EDDY= Associated Press Writer=

SKOPJE Macedonia (AP) First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton toured a refugee camp today housing thousands of ethnic Albanians and met with Macedonian leaders trying to cope with the difficulties created by the Kosovo crisis.

Hundreds of refugee children, smiling and waving, crowded the fence at the Stenkovec I camp as the first lady entered the tent city, accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill and his wife.

One 11-year-old boy, Fatos Rexhep, walked up to her and presented her with a UNICEF cap. Later, the boy told reporters he had been at the camp for two weeks after Serb police drove his family from Kosovo, telling his father they would kill his children if they did not leave.

The boy said his father died of a heart attack en route to safety in Macedonia.

In remarks to aid workers, Mrs. Clinton told them that the United States would not abandon its efforts to get the refugees home.

NATO launched airstrikes on Yugoslavia March 24 to force Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to accept a peace plan for Kosovo, a province in southern Yugoslavia.

The alliance is demanding not only a total withdrawal of Milosevic's forces from Kosovo and the return of refugees but the deployment of an international peacekeeping force, a big sticking point in diplomatic negotiations that include Russia.

"I want to send a message to the refugees that we do not intend to let the evil which Milosevic perpetrated against these people keep them away from their homeland and their homes," Mrs. Clinton said. "That is a very basic, fundamental commitment that is shared not only by those in the U.S. who are committed to this effort but our allies as well."

There are also signs of growing tensions in the overcrowded tent city. On Monday, refugees staged a mass protest complaining about poor conditions and alleged harassment by Macedonian police officers.

President Clinton has said his wife's mission is "to clarify our compassion and concern for the predominantly Muslim Kosovar Albanians who've been driven out of their homes."

Mrs. Clinton flew here after visiting Belfast, Northern Ireland, and London, where she addressed a children's rights conference.

Mrs. Clinton will return to Washington from Macedonia.

Albana Pireva, 18, said the trip "shows she cares and wants to know about the way we live."

"We are glad she's coming to visit," said Milihate Pronaj, 19. "We're expecting her to tell us something new, something for our future."

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Macedonia meeting



ASSOCIATED PRESS

■ First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton shakes hands with U.S. officers from the NATO forces deployed in Macedonia today upon her arrival at Skopje Airport. She is expected to visit the Stenkovec camp to see firsthand the challenges facing Macedonia, which currently has more than 230,000 refugees in nine overcrowded camps. More on the Balkans in Nation/World, 10A.

FBIS

062MAY14 UNCLAS 2M FYROM: Hillary Clinton Arrives in Skopje, Heads to Refugee Camp AU1405084199 Paris AFP (North European Service) in English 0834 GMT 14 May 99

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SKOPJE, May 14 (AFP) -- US First Lady Hillary Clinton arrived in Macedonia Friday for a one-day visit during which she will meet with Kosovo Albanian refugees at the Brazda refugee camp, also known as Stenkovec One, officials said.

Clinton, arriving in the morning from Naples where she made a brief stopover Thursday evening, was greeted at Skopje airport by the wife of President Kiro Gligorov, Nada, and Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Trazhkovski.

She was expected to go directly to the Brazda camp before meeting with Macedonian leaders.

The tent city, erected by British NATO troops around a small airport just north of Skopje, now hosts 18,700 refugees, according to an estimate Thursday from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees

UNHCR).

The First Lady will then go to the residence of US ambassador Christopher Hill to meet Macedonian relief organizations and Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski.

She will also meet with President Kiro Gligorov at his residence, before returning to Washington.

"The purpose of Mrs Clinton's visit is to express appreciation and strong support for Macedonia and its efforts to provide for the hundreds of thousands of Kosovar refugees here," the US embassy in Skopje said Thursday.

Separately, President Bill Clinton, in a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski on Thursday, promised to work for an increase in US aid for Macedonia, Georgievski's office said.

Clinton voiced support for Macedonia's work to shelter Kosovo refugees and said he would shortly propose a bill to Congress to boost the aid level.

The United States will do "everything it can for Macedonia to gain financial support," he was quoted as saying.

Macedonia has criticised NATO and EU nations for not doing more to help it cope with the sudden influx of Kosovo Albanian refugees that followed the March 24 start of NATO air strikes on Yugoslavia.

The economy of this landlocked former Yugoslav republic of 2.2 million has been crippled by the Kosovo conflict, and there are fears its delicate ethnic mix of Macedonians, Albanians, Serbs, Bulgarians, Greeks and others will be upset if the refugees stay too long.

[Description of Source: AFP (North European Service): North European Service of the independent French press agency Agence France-Presse]

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**** printed by:WHPR(SCOH) on 05/14/99 at 08:20EDT ****

MACEDONIA

First Lady Pays Visit To a Camp

By DAVID ROHDE

SKOPJE, Macedonia, May 14 — Hillary Rodham Clinton swept through Macedonia today on a visit that illustrated Washington's continuing struggle to balance the diverse strands of its Kosovo policy.

In a refugee camp appearance so carefully scripted that Administration officials chose which refugees Mrs. Clinton would speak with, she commiserated with Kosovo's expelled masses. After hearing refugees' accounts of their flight from Kosovo, she said their plight reminded her of movie depictions of the Holocaust like "Schindler's List."

"We do not intend to let the evil Milosevic has perpetrated against these people keep them away from their homeland and homes," Mrs. Clinton said.

While expressing sympathy for the refugees, however, Mrs. Clinton went out of her way to avoid offending Macedonian sensibilities.

Ethnic Macedonians, who make up two-thirds of the population, generally oppose NATO's bombing. They also fear that if ethnic Albanians — who made up one-third of Macedonia's population before the crisis — continue to pour in from Kosovo, Macedonians will be reduced to a minority in their own country.

So although Mrs. Clinton spent the morning addressing refugee suffering, she spent the rest of the day trying to defuse anti-American sentiment and to bolster Macedonia's fragile coalition Government, a mix of Macedonian and Albanian parties.

"It's important for people in my country and elsewhere to put themselves in the position of the refugees," she said, "but also in the position of the Macedonian people, who have responded as they have in the last weeks. I'm very grateful to them as well."

But the essential issue remains when the roughly 200,000 refugees here might return to Kosovo.

"We are trying very hard to permit you to return to your homes in safety," Mrs. Clinton said. "That's what my husband, the United States Government and the NATO allies are trying to accomplish."

The New York Times

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1999

First Lady Brings Publicity, Aid to Macedonia

By ARNOLD SWEETSON
Washington Post Foreign Service

BRAZDA, Macedonia, May 14—First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, the first high-ranking American to visit here since the Kosovo crisis began, brought two messages to Macedonia today.

Touring a refugee camp of 18,000 people, Clinton urged Americans not to become "immune" to the plight of more than 740,000 Kosovo Albanians expelled from their homeland since NATO began its air war against Yugoslavia on March 24. "We are trying to do everything possible to make these lives and stories real, not to let them fade into the background," she said.

And she soothed the irritated government of Macedonia, which has taken in the refugees only reluctantly and at the price of more foreign aid. Clinton today added

another \$2 million to the pot—the first installment of a \$21 million reallocation of funds for Macedonia.

The first lady met with four refugee families and heard the tales of devastation and despair that are commonplace here.

One mother had not seen her three youngest children since March 31, when Serbian police pushed them aside in the crowded train station in Pristina, Kosovo's capital. Another woman had one son-in-law killed in a massacre in the village of Racak in January; another is still inside Kosovo.

Clinton seemed most affected by tales from refugees who arrived at the Macedonian border aboard jammed, hot trains, carrying what few possessions they could manage.

"Think about those trains," she said. "I don't know how many of you saw [the films] 'Schindler's List' or 'Sophie's Choice.' Think about what

that means—driving people from their homes, separating families, loading them into trains—at the end of this violent century that we should have learned something from."

Even as Clinton toured the camp, a few refugees were entering Macedonia from Kosovo. For 10 days, almost no one has crossed the frontier—initially because Macedonian border guards were blocking refugees, then because Serbian authorities were not allowing them to leave.

Today, 36 people came here, including Artan Misini, 26, from the town of Uroševac. There, he said, some 1,500 people were trying to leave. "The food situation is very bad," he said.

There are 233,000 Kosovo refugees in Macedonia, according to the U.N. refugee agency, and officials here have expressed reluctance to take them in for fear of upsetting the

country's delicate ethnic balance. Before the Kosovo crisis, ethnic Albanians accounted for 22 percent of Macedonia's 2 million people; the inflow of refugees has increased the proportion to one-third. A majority of Kosovo's refugees here live with friends or family; the rest are in camps.

After her camp tour, Clinton met with Prime Minister Ijubo Georgievski, parliamentary president Savo Klimovski and local aid officials, and her message could not have been more straightforward: "I want to clearly express our appreciation to the government of Macedonia for the efforts they have made. It has been an incredible burden on Macedonia."

She also promised a Macedonian clothing manufacturer that she would personally call designer Liz Claiborne to persuade her to increase her orders from Macedonia.



BY LUCIAN P. PERDUE—THE WASHINGTON POST
Hillary Rodham Clinton strolls with children during a visit to a refugee camp in Macedonia. Clinton also listened to the accounts of refugee families.

BALKANS

Milosevic's 'evil' won't prevail, Mrs. Clinton tells Kosovo refugees

By **Uli Schmetzer**
TRIBUNE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

STANKOVIC I, Macedonia—Hillary Rodham Clinton told Kosovo refugees at this massive camp Friday that America would not allow the "evil" leadership in Belgrade to prevent their eventual return home.

While the first lady almost crawled into the small tents to talk to refugees, eight NATO jets returning from missions in Yugoslavia left vapor trails in the sky above her—a grim reminder that the war was only a few miles away across the border in Kosovo.

Under a merciless sun, Clinton tried to lift the spirits of the thousands of Kosovars who have fled from Yugoslav President Slobodan

Milosevic's military and paramilitary forces. Many of the refugees have lived for nearly two months in cramped, smelly camps, eating cold rations and standing in line for staples.

"These people all want to go home. They all want to live in peace and security," she said after touring a roped-off corner of the sprawling camp.

Tension in the camps has been growing in recent days.

About 4,000 refugees staged a protest two days ago, complaining about poor conditions and harassment by Macedonian police, who have taken over security responsibility from NATO troops. The police, mainly Slavs, have shown scant compassion for the ethnic Albanians, apparently out of concern they could upset the delicate ethnic balance in Macedonia.

Refugees allege that some countries, such as France, select mainly Roman Catholic ethnic Albanians for transfer from the camps to their countries. Most Albanians are Muslims. Girls have complained that self-styled Muslim "orderlies" among the refugees force them to wear long sleeves instead of sleeveless blouses in the heat.

But as Clinton drove to the camp on Friday during her one-day visit to Macedonia, police checkpoints on the road to the camp were unmanned for the first time in two months.

Hugged and kissed by refugees during her 35-minute tour, she said: "I want to send a message to the refugees that we do not intend to let the evil which Milosevic perpetrated against these people keep them away from their homeland and their homes."

But she had no answer to voices asking: "When can we go back?"

The first lady was the latest in a series of prominent visitors here, among them British Prime Minister Tony Blair and NATO chief Javier Solana. They have come to Macedonia and Albania to show solidarity with the refugees and the two small Balkan nations bearing the brunt of the Kosovo crisis.

All of them have promised to help these countries carry the financial burden imposed by a war that cut off landlocked Macedonia's main exports and road routes through Yugoslavia. The government in Macedonia wants NATO membership and foreign debt relief in return for being host to the refugees.

Meanwhile, hundreds of refugee children, waving and shouting "NATO! NATO!" crowded the area reserved for Clinton's visit. They had waited for two hours in scorching heat for America's first lady, who later expressed U.S. sympathy with a nation where refugees now constitute one-tenth of the population.

After she left the camp, many of the children stripped down and jumped into a murky brook that runs along the back fence to cool off.

Earlier in the day, Fatos Rexhep, 11, rushed up to Clinton and gave her his UNICEF baseball cap. One of her aides quickly carried it to the official limousine.

The boy said his father had died of a heart attack during the family's escape from Kosovo. He said Serb police had told his parents they would shoot the children if the family didn't leave.

A woman, Fette Proaj, complained she hadn't seen her three children and husband for three weeks. "You will be with your family very soon," Clinton told her.

After leaving the Stankovic camp, Clinton visited a 16th Century Orthodox Church and examined its frescoes and icons before meeting with local Macedonian aid agencies, the first people to help the refugees at the beginning of the crisis.

She arrived in Macedonia on a U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules transport plane escorted by an Army helicopter.

Before she departed for Washington on Friday afternoon, one of the refugees summed up the taste of disappointment she left behind:

"We expected her to tell us something new, something for our future," Albana Pireva, 18, said.

WAR IN THE



An ethnic Albanian woman kisses Hillary Rodham Clinton during her one-day visit Friday to the Stankovic refugee camp in Macedonia. Reuters photo.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks with ethnic Albanian children Friday at the Stenkovec refugee camp in Macedonia.

First lady listens to refugees' woes

She also delivers assurances and aid to Macedonia

By Alissa J. Rubin
Los Angeles Times

BRAZDA, Macedonia — For everyone who visits the refugee camps of Kosovo Albanians, there comes a moment when it becomes clear what it would be like to go through what the refugees have endured.

For Hillary Rodham Clinton, that moment came outside tent B-12 in a camp here on Friday, when 12-year-old Fetije Pronaj, a worn-faced woman with collar-length dark hair, told her story.

She came from a small village north of Pristina, the capital of Kosovo. When Serb forces emptied her village, they herded everyone onto trains. As she stood on the station platform, she held tight to her 8- and 11-year-old sons' hands while her husband looked after her three older daughters.

"Then they began to separate the women from the men. They were pointing guns at us," she said.

Suddenly in the crush of the crowd and the shoving of the soldiers, she lost her sons' hands, she could not see them anywhere, and she was pushed onto the train.

Pronaj is now in Macedonia's Stenkov-

vec I refugee camp with only two of her five children, and it's unclear where her husband and other three children are.

Clinton heard her story Friday morning on her trip to Macedonia, which was aimed at highlighting the plight of ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo and assuring this poor Balkan nation that the United States understands the stress that the influx has placed on it.

Aid officials say Macedonia has taken about 233,000 of the nearly 800,000 refugees who fled Kosovo since NATO started bombing Yugoslavia on March 24 to force it to end its repression of the Kosovo Albanians.

Clinton also announced the release of the first \$2 million in a \$21 million economic development package for Macedonia that is designed to help the fledgling democracy create new small businesses through microcredit organizations.

"I want very clearly to express our appreciation to the government and the people of Macedonia for the steps they have taken in responding to this unprecedented crisis," she said. "It's been an incredible burden on the people of Macedonia . . . so I'm very grateful to them," she said.

While Clinton was enthusiastic during her meeting with Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov, Prime Minister Ijubco Georgievski and others, it was only during her tour of refugee camps that her practiced politician's manner fell away.

As she started to leave the camp of 23,000, which was hot and dusty and smelled of sweat and sewage, she spontaneously started to talk to the crowd of aid workers and journalists.

"I'm picturing myself in the faces and stories," said Clinton, and then it was Fetije Pronaj's face that seemed to appear before her.

"When you talk to a woman, who in the push of the crowd with the Serbian police . . . forcing people onto these trains, the hands of the children she was holding evaporate — all of us have had that experience where you are holding onto a little hand and it gets hot in a football crowd or some other place," she said.

"And now, she doesn't know where three of her children are, she has no idea whether they are in Kosovo, whether they were put on a later train, she has no idea what has happened to them," Clinton said, shaking her head slightly.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1999 *

Haunting hungry eyes

Macedonian Ambassador Lubica Acevska has just returned from a visit to a Kosovar refugee camp in her country and is haunted by the hopelessness she found there.

Miss Acevska was accompanying first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton on the trip Friday to the tent city of 32,000 people.

"One little girl attached herself to me," she told Embassy Row yesterday. "I can still see her face."

Miss Acevska said she was pained by the sight of elderly refugees, "the old people with hungry eyes."

"You feel so sorry for them. But what can you do? ... I can't get them out of my mind," she said.

Miss Acevska called on other nations to relieve Macedonia, which has been flooded by more than 200,000 refugees driven out of Kosovo by Yugoslav forces.

"It so tragic the other countries aren't doing more to help the refugees," she said.

Mrs. Clinton's visit helped uplift the spirits of refugees, even if it was a temporary respite from the hot, crowded realities of the camp. During the first lady's tour, the temperature hit the 90s, an unusually hot day in a Macedonian spring, Miss Acevska said.

"They were happy to see her. It shows they are not forgotten," she said.

The Macedonian government appreciated Mrs. Clinton's visit.

"We were very pleased she came. She is committed to helping us," the ambassador said.

HRC Clips

Visit to Galway, Ireland,
Belfast, Northern Ireland,
London, England, and
Skopje, Macedonia



Tuesday, May 12, -
Friday, May 15, 1999

Galway, Ireland
Belfast, Northern Ireland
London, England

Hillary Clinton Pushes Women's Issues on World Trips

By JEANNE CUMMINGS

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

BELFAST, Northern Ireland—About a dozen female members of the newly formed Northern Ireland Assembly were describing the difficulty of working in a historically male-dominated environment when their special guest, first lady Hillary Clinton, suggested they form a women's caucus. "Oh, we can't do that," cried Rep. Eileen Bell. "The men would go mad."

The conversation quickly moved to other topics. But Mrs. Clinton had struck another nerve.

With her husband's encouragement and little media attention, Mrs. Clinton has been traveling the globe for the past four years, questioning the status quo and sometimes offering blunt advice, all in a quest to elevate the status of women. In Ireland, China, Africa and elsewhere, Mrs. Clinton routinely returns to the feminist roots that in 1992 fueled talk of the first co-presidency.

As the first lady appears close to launching her own political career by running for a New York Senate seat, her strong international voice for women's rights offers a striking contrast to the more traditional role she reverted to at home after the 1994 health-care debacle. A look at her international voice raises interesting questions about what kind of profile Mrs. Clinton would adopt if she becomes a candidate in her own right.

Tough talk on rape, forced prostitution, equal pay, and the right of families to make their own reproductive choices, including abortion, define Mrs. Clinton abroad. She even wades into such difficult topics as female genital mutilation. Her foreign focus reaches into her writings. In a March 1998 column focusing on child kidnappings in Uganda, Mrs. Clinton called members of the rebel Lord's Resistance Army "cowards" for engaging in the practice.

Meanwhile, at home, her image is more traditional. Children are the staple of her speeches, and her poll numbers skyrocketed when she stood by her husband during the Monica Lewinsky scandal. She soon will become the author of a book on the social side of the White House. In her weekly newspaper columns, Mrs. Clinton's domestic topics can range from Volunteers Day at the White House to backing her husband's domestic initiative.

Some observers attribute Mrs. Clinton's growing interest in world issues to a desire to escape from a brutal political climate in Washington and troubles in her marriage. But an alternative theory is that the problems of women in other countries, particularly in the developing

world, present a challenge for an intelligent and ambitious woman who is chastened by hard lessons about the limits of her role at home but still determined to make a difference.

And, by concentrating her feminist message in foreign lands, she has managed to avoid doing political damage to herself or her husband at home. "I think she is viewed as a statesman in the international community," says Myra Gutin, author of a book on the first ladies and a communications professor at Rider University in Lawrenceville, N.J. "Here, she is viewed more as a partisan."

Marsha Berry, Mrs. Clinton's spokeswoman, says the first lady's international advocacy is simply an extension of her domestic work, which continues to focus on balancing work and family and children's health. "I don't think it is one vs. the others," says Ms. Berry. "They are both challenging to her."

Mrs. Clinton's global campaign has won her praise around the world from women's groups, both big and small. The main street in the tiny township of Victoria Mxenge in Cape Town, South Africa, was named after Mrs. Clinton for her role in encouraging the women to build their own homes.

That doesn't mean she hasn't ruffled feathers. During Mrs. Clinton's first major foreign trip to the 1995 United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, Chinese officials were offended by her criticism of the nation's strict limits on childbirth. They took care of the problem by simply prohibiting the government-controlled media from passing her remarks on to the general public.

In Northern Ireland, the three female representatives from the conservative unionist parties skipped last week's opportunity to meet Mrs. Clinton. Unionist Rep. Ian Paisley Jr. says "the resentment begins when she tries to lecture and direct the political institutions and politicians in a certain direction." Mrs. Clinton uses her celebrity to help "certain women who can't get elected," he adds. "They are relying on kudos and a sense of authority from Hillary Clinton to get people to vote for them. I think people should be wary of that."

If she should decide to run for the Senate in New York, a state with large Irish-American and African-American bases in the Democratic Party, Mrs. Clinton's international policy interests could dovetail nicely with her domestic political ambitions. The Irish Assembly women were quick to offer to use their family connections with would-be voters in the Empire State to help Mrs. Clinton, though such assistance would be largely symbolic.

Conversely, Mrs. Clinton's past statements of seeming sympathy with the idea of a Palestinian state could be a problem with another core constituency, Jewish voters, though she might be able to adjust such perceptions with a trip to Israel being considered for next month.

Mrs. Clinton's two-day stop in Northern Ireland last week marked the fourth

Traveling Woman

Some of the major, independent foreign trips by Hillary Clinton:

TRIP	YEAR
China	1995
Eastern Europe	1996
Africa	1997
Northern Ireland	1997
Uruguay	1998
Austria	1998
Central America	1998
North Africa	1999

time she has traveled to this violence-plagued country, and the image of an unguarded and laughing first lady was a dramatic departure from the chronic domestic portrayal of a woman under fire. In addition to the meeting with the new female assembly members, Mrs. Clinton broke ground on a playground and spoke before a "Vital Voices" conference of 400 women who are active in nonprofit community organizations.

As is common in her travels, Mrs. Clinton provides practical advice for starting a business—by selling bread or sewing—as well as encouragement for women to become active in politics. Her effectiveness has been enhanced by her close relationship with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, a longtime friend and kindred spirit in the advocacy of women.

Thus, when Mrs. Clinton travels, she doesn't come empty-handed. For exam-

ple, she spreads the word about a U.S. Agency for International Development fund that offers loans as small as \$300 to entrepreneurs. In 1997, two-thirds of the loans from the \$165.1 million "microenterprise" development fund went to women in dozens of countries. The first lady can also serve as a link between community groups and U.S. businesses, foundations, or leaders who can provide financial assistance.

But, more than money, Mrs. Clinton offers moral support, perspective, and, sometimes, a dose of humor to defuse a tense situation.

After being called a "cow," "dog," and a "whining woman" by hostile male colleagues in the Assembly, Rep. Monica McWilliams was at her lowest point when she was ushered into Mrs. Clinton's office in 1997 on St. Patrick's Day. Stick with it, Mrs. Clinton told her. Build a strong support group, she prodded, and, lastly, don't forget to take vitamins. "I thought it was the most unusual thing to say," recalls Ms. McWilliams in a fit of laughter. "Irish people don't say that." Since then, a friendship has developed and Ms. McWilliams, founder of the centrist Northern Ireland Women's Coalition political party, was among those who encouraged the private meeting between Mrs. Clinton and the women of the Assembly.

Although most of the women initially were nonchalant about the meeting, they formed a tight circle around Mrs. Clinton when she entered the walnut-paneled dining room. After the meeting, Rep. Brid Rodgers, a 30-year veteran of the Social Democratic Labor Party, said: "For the first time, a very important visitor came to Northern Ireland and the men were sitting around trying to get a peep at her as she was meeting with us."



Hillary Clinton



Hillary Clinton: On a two-day visit to Northern Ireland.

Hillary jets in to city

By Kathryn Toney

AMERICA'S First Lady was hoping to build up confidence in the peace process as she arrived in Belfast today for the start of a two-day visit to the province.

Hillary Clinton touched down at Aldergrove airport early this afternoon at the start of her whistle-stop visit.

Mrs Clinton was greeted at the airport by Secretary of State Mo Mowlam, US Ambassador Philip Lader and American consul Ki Fort before being swept away in her motorcade for her first engagement in south Belfast.

She was set to join PlayBoard, the leading agency for children's play in Northern Ireland, to announce the development

of an environmental play area at Musgrave Park.

Dr Mowlam and Mrs Clinton were expected to plant an Irish Yew tree and a Florida Sunset tree to mark the development of the new play facility.

The event was to be attended by pupils from Cranmore Integrated Primary School.

The area, known as PlaySpace, will be the first of its kind in Northern Ireland and aims to provide children with access to quality, safe, free play opportunities.

The initiative was launched last year by Mrs Clinton.

Mrs Clinton later was expected to visit Parliament Buildings, Stormont, home of the new Northern Ireland Assembly, to meet women members of the parliament.

Mrs Clinton was also expected to meet First

Minister David Trimble and Deputy Seamus Mallon at Stormont.

Earlier today, Mrs Clinton flew into the Republic to deliver a lecture in Galway on the theme Our Obligations to Each Other: the Continuing Quest for Peace.

The address - the first in a series of millennium lectures marking the 150th anniversary of the National University of Ireland in the city - followed a ceremony conferring on Mrs Clinton an Honorary Doctorate of Law.

Afterwards the city fathers granted her the Freedom of Galway - making her the first woman to receive the accolade.

Both ceremonies took place before an invited audience of 1,000 guests inside the University Campus,

BELFAST
TELEGRAPH
NEO, MAY 12



By Dave Cautkin, AP

In Galway: Hillary Rodham Clinton at the National University of Ireland.

FIRST LADY'S TRIP: Hillary Rodham Clinton's trip this week to Ireland, England, Albania and Macedonia continues her nontraditional pattern of globe-trotting independent of the president. She will have visited 62 countries on 20 solo trips since her husband took office in 1993. When traveling with the president, the first lady has visited just 49 countries.

Barbara Bush took two solo trips in

four years. Nancy Reagan traveled abroad without the president only three times in eight years. Eleanor Roosevelt, even counting her service as U.N. ambassador under President Truman, visited only 53 countries in her lifetime.

The president designates the first lady's foreign trips as official diplomatic missions. The costs are unclear because the White House and State Department disagree on how expenses are accounted. — Billy House, Gannett News Service

First Lady warns on 'perils of indifference' to Balkans

By Lorna Siggins, in Galway

IRELAND'S example to the world in trying to "make peace real" and the "perils of indifference" in relation to the Balkans were the twin themes of Mrs Clinton's address at NUI Galway yesterday.

Delivering the inaugural address in the university's millennium lecture series, to mark 150 years of student enrolment, Mrs Clinton quoted two former Nobel Prize winners, including Seamus Heaney, in a 30-minute speech entitled "Our obligations to each other: the continuing quest for peace."

Mrs Clinton paid tribute to the communities endeavouring to make peace in the North, and singled out the contribution of women on both sides of the divide, in advance of her engagement with the Vital Voices women's group in Belfast.

Indicating her tacit support for the NATO campaign in the Balkans, she said those who stood by in the face of suffering were "not only bystanders" but also "in danger of losing their own soul".

Exhorting against apathy and indifference, she said people must constantly nurture hope. It was only when they could let go of their past and their old hatreds that hope could flourish.

Mrs Clinton told the 1,000 guests in Aras na Mac Léinn, where she was given an honorary doctorate in laws and the freedom of Galway city, that the tragedy of ethnic cleansing struck at all gen-

erations.

She said there was a constant challenge to peace at the end of an all-too-violent century.

"We live in a time at the end of the century when we know that peace is a constant challenge to us — how we obtain it and how we maintain it. We know even as we meet today that it is a challenge in the Balkans, the Middle East, parts of Africa and elsewhere.

"It seems that all of us, as we honour the past and imagine the future, have an opportunity to think harder about what our obligations are to other people and the obligations we all have for peace. Given the situation in the world today, the spread of weapons of mass destruction, the once-again-live conflict among ethnicities, religions and tribes, we all have a role to play in the continuing quest for peace.

"But peace will more than ever depend on what each of us does, and whether we can overcome our past on behalf of a common future."

Mrs Clinton referred to Ireland's first intake of refugees from Kosovo — "You are offering them your hearts and your homes, just as you have always done" — and said she had met the first group taken to the US.

She had been impressed by their desire to return home and build their lives in peace and harmony.

Referring to Ireland's record in international peacekeeping, she said this State had given a clear lead to the rest of the world.



The US First Lady, Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton, with Dr Patrick Fottrell, president of NUI Galway, when she visited the university yesterday. Photograph: Bryan O'Brien

Women's conference on agenda today

By Clare Murphy, in Belfast

THE US presidential jet touched down in Belfast yesterday afternoon, as Mrs Hillary Clinton arrived for her fourth visit to Northern Ireland.

She addresses the Vital Voices conference in Belfast today, which will focus on the issue of "sustainability" and how community development work and women's groups can survive and

develop over time, beyond the initial seeding of grant support.

She was greeted on her arrival at the International Airport by the Northern Secretary, Dr Mo Mowlam, and travelled to south Belfast where she announced the development of a cross-community play area for children.

"Today, because of the leadership and the progress that have brought people together from both traditions, and the hard work that has gone into not only the Good

Friday accord but all the work since, children are thinking as children should think. They are drawing pictures of a much more hopeful and happy future," she said.

The US First Lady then went to Parliament Buildings at Stormont, where she met the North's First Minister, Mr David Trimble, and the Deputy First Minister, Mr Seamus Mallon, and their wives, Daphne and Gertrude.

"What's the date?" joked Mrs

Clinton, as she signed a visitors' book in the main hallway. She admired the architecture of the building and was taken to view the Assembly chamber by the Presiding Officer, Lord Alderdice.

Mrs Clinton was accompanied on her engagements by the US ambassador to London, Mr Philip Lader, and the US consul-general in Belfast, Ms Jane Ki Fort. A reception was held before she had informal talks with the women Assembly members on the front balcony of the building. Nine of the

14 women members were present, including Sinn Féin's Ms Bairbre de Brin.

Later Mr Mallon described Mrs Clinton as "an engaging, highly intelligent and attractive lady". He added that President Clinton had, through his wife, passed on his regards to all those in Stormont.

Commenting on speculation that Mrs Clinton wished to run for elected office, Mr Trimble said her ambitions had come up in conversation.

Hillary Clinton gets freedom of city of Galway, honorary degree

By Lorna Siggins, in Galway

WITH a quick smile and a quip about the many "distinguished gentlemen" who had gone before, the US First Lady, Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton, became the First Freewoman of the City of Galway yesterday.

Mrs Clinton also received an honorary doctorate of laws. How-

ever, the day also featured a protest by anti-war demonstrators.

"A great natural resource, a fine legal mind, an inspiration to aspiring women, a model of the loving yet autonomous wife, a consistent champion of children and a good soul," was how the president of NUI Galway, Dr Patrick Fottrell, summarised her contribution, quoting from the American writer Letty Cottin Pogrebin.

Dr Fottrell paid tribute to her work as a lawyer, academic and public servant, and said she had championed the rights of women and children, while also showing a strong commitment to Northern Ireland.

In her speech, delivered to mark the university's 150th anniversary, Mrs Clinton spoke about the continuing quest for peace.

She flew into Shannon early yes-

terday morning for her two-day Irish visit. Security was tight, but discreet.

About 100 protesters at the main entrance to NUI Galway missed Mrs Clinton's arrival at the campus, and had moved to Eyre Square by the time she left for Belfast.

However, using megaphones, members of the NO to War campaign, the Socialist Party, several students and representatives of the

arts community managed to drown out the Army Band of the 4th Western Brigade as the robed university procession proceeded to the conferring ceremony at Aras na Mac Léinn. The conferring ceremony was performed by the Chancellor of the National University of Ireland, Dr Garret Fitzgerald, while the Mayor of Galway, Councillor Angela Lynch-Lupton, shadowed by the City Manager, Mr Joe

Gavin, presented Mrs Clinton with her charter.

She was given a miniature of a specially commissioned bronze sculpture for the university's anniversary by John Behan, and was also presented with a Galway Crystal platter.

Special guests at the ceremony were the Government's representative, the Minister for Arts, Heri-

tage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, Ms de Valera, and the Taoiseach's representative, Ms Celia Larkin.

Also among the attendance was the celebrated Aran islander, Bridget Durrant, who is 104. Mrs Durrant, a former nurse and staunch Democrat-cum-Kennedy supporter during her time in the US, is listed in *The Guinness Book of Records* as the oldest holder of a university degree.

First Lady warns on 'perils of indifference' to Balkans

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in Belfast

THE US presidential jet touched down in Belfast yesterday afternoon, as Mrs Hillary Clinton arrived for her fourth visit to Northern Ireland.

She addresses the Vital Voices conference in Belfast today, which will focus on the issue of "sustainability" and how community development work and women's groups can survive and

develop over time, beyond the initial seeding of grant support.

She was greeted on her arrival at the International Airport by the Northern Secretary, Dr Mo Mowlam, and travelled to south Belfast where she announced the development of a cross-community play area for children.

"Today, because of the leadership and the progress that have brought people together from both traditions, and the hard work that has gone into not only the Good

Friday accord but all the work since, children are thinking as children should think. They are drawing pictures of a much more hopeful and happy future," she said.

The US First Lady then went to Parliament Buildings at Stormont, where she met the North's First Minister, Mr David Trimble, and the Deputy First Minister, Mr Seamus Mallon, and their wives, Daphne and Gertrude.

"What's the date?" joked Mrs

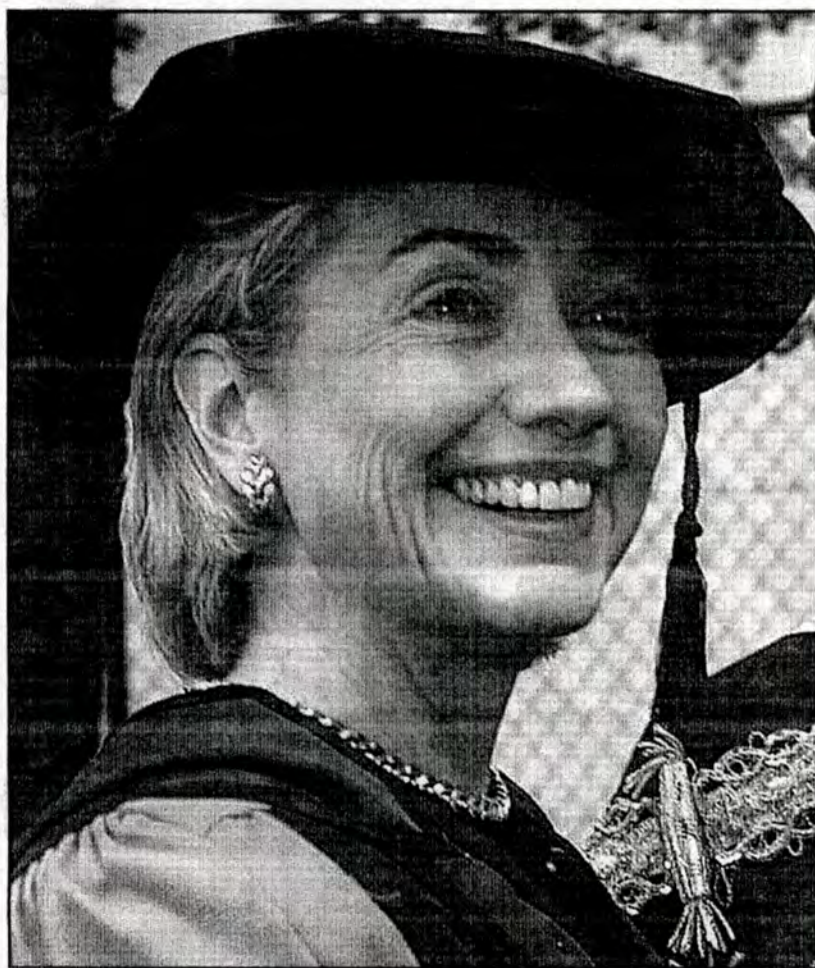
Clinton, as she signed a visitors' book in the main hallway. She admired the architecture of the building and was taken to view the Assembly chamber by the Presiding Officer, Lord Alderdice.

Mrs Clinton was accompanied on her engagements by the US ambassador to London, Mr Philip Lader, and the US consul-general in Belfast, Ms Jane Ki Fort. A reception was held before she had informal talks with the women Assembly members on the front balcony of the building. Nine of the

14 women members were present, including Sinn Féin's Ms Bairbre de Brún.

Later Mr Mallon described Mrs Clinton as "an engaging, highly intelligent and attractive lady". He added that President Clinton had, through his wife, passed on his regards to all those in Stormont.

Commenting on speculation that Mrs Clinton wished to run for elected office, Mr Trimble said her ambitions had come up in conversation.



HONOURED: Mrs Clinton at the degree ceremony in Ireland yesterday

Our children have human rights too, says Hillary

BY JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

TOO many children are still abused, neglected and denied basic human rights, Hillary Clinton will tell an Express-sponsored conference on children and the law today.

Mrs Clinton agreed to speak at the Hearing Children's Voices conference for the charity ChildLine at the request of her friend Cherie Blair. The two leaders' wives are both lawyers and devoted mothers, and share a passionate concern for children's issues.

TV presenter Esther Rantzen persuaded Mrs Blair to chair the conference during a chance encounter at the hairdressers. Despite a head-full of rollers, Esther could not resist the chance to accost Mrs Blair, who was sitting under the next drier.

In her capacity as chairman of ChildLine, Esther asked Mrs Blair if she would be interested in chairing the conference, which tackles the issue of how child-abuse victims can be treated better by the legal system.

Mrs Blair in turn suggested contacting her friend Mrs Clinton to give the keynote speech. Also speaking will be the Home Secretary Jack Straw. "In spite of our progress on human rights over the last half century, it is unconscionable that the circle of human dignity has not been

expanded wide enough to include all the children of the world," Mrs Clinton will tell the London conference. "There are still too many children who are abused and neglected, denied health care and education.

"There are too many children who are victims of violence and war - too many left to fend for themselves on the streets, working in inhumane conditions, trafficked like drugs and sold into prostitution.

"And through it all, there are still too many children whose suffering we fail to see, to hear and ultimately to stop."

The First Lady, who only two years ago confessed that she would love to adopt a child, has made children's issues her top priority. During her time at the White House, she has championed causes all round the world, from teenage pregnancies in America to child prostitution in Ukraine.

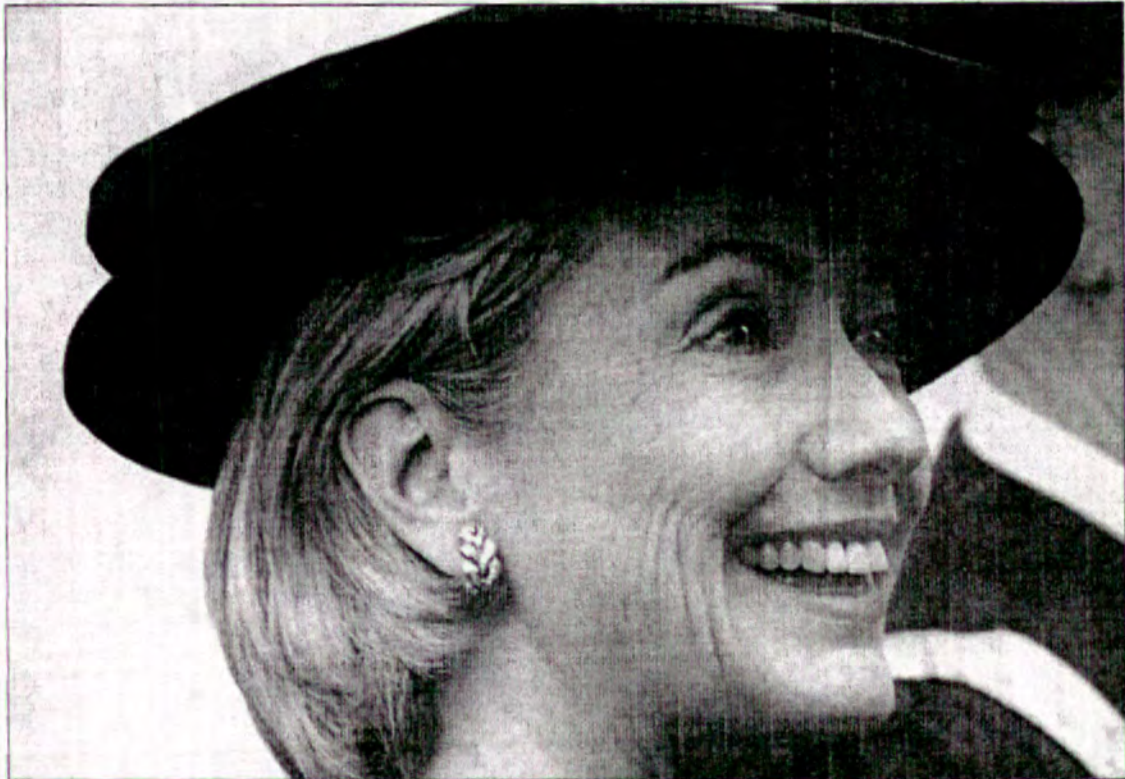
At one point she was thought to be considering a high-profile role with the United Nations children's organisations after her husband leaves office, although recently she has been under pressure to run for a New York seat in the Senate instead.

Yesterday Mrs Clinton was granted the Freedom of Galway and awarded an honorary doctorate from the National University of Ireland at the city in the west of the Irish Republic before going on to Belfast.

THE IRISH NEWS

Thursday May 13 1999

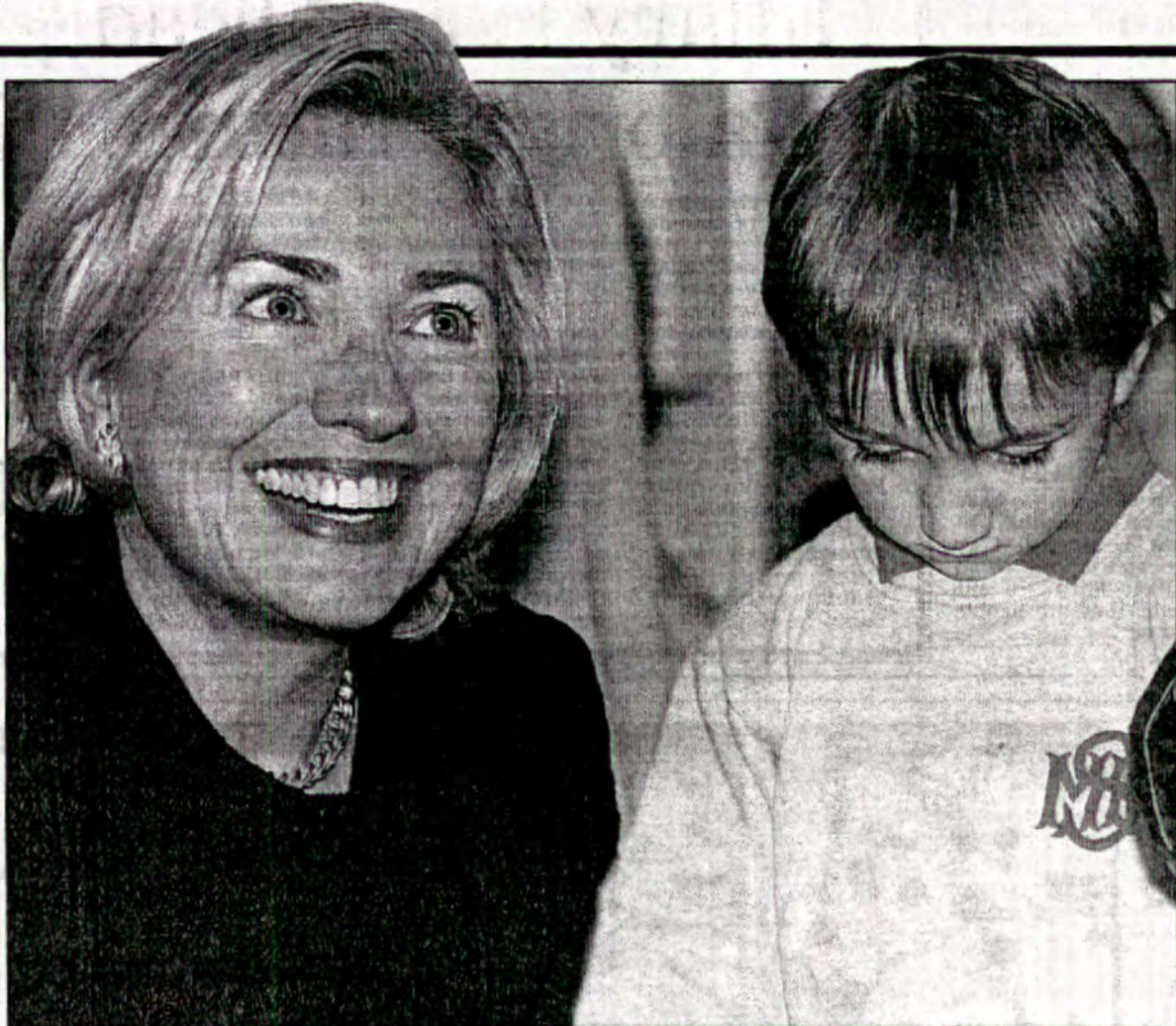
Doctor in the White House



● **DEGREE OF SUCCESS...** First Lady Hillary Clinton is all smiles yesterday on receiving an Honorary Doctorate of Law at the National University of Ireland in Galway



GROUND-BREAKING: Hillary Clinton and Mo Mowlam at Musgrave Park



STUCK FOR WORDS: this little boy could not conceal his shyness when he met US First Lady Hillary Clinton in Belfast yesterday. Mrs Clinton planted a tree at an after-school club during her visit. Part of the play area, which children designed themselves, is called Hillary's Garden. See Pages 2&3

THE IRISH NEWS

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Children of peace give Hillary hope for future

By Rosie Uffindell

CHILDREN are now drawing pictures of a hopeful and happy future, US first lady Hillary Clinton said as she unveiled plans for an environmental play area in south Belfast.

The pictures are a far cry from those she had seen before, she said, when images were darker and more "fearful".

But she said the work put into the Good Friday agreement and its aftermath meant that children "were now thinking as children should".

Mrs Clinton was speaking at a ceremony to lend her support to PlayScheme, a PlayBoard initiative to give children access to quality, safe, free play areas. The five-acre site at Musgrave Park has been donated by Belfast City Council and another has been donated in mid-Ulster by Cookstown District Council.



● HONOURS... Mrs Clinton receives an honorary degree in Galway yesterday

Speaking above the thunder and the rain, Mrs Clinton said PlayScheme was about engaging children in something positive for the future.

"There is no better symbol of how well a community is doing as what we do for our children and how they think of things," she said.

"Play is children's work, it's how they learn to get along

and get along with children different from themselves.

"In many places children don't have these opportunities. They are too threatened by what goes on outside the door of their own homes. Their playgrounds may be littered with broken glass or shrapnel, or they may be threatened with intimidation if they step into the wrong area.

"We have seen it in my country and other parts of the world and we have now seen it in Kosovo.

"But we intend to do what we can to give these children opportunities now and in the future."

Mrs Clinton, accompanied by secretary of state Dr Mo Mowlam, had been welcomed to the site by Lord Mayor David Alderdice and PlayBoard chief executive Antoinette McKeown.

She planted two trees with the help of children from Cranmore Integrated Primary School and the Newcastle

YMCA after-school club.

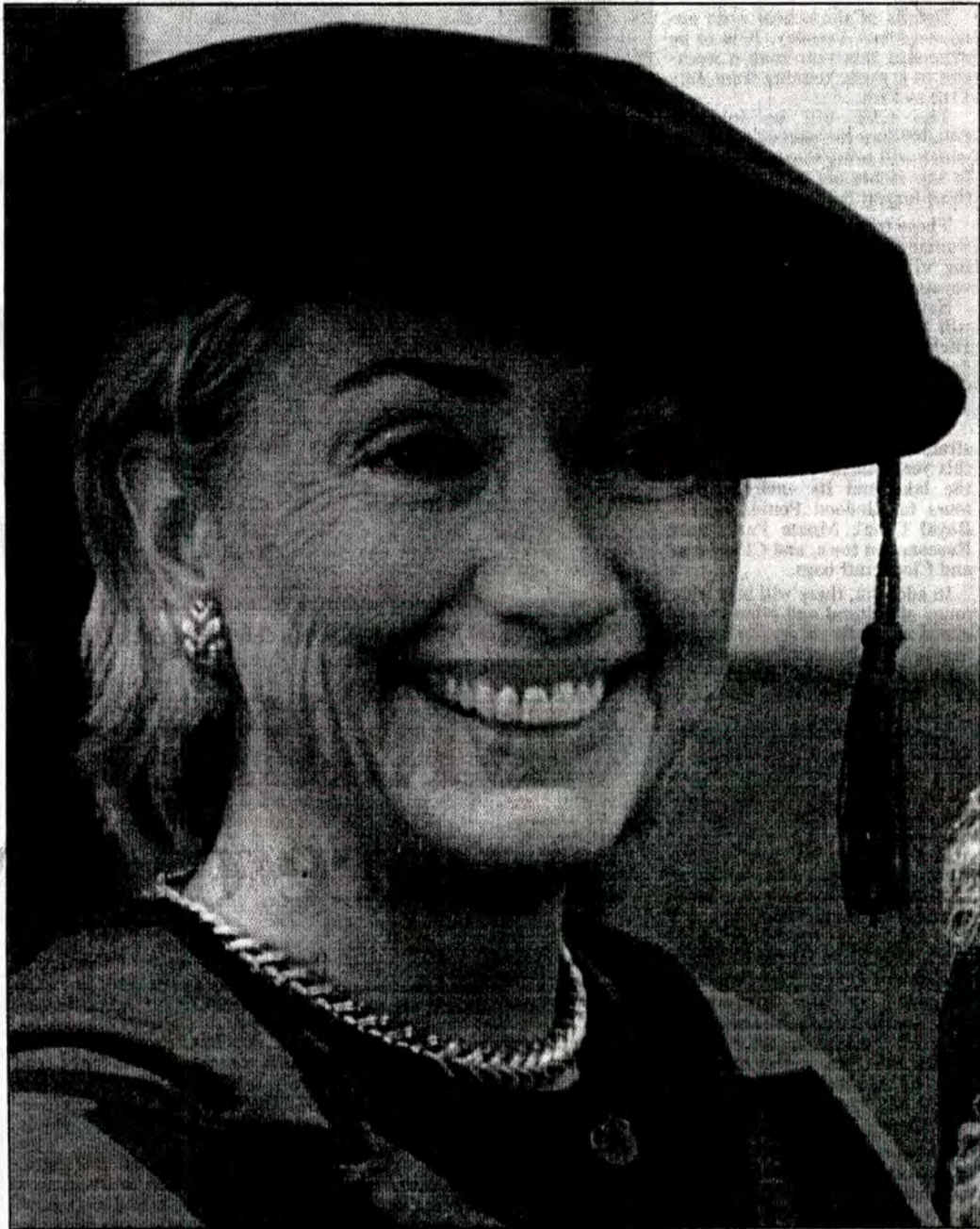
Mrs Clinton spent an hour at Musgrave Park before leaving for Stormont for talks with female assembly members. Last night she had a private engagement with Dr Mowlam at Hillsborough.

This morning, as a follow-up to her visit to the Vital Voices conference in September, Mrs Clinton will deliver a speech to another Vital Voices conference in Belfast.



The US First Lady, Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton, with Dr Patrick Fottrell, president of NUI Galway, when she visited the university yesterday. Photograph: Bryan O'Brien

‘Given the situation in the world we all have a role to play in the quest for peace’ ||



Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton, the US First Lady, at NUI Galway yesterday where an honorary doctorate in laws was conferred on her.

Photograph: Bryan O'Brien; Report: page 10

Hillary Clinton gets freedom of city of Galway, honorary degree

By Lorna Siggins,
in Galway

WITH a quick smile and a quip about the many "distinguished gentlemen" who had gone before, the US First Lady, Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton, became the First Freewoman of the City of Galway yesterday.

Mrs Clinton also received an honorary doctorate of laws. How-

ever, the day also featured a protest by anti-war demonstrators.

"A great natural resource, a fine legal mind, an inspiration to aspiring women, a model of the loving yet autonomous wife, a consistent champion of children and a good soul," was how the president of NUI Galway, Dr Patrick Fottrell, summarised her contribution, quoting from the American writer Letty Cottin Pogrebin.

Dr Fottrell paid tribute to her work as a lawyer, academic and public servant, and said she had championed the rights of women and children, while also showing a strong commitment to Northern Ireland.

In her speech, delivered to mark the university's 150th anniversary, Mrs Clinton spoke about the continuing quest for peace.

She flew into Shannon early yes-

terday morning for her two-day Irish visit. Security was tight, but discreet.

About 100 protesters at the main entrance to NUI Galway missed Mrs Clinton's arrival at the campus, and had moved to Eyre Square by the time she left for Belfast.

However, using megaphones, members of the NO to War campaign, the Socialist Party, several students and representatives of the

arts community managed to drown out the Army Band of the 4th Western Brigade as the robed university procession proceeded to the conferring ceremony at Áras na Mac Léinn. The conferring ceremony was performed by the Chancellor of the National University of Ireland, Dr Garret FitzGerald, while the Mayor of Galway, Councillor Angela Lynch-Lupton, shadowed by the City Manager, Mr Joe

Gavin, presented Mrs Clinton with her charter.

She was given a miniature of a specially commissioned bronze sculpture for the university's anniversary by John Behan, and was also presented with a Galway Crystal platter.

Special guests at the ceremony were the Government's representative, the Minister for Arts, Heri-

tage, Gaeltacht and the Islands, Ms de Valera, and the Taoiseach's representative, Ms Celia Larkin.

Also among the attendance was the celebrated Aran islander, Bridget Durrane, who is 104. Mrs Durrane, a former nurse and staunch Democrat-cum-Kennedy supporter during her time in the US, is listed in *The Guinness Book of Records* as the oldest holder of a university degree.

Thursday May 13 1999

First ministers all fingers and thumbs with Hillary



● PICK A HAND ... Hillary Clinton shares a joke with David Trimble, left, and Seamus Mallon at Stormont last night

Picture: Hugh Russell

First lady the toast of Stormont

By William Graham
Political Correspondent

HILLARY Rodham Clinton smiled and asked David Trimble and Seamus Mallon "what's the date?" as she signed the visitors book yesterday in Stormont.

Afterwards first minister Mr Trimble joked with his deputy Mr Mallon that "at least we got that (the date) right".

It was that kind of relaxed day at Parliament Buildings.

Even the serious-looking American secret service men walking around Stormont were trying to act cool and laid-back as the first lady chatted with the first ministers and their wives

before going into the restaurant to meet women assembly members.

Mrs Clinton, who was dressed in a dark trouser-suit, was of course assured of a very warm welcome, particularly by the women members. And indeed Mr Mallon and Mr Trimble also proved by their colourful comments that they were admirers.

In a more formal remark, Mr Mallon said Mrs Clinton's "visit here today means a lot to us".

"It means a lot to the community here. And I believe it gives another focal point to what we are all trying to do - and that is the creation of lasting peace, and a new stability, and a new

political dispensation.

"By her presence she epitomises that interest which exists within the United States and especially within the White House."

When Mr Trimble was asked if Mrs Clinton gave any indication of her own political aspirations in the United States, he, again in jovial mood, said: "There was some reference to that. She left Seamus Mallon and myself to go in and speak to the female assembly members."

"We did say that if she could cope with that she could cope with anything in politics and that it would be a good training for New York."

● Hillary's Belfast visit: P2



It's YOUR peace, Hillary tells mums and children

Hillary: do it for the children

FROM PAGE ONE

pictures I used to see coming from children from Northern Ireland," she said.

"For they were much darker pictures then and filled with all kinds of fearful imagery."

Mrs Clinton, accompanied by Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam, joined a group of excited children to plant two trees at the groundbreaking ceremony.

Dr Mowlam assured her: "We are making progress, inch by inch. It is a tough time, a time to hold our nerves and keep going because no-one in the talks doesn't want it to work."

"We will make it, the confidence is there - we just have to find a way through the impasse."

Assembly

On her fourth visit to Belfast Mrs Clinton also travelled to Stormont to meet the 14 women members of the assembly.

She was greeted there by First Minister David Trimble, his deputy Seamus Mallon and their wives.

Later, Mrs Clinton was given a tour of the historical building by Initial Presiding Officer of the Assembly, Lord Alderdice.

The First Lady had arrived from Galway where she received the freedom of the city and an honorary doctorate in law from University College.

It was the first time a woman had been allowed to sign the Galway Roll of Freedom.

HILLARY CLINTON urged the women and children of the North to make sure the peace process stayed on track yesterday.

America's First Lady helped to launch a new playground in south-west Belfast designed to provide a neutral space for Protestant and Catholic children to play safely together.

"Today, because of the leadership and the progress that has brought people together from both traditions, children are thinking as children should think," Mrs Clinton said pointing to a display of bright-coloured paintings.

By JOHN DONLON

"They are drawing pictures of a much more hopeful and happy future."

At the ceremony she said Belfast already seemed to be changing for the better since the Good Friday Agreement.

After leaving the park, Mrs Clinton met with the 14 female members of the new Assembly to discuss the role women must continue to play as catalysts for peace.

The First Lady's two-day visit to the North concludes today with a speech to a women's conference in Belfast.

SEE PAGES 8 & 9

IRISH STATE.
THURS, MAY 13.

First Lady's in confident form during Irish trip

From JOHN DONLON in GALWAY

A SMILING Hillary Clinton looked relaxed and glamorous yesterday as she arrived in Galway University to collect an honorary degree and the Freedom of the City.

America's First Lady also delivered a special Millennium lecture, in which she urged warring nations to "let go of the past, let go of the old hatreds".

Hope is the only answer, she declared.

And Hillary also spoke of her own, personal hopes, of spending more time in Ireland with her family.

"My daughter visited Galway a while ago and fell in love with the scenery.

"She, my husband and I hope to come back again to see this beautiful city at a more leisurely pace. I understand there are some golf courses around".

Mrs Clinton also joked that one of the benefits of being a "Free Man" of the City was that you didn't have to pay taxes.

"That might be something to consider when he vacates the White House and are looking for a new home", she said.

Welcoming Mrs Clinton, Dr Patrick Fottrell, President of Galway University spoke of her "exceptional global interventions on behalf of children, families, social justice and women's rights".

He said as First Lady she had championed women's rights at national and international level.

Bestowed

The Freedom of the City was bestowed on Mrs Clinton by the Mayor of Galway, Cllr Angela Lynch-Lupton.

A crowd of about 80 people, mainly from the Irish Socialist party, protested outside over the NATO bombing in the Balkans.

Delivering the first speech in the University's Millennium Lecture Series, the First Lady quoted the words of Derry Poet Seamus Heaney when he said that one day "hope and history" would rhyme.

Mrs Clinton spoke of the danger in the Balkans, the Middle East and other troubled spots "where evil has gone unchecked".



SMILES: Gareth FitzGerald awards Hillary Clinton an honorary degree at Galway University.

Hope, she said was the only answer. "Let go of the past, let go of the old hatreds", she urged warring nations.

Mrs Clinton used the opportunity to heap praise on Ireland for its economic progress and for the efforts being made towards a lasting peace in the North.

She also stoutly defended NATO's action in Yugoslavia and attacked the Serbian leadership.

Referring to the fall of the Berlin Wall ten years ago, Mrs Clinton said: "Who would have thought we would now be faced with the evil emanating from Yugoslavia?"

Refugees

She said she had met refugees of Kosovo and their one wish was to return home.

"They want to be left alone, to be able to raise

their families. That's all any of us want."

Mrs Clinton also spoke of her particular admiration for the women of Northern Ireland.

But she warned that the hard work of peace only begins after the agreements have been signed.

The First Lady praised Northern politicians from all sides of the political divides.

She said she had seen the

progress been made, the hand-shakes being exchanges between former political enemies.

"We will also need convergence. Leaders will always have to take risks for peace", she said.

She recalled various troubled spots in the world she had visited and how she sat with people who had once been at war with each other, but now felt able to trust one another.

THE STAR (IRISH) MAY 13

Women centre stage at private meeting

US First Lady Hillary Clinton put the North's women politicians on centre stage last night as she held a private audience at Stormont — for female Assembly members only.

Among the nine Assembly members she shook hands with was Sinn Féin's minister-in-waiting, Bairbre de Brun, who may be the only woman in the 10-strong power-sharing executive.

When she arrived at Stormont, Mrs Clinton — on her fourth visit to the North — was greeted by First Minister David Trimble with Deputy Seamus Mallon and their wives.

Today Mrs Clinton will speak at a Vital Voices women's conference in Belfast.

The First Lady also helped to launch a new playground in south-west Belfast designed to provide a neutral space for Protestant and Catholic children.



PALS: Hillary shares a joke with Mo Mowlam in the North yesterday

Irish Star, THURSDAY MAY 13.



TURNED HEADS: Celia

Celia stunning

CELIA LARKIN looked stunning in a white suit after the ceremony for Hillary Clinton.

But it was the manner in which she was described on the guest list that turned most heads.

Incredibly, she was not listed as Taoiseach Bertie Ahern's partner, but as a "representative from the Taoiseach's constituency office".

Ms Larkin is indeed the Taoiseach's constituency officer, for which she is paid

nearly £30,000 a year.

But the invitation to her was clearly because she is Bertie's long-term partner — and not for her constituency work.

The Taoiseach himself has made no secret of the fact that his marriage broke down several years ago.

He went public on this when becoming leader of Fianna Fail.

Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht Minister Síle de Valera was another special guest at the ceremony yesterday.

Irish Independent

Online

13-May-1999



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Hillary Clinton and northern secretary Mo Mowlam applaud children from cross-community schools and groups who were in the audience during the US First Lady's first stop at the start of a two-day visit to the north

Show goes on in spite of deluge

By MARTINA DEVLIN

IT WAS a scene of biblical proportions. Lightning bolts ricocheted, thunder clamoured and the heavens parted to disgorge so much water it seemed like The Deluge the Sequel.

As competition goes, Hillary Clinton had an ocean's worth to contend with the moment she opened her mouth to speak in Belfast last night. The rain was so persistent, if Noah's Ark had hove into view no one would have been the least surprised.

But was Hillary distracted? Did she hesitate? Not a bit of her.

The First Lady ignored the stormy floor-show flapping around the marquee and sailed through her speech. Admittedly, she pitched her voice a little louder than usual in fact she was practically yelling above the din from the elements by the end of it but otherwise she gave her usual polished performance.

We seemed in danger of drowning, caught in the drips from a leaky tent, but there was no



Win the new



way Hillary was prepared to be drowned out.

And it won her admirers. One child burst into applause rather prematurely since Hillary was still in full flow but her mother hushed the little girl. So instead the child covered her head with sheets of paper outlining the First Lady's Belfast engagements; obviously she didn't feel too confident about the marquee's watertight capacity either.

As the rain lashed down, Hillary announced she'd be planting some trees. There was a gasp of admiration or was that horror, since if she went outside we would have to trip after her. But the panic subsided when she conducted the ceremony on a patch of earth inside the tent.

Her composure in the face of torrents impressed eight-year-old Connor McQuoid from Dundrum in Co Down. "She's cool," he said approvingly. "She didn't duck or anything at the thunder. I was a bit scared but she didn't mind." Another group of children were speculating on what might have happened had the lightning struck the tent. "We'd all have been fried up and turned black," remarked one child, with something approaching relish. "Hillary too."

It earned him a singularly malignant glance from one of the Secret Service agents poised to defend their charge against assassins, fanatics, lunatics and scariest of all, the press, but ill-equipped to protect her from celestial lightning bolts.

The best he could do was produce an umbrella, so large it would have sheltered a family of six and held it over Hillary, escorting her to the presidential limousine. More than a foot taller than her they're big lads, these Secret Service men, all wearing identikit white raincoats it's debatable how dry he actually kept her. But whatever hairspray she's using, it works magnificently not a hair was out of place.

There was no great turnout for Hillary's engagement to dedicate a new play area for children. Obviously some guests had checked the weather forecast and decided Musgrave Park on a sodden Wednesday evening held limited attractions. Even with Hillary to provide a metaphorical ray of sunshine.

Still, the children made her feel wanted, in

fact, a group of them at the front spelled it out with gold cards, holding a letter apiece.

'Welcome, Hillary' it read. Their initiative or at least their teacher's earned them a smile from the First Lady plus a photo opportunity.

Watching her leave, one of the Playboard workers exclaimed with disappointment. "She didn't use our caravan," complained Joanne. It seems the American organisers specifically requested a caravan laid on furnished with flowers, fruit, water and washroom facilities. Playboard even went to the trouble of providing two types of water, still and sparkling.

They weren't to know that water was the last thing anyone fancied drinking yesterday evening wasn't it running down our necks, seeping into our shoes and plastered to our heads?

DAILY ANALYSIS BUSINESS WORLD SPORT MOTORING PROPERTY FARMING

Designed by [Trinity Commerce](#)





Model future: The First Lady in Belfast yesterday at the site of the environmental play area PlaySpace *Belfast Telegraph Times May 13* Picture by Robert Ingran

Belfast Telegraph

VIEWPOINT



Avoiding confrontation

DRUMCREE TALKS: *Time for a fresh start*

THE first glimmerings of light are appearing on the Drumcree horizon, suggesting that it may be possible to avoid another disastrous confrontation. David Trimble is meeting on a regular basis with the residents of Garvaghy Road and now the Orange Order say they have abandoned the idea of a mammoth Twelfth demonstration in Portadown this year.

There is still a chance that the Grand Lodge will decide to go ahead with a protest that would bring thousands into the town, but last night's announcement confirms that there are sharp differences of opinion in the subject. Many Orangemen realise the potential for serious damage not only to the Order but to the unionist cause. They want to avoid trouble, in the interests of the public, and they are not going to contribute to pre-Twelfth tensions.

All this is good news for those in fear of another summer of discontent, but there are still many obstacles to be cleared. The Drumcree issue, which has pitted one community against another, is only a single aspect of the divisions that continue to threaten the peace process. Until it is agreed up to by both sides, and a resolution found, those trying to implement the Good Friday Agreement are greatly handicapped. Drumcree casts a dark shadow over the political reconciliation that is the common goal.

As an Orangeman himself, Mr Trimble has provided a lead that was badly needed. Although he has resisted direct meetings with the Garvaghy Road residents, he now accepts that the dangers are so great and his responsibilities as MP and First Minister so all-encompassing that he could not stand aloof. There is no guarantee that his series of talks, first with elected representatives and yesterday with the residents' coalition, will provide answers, but his well-known attention to detail is an assurance that all aspects of the conflict are being examined.

Most of all, people want to know what are the circumstances in which a disciplined, non-confrontational walk by Portadown Orangemen along their traditional Garvaghy Road route would be permitted. The residents can point to provocation and violence in past years, just as the Orangemen can quote the concessions that have already been made, but it is time for a fresh start. Surely, in the light of the new respect that politicians are showing for each other, the Orange and Green can learn to live with their differences for one Sunday in the year?

If the talks fail, or decisions are rescinded, the only victors will be the wreckers. On both sides, against peace and against the ideals of the Good Friday Agreement.

Clinton gets a standing ovation

She was the guest of honour at the event — organised by the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust — which coincided with the second and final day of her visit to the province.

State of the art video technology today gave female high fliers, attending three different business events across Northern Ireland, and the Republic, a chance to talk directly with Mrs Clinton.

The theme of the initiative — to encourage the active participation of women in social, economic and political life — echoed from Cavan to Londonderry and Craigavon.

Speaking at the conference, Avila Kinnear, Director of NIVC, said Mrs Clinton's interest in Northern Ireland had acknowledged the importance of women here.

● See page 3 and 4.

By Maureen Coleman

HILLARY Clinton was today given a standing ovation when she arrived in Belfast to attend a special conference.

The First Lady enjoyed a rapturous reception from the 400 delegates attending the Vital Voices conference in the Spire Centre.

Mrs Clinton looked radiant in a navy trouser suit.

She didn't seem too distracted by members of the Socialist Workers Party who staged a demonstration outside calling for an end to the NATO bombing campaign in the Balkans.

Mrs Clinton was praised for her 'vital voice' of concern for women's issues and community development in Northern Ireland.



Happy days: Hillary Clinton.

Belfast Telegraph
Thurs 13 Jan 92

Mrs Clinton to highlight pain of child abduction

HILLARY Clinton is due today to highlight the heartbreak of child abduction by estranged parents at a conference chaired by Cherie Blair.

America's First Lady will give a key speech at a London symposium organised by the charity ChildLine with Prime Minister Tony Blair's wife to demand action on issues from sex abuse to the rights of children in divorce.

Mrs Clinton, will speak alongside Home Secretary Jack Straw to raise the growing problem of children being abducted abroad — just a fortnight after Mrs Blair delivered an emotional plea in Washington for action on the issue.

Also attending the conference will be Catherine Meyer, the wife of the British ambassador to Washington and a prominent campaigner on the issue, and who has suffered the pain of being separated from her children.

ChildLine spokeswoman Nina Ashworth said: "Mrs Clinton will be talking about the pressing issue of children being taken abroad illegally. It is a growing problem, along with many others, to which a solution needs to be found."

The speech by Mrs Clinton represents a further cementing of her partnership with

Cherie set to host ChildLine conference

Mrs Blair on gaining better protection for the world's children.

Lady Meyer, who has seen her two sons for just 18 hours since 1994 when they were abducted to Germany by their father, brought the two women together last month for the launch of a group to tackle the abduction issue.

The conference, which is sponsored by The Express newspaper, will also look at a series of legal difficulties faced by children.

Earlier, Mrs Clinton addressed a conference on how to help further the role of women in Northern Ireland as part of the Vital Voices initiative launched last autumn by the First Lady and Mo Mowlam.

Video facilities brought together more than 800 delegates in Belfast's Spire Centre, Craigavon, Londonderry, and across the border in Cavan.

Assembly warms to Hillary

Leaders say Mrs Clinton is a cracker

By Martina Purdy

IT should have been a date to remember — the first time the US First Lady visited the Parliament that Bill Clinton helped restore.

But when Hillary Clinton went to sign the guest register, and enquired after the date, the leaders of the new administration were momentarily stumped.

After a bit of discussion, Mrs Clinton was informed it was the 12th — "that's the consensus, anyway," said Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon.

"We got the year right," joked First Minister David Trimble afterwards.

Mrs Clinton's black limousine had arrived in the pouring rain at around 5.20pm and out stepped the petite blonde in a tailored pinstripe suit with a warm smile.

"It's wonderful to see you," she said as she greeted

Mrs Clinton made an interesting change from their usual routines.

Just on the human level, she is a very intelligent, engaging, attractive lady, and David and I will always welcome attractive ladies," Mr Mallon said.

Asked if the US First Lady gave any indication of her own political ambitions before she went off to meet members of the Assembly's 14 members, Mr Trimble said:

"We did say that if she could cope with that meeting the local women politicians, she could cope with anything in politics — and that it would be good training for New York."

But neither of the two Ulster Unionist Assembly women were there, Pauline Armitage and Joan Carson, nor was the DUP's Iris Robinson.

Those who took part included the SDLP's Brid Rodgers, Sinn Féin's Bairbre de Brún, Alliance's Eileen Bell and the Women's Coalition's Jane Morrice.

the politicians, including Mr Trimble, Mr Mallon, their respective wives, Dána and Gertrude, and Lord Alderdice, initial, presiding officer.

Already a formidable presence in politics, Mrs Clinton, who is tipped to run for office in the US when her husband leaves the White House, she was treated to a tour of the new chamber by Lord Alderdice.

As she admired the architecture and the beautiful view, she had a few admirers of her own.

"A wee cracker," Northern Ireland Unionist Cedric Wilson whispered a little too loudly to another on-looker.

He laughed when he was caught on — others were not so shy.

Mr Trimble and Mr Mallon agreed welcoming



Hands up: The First Lady shares a joke with David Trimble and Seamus Mallon

THURSDAY, MAY 13. Belfast Telegraph

THURSDAY, MAY 13 - BELFAST TELE.

Poignant plea from Omagh

HILLARY Clinton yesterday recalled one of the most poignant moments of her husband's presidency, when he received a heart-rending letter from a father in the wake of the Omagh bombing.

The father wrote: "We have a dream . . . that a time will come in which people will not be afraid of their neighbours."

Mrs Clinton said it made a deep impression on her and the President.

The Ulster saga needs a touch of pragmatism

Belfast Telegraph, May 13.



DESMOND
McCARTAN

THE VOICE OF
WESTMINSTER

THE 50th day of bombing in the Kosovo conflict stirred Downing Street yesterday to stamp on any malingering thoughts about the propriety of the war.

More pointedly, Tony Blair's official spokesman, who earlier this week briefed reporters at Number 10 from a train in Brussels, brushed aside Tory criticism of the conduct of the campaign.

"It was never going to be easy. There were always going to be difficulties," he asserted.

"When there are difficulties, it is a good thing to show resolve and determination, and that's what the Government is going to do."

In a different context and on a different day, the sentiments – almost to the word – echo Number 10's official line on Northern Ireland.

On Tuesday, the latest episode of the "In and Out Show" in Downing Street brought both David Trimble and Gerry Adams to speak to Mr Blair.

When they came out, they shed little light on where things go next.

More dismally, the Government was reduced to saying that the process was "edging" forward. Can this be an

advance on last week's version of "inching ahead"?

If there is frustration inside Number 10, it is not reflected in Mr Blair's attitude. As Mr Adams and the First Minister well know, he is "fully focused".

The question – for the moment, unanswered – is whether it will impel Mr Blair to take a decisive step.

In a radio interview this week, UUP deputy leader John Taylor was asked if, as implied by the continuing stand-off, it meant that the Executive cannot be set up?

"No," he replied, before pointing out that the Belfast Agreement contains provision for going ahead without Sinn Féin.

The Government, of course, sticks to its line that the process must remain "inclusive", as the SDLP also emphasises, and that the eventual deal must be acceptable to all sides.

But, if the present stalemate is not to grind to a sterile (and, possibly, dangerous) halt, should Mr Blair not now engage in some urgent lateral thinking?

David Bleakley this week argued for the need to address a reality, as he sees it: the present climate is not conducive to agreement on four-party Cabinet government.

Almost daily, Mr Blair is being asked by Sinn Féin to "take the lead".

No doubt to unionists, the exhortation means he should flex his muscles, set up the Executive and put decommissioning aside. They will be disappointed. If Mr Blair believes (we are told he has great strength of purpose) that a solution will emerge from talking, the reality is that the devolution train is held up by a major points failure.

In an German magazine interview this week, he suggested that decommissioning had now become an issue more

to do with "symbolism" and trust.

The lack of trust on both sides is a formidable gulf to be crossed.

However much the thaw in the UUP-Sinn Féin stand-off deserves support, the pace of the courtship – let alone the rhetoric – augurs less well for an early resolution.

To say that is not, as the doom merchants conclude, to believe that the skill of politics and the art of pragmatism ultimately cannot find an answer.

But the drawn-out argument poses the question of whether, on practical grounds at present, the UUP and Sinn Féin can be expected to share power amicably, while both seek to outmanoeuvre the other.

The fundamental significance of the Good Friday Agreement remains a powerful engine for reform and advance.

But its high-powered expectations are at risk of over-heating and may, for now, prove to be beyond what people can deliver.

Mr Blair says the campaign in Kosovo will go on "for as long as is necessary".

Whatever his patience on Northern Ireland, there is a more compelling urgency for pragmatism to work.

Partition is now back in vogue

PARTITION is coming back into fashion even though nobody in Ireland has a good word to say for it.

It is not that Partition here does not have its supporters, of course: they are many in number. Some unionists fetishise it as if the line on the map was divinely ordained; others regard it as a necessary evil.

The point is that the word itself is not in the unionist vocabulary. They refer to the foundation of the Northern Ireland state and to Southern Ireland leaving the UK by stages, but they abjure the word Partition.

Nationalists, by turn, regard Partition as a great evil, a wound across the face of Ireland.

To some it is Britain's exclusive fault. The more sophisticated will acknowledge nationalists' own role in entrenching the division, most especially the part played in recent years by violent republicanism.

What would have become of Ireland, and of her Protestant population in particular, if Partition had not occurred is anyone's guess, but to imagine that violent ethnic and political tensions would have entirely disappeared into the ether is probably fanciful.

Republicans urge that Partition in Ireland has failed. Certainly a great deal of mistrust has built up between North and South although the ice has melted somewhat in recent years.

But for over 40 years - between about 1925 and 1968 - there was relative peace in Northern Ireland. The South, for all the bitterness engendered by the Civil War, has by turn been a stable, peaceful society with the exception of notable isolat-



Steven
KING

ed incidents such as the 1974 UVP bombings.

That Northern Ireland was relatively peaceful for several decades after Partition demonstrates that the violence suffered for the last 30 years was by no means inevitable. Certainly,

Northern Ireland was not a Utopian society.

There were abuses of power though not on the scale or of the systematic nature of some people's imagining.

But Northern Ireland was, by comparison with the South, liberal by the standards of the times and

relatively successful economically. Abuses such as they were should be attributed to the failure of successive Stormont administrations to modernise rather than to Partition per se.

Partition is not unique to Ireland of course. India was partitioned in 1947 with the creation of Muslim Pakistan. The border there is unquestionably tense but Partition and the mass exchange of populations has left both societies relatively stable and Indian democracy is a marvel considering the diverse nature of her population.

Partition in Cyprus is not officially recognised but the de facto creation of two homogeneous states has preserved both populations on the island. Turkish intervention in 1974 and the UN's help since has kept Greek and Turkish Cypriots from annihilating each other.

Partition is never an ideal solution but it can often be the least

worst option. If Nato's bizarre exploits in Yugoslavia have shown us anything, it is that people who cannot hang together are better hanging apart. For the West to try to preserve a myriad of multi-ethnic states in the Balkans is pointless and costly.

Policy now should be directed towards creating a Serb Federation taking in all the Serb territories and a Greater Albania embracing some, but not all, of Kosovo.

Population exchanges, though painful in the short-term, should prevent the Balkans having the hold on European affairs in the next century that they have had in this.

The usual suspects will complain about the hollow sovereignty of states such as FYR Macedonia being violated but for the West to have followed the wrong policy thus far is no excuse for us perpetuating our folly.

Partition's time has come.

BRITAIN TELEGRAPH, MAY 13.

U.S. INFORMATION SERVICE Dublin, Ireland

Page 17 from page 1

NEWSPAPER: Irish Independent DATE: Thursday, May 13, 1999

Honours for First Lady, a ‘great natural resource’

Continued from Page 1 X
in line and wait, then the First Lady was ushered inside and walked along the receiving line like a President at a rugby international.

Arranged on a set of steps at the top of the hall were the photographers, who were told not to step out of line and not to bump into the piano. They couldn't see very much, until Hillary finally walked towards them, looking up and into a stained glass window.

The photographers lurched forward, but not quickly enough for a man from the White House, who whipped a blue nylon rope out of his briefcase, chucked it to a man on the other side, then pulled it taut in front of them. He could have been lassoing a steer.

A taxi-driver told us he knew one of the waitresses working at the event, and she had been told not to wear black tights or a skirt above the knee. "Would have been the other way around for Bill!" he chuckled.

The rain belted down before the procession from the Quadrangle to the Conferring Hall. The band of the Western Command sheltered under a chestnut tree and played a Spanish Gypsy dance. But they couldn't



● Celia Larkin: representing the Taoiseach's Constituency Office

drown out the noise from the protesters down the way, reminding us how wonderful it is to live in a democracy.

Then somebody started playing the bagpipes. But you could still hear the protesters. Luckily, the rain stopped just in time for the procession, which moved through the college grounds at a snail's pace. Members of the university and the city council processed gravely in their colourful robes behind the city sword and mace.

The VIPs walked in a small group

some distance behind, and behind them, looking distinctly undonnish, walked the Secret Service. A man and a woman, both with earpieces, chewing gum and in black teacher's gowns.

Inside, seasoned Hillary watchers, people who claimed to have met her on lots of occasions, said that she wasn't travelling with such a large entourage yesterday. That she wasn't as perfectly prepared for the occasion as she would be normally. For example, where was the man who goes everywhere with her carrying the box containing The Speech?

Perhaps that may be why she didn't receive a standing ovation at the end of the two ceremonies. Bertie Ahern's partner Celia Larkin, who was seated in the front row, made an attempt to rise to her feet as the final applause began, but they remained rooted to their seats around her, so she sat down again.

Celia attended officially as the "representative from the Taoiseach's constituency office", which would have been very handy for anyone from Dublin Central who happened to find themselves around campus yesterday. They could have asked her to request the boss to make representations for them.

PMs to hold further talks on deadlock

By Desmond
McCartan

TONY Blair and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern will meet in London tomorrow to sustain their joint effort to find a compromise formula to end the arms impasse.

Mr Blair, who was returning to Britain later today after attending a prize-award ceremony in Germany, and Mr Ahern will co-host further talks with the UUP, SDLP and Sinn Fein.

But officials cautioned against expectations of an imminent breakthrough, saying there was a hope that more progress could be made.

The Taoiseach was due in Britain this week for a separate speaking engagement in Leicestershire.

Both prime ministers made only limited headway when they chaired discussions with the parties

at Number 10 last Thursday.

Since then, Mr Blair has had separate talks with UUP leader David Trimble and Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams.

In the Commons yesterday, UUP MP Ken Maginnis challenged Mr Blair to give an unequivocal assurance that there would be no attempt to impose an Executive with Sinn Fein in the absence of decommissioning.

Mr Maginnis condemned the nomination of what he termed "the godfather of terrorist god-fathers", Martin McGuinness, for an Executive post by Sinn Fein.

He urged the Prime Minister to confirm there would be "no question" of allowing Sinn Fein to take up its posts until it had met its obligations.

Mr Blair said forswearing violence was a condition of joining the Executive.

But he stressed that the current peace process was the best way forward.

THE FIRST LADY'S ULSTER VISIT

Belfast Telegraph, Thursday, May 13.



Sisterhood: Hillary Clinton meets with Assembly members at Parliament Buildings



● Hillary Clinton and Northern Secretary Mo Mowlam applaud children from cross-community schools and groups who were in the audience during the US First Lady's first stop at the start of a two-day visit to the North

"She goes on in State & Devuee."

IT WAS a scene of biblical proportions. Lightning bolts ricocheted, thunder clamoured and the heavens parted to disgorge so much water it seemed like *The Deluge — the Sequel*.

As competition goes, Hillary Clinton had an ocean's worth to contend with the moment she opened her mouth to speak in Belfast last night. The rain was so persistent, if Noah's Ark had hove into view no one would have been the least surprised.

But was Hillary distracted? Did she hesitate? Not a bit of her.

The First Lady ignored the stormy floor-show flapping around the marquee and sailed through her speech. Admittedly, she pitched her voice a little louder than usual — in fact she was practically yelling above the din from the elements by the end of it — but otherwise she gave her usual polished performance.

We seemed in danger of

By MARTINA DEVLIN

drowning, caught in the drips from a leaky tent, but there was no way Hillary was prepared to be drowned out.

And it won her admirers. One child burst into applause — rather prematurely since Hillary was still in full flow — but her mother hushed the little girl. So instead the child covered her head with sheets of paper outlining the First Lady's Belfast engagements; obviously she didn't feel too confident about the marquee's watertight capacity either.

As the rain lashed down, Hillary announced she'd be planting some trees. There was a gasp of admiration — or was that horror, since if she went outside we would have to trip after her. But the panic subsided when she conducted the ceremony on a patch of earth inside the tent.

Her composure in the face of torrents impressed eight-year-old Connor McQuoid from Dundrum in Co Down. "She's cool," he said approvingly. "She didn't duck or anything at the thunder. I was a bit

scared but she didn't mind." Another group of children were speculating on what might have happened had the lightning struck the tent. "We'd all have been fried up and turned black," remarked one child, with something approaching relish. "Hillary too."

It earned him a singularly malignant glance from one of the Secret Service agents — poised to defend their charge against assassins, fanatics, lunatics and scariest of all, the press, but ill-equipped to protect her from celestial lightning bolts.

The best he could do was produce an umbrella, so large it would have sheltered a family of six and held it over Hillary, escorting her to the presidential limousine. More than a foot taller than her — they're big lads, these Secret Service men, all wearing identikit white raincoats — it's debatable how dry he actually kept her. But whatever hairspray she's using, it works magnificently — not a hair was out of place.

There was no great turnout for Hillary's engagement to dedicate a new play area for

children. Obviously some guests had checked the weather forecast and decided Musgrave Park on a sodden Wednesday evening held limited attractions. Even with Hillary to provide a metaphorical ray of sunshine,

Still, the children made her feel wanted, in fact, a group of them at the front spelled it out with gold cards, holding a letter apiece. "Welcome, Hillary" it read. Their initiative — or at least their teacher's — earned them a smile from the First Lady plus a photo opportunity.

Watching her leave, one of the Playboard workers exclaimed with disappointment. "She didn't use our caravan," complained Joanne. It seems the American organisers specifically requested a caravan laid on furnished with flowers, fruit, water and washroom facilities. Playboard even went to the trouble of providing two types of water, still and sparkling.

They weren't to know that water was the last thing anyone fancied drinking yesterday evening — wasn't it running down our necks, seeping into our shoes and plastered to our heads?

last afternoon, Thursday May 13

VIP mums share vision for children

THEY may be powerful women from very different backgrounds but US First Lady Hillary Clinton and Princess Anne share a common interest - making the world a better place for children.

Yesterday, the Princess Royal, patron of Save the Children Fund, met the children of Moira to celebrate the opening of a new £1.3million school building after the original was dev-

Reports: GARY KELLY and EMMA FLYNN Pictures: BRIAN LITTLE

astated by a 500lb bomb.

And to symbolise a new, peaceful future for Northern Ireland, Princess Anne met pupils from St Nicholas Primary School, Ardglass which is linked to Moira through the Education for Mutual Understanding programme.

Meanwhile, the US First Lady met children from Cranmore Integrated Primary School and the YMCA play club at the ceremony of a new environmental play area in Musgrave Park to be used by children from all sections of the community.

Speaking directly to the children, Mrs Clinton said that they were the inspiration driving those involved to complete the project.

Hillary looks ahead to 'a bright future'

TO the accompaniment of thunder rolling out of the darkest of skies, Hillary Clinton spoke of a bright new future for the children of Northern Ireland.

First stop for the US First Lady, who arrived in Belfast for a two day visit, was a marquee erected in Musgrave Park to announce plans for the development of a cross community environmental play area.

Speaking at the groundbreaking ceremony for a new chil-

dren's five-acre play area she praised Northern Ireland's politicians for creating the conditions for peace.

"Today, because of the leadership and progress that has brought people together from both traditions and the hard work that has gone into not only the Good Friday accord but all the work since, children are thinking as children should."

Speaking of the bright pictures exhibited on a display board beside the rostrum, she said they were a far cry from the

disturbing images she had seen painted by children during the dark days of the Troubles.

"Children are thinking as children should think. They are drawing pictures of a much brighter future," she told the audience.

The idea behind the play area known as Play-Space is to provide the children of Belfast with access to a safe environment. It is hoped to provide play areas in all 26 district council areas.

Afterwards she spoke to a group of children



HILLARY CLINTON

who had made a model of what they would like to see included in the play area.

The group included 10-year-old Fiona Hamill from Newcastle. "Mrs Clinton asked us about the play park and told us how she used to make models. She said she especially liked the bridge of peace."

While at Musgrave, Mrs Clinton, accompanied by Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam, joined children to plant two trees on the new site.

Later, Mrs Clinton travelled to Stormont to meet the 14 women members of the new Northern Ireland assembly including Sinn Féin's minister-in-waiting Bairbre de Brun who may be the only woman in the power-sharing executive.

She was then accompanied by Lord Alderdice around the building and went to see the Assembly's debating chamber.

Mrs Clinton also had a private audience with the First Minister David Trimble his deputy Seamus Mallon and their wives.

TO A DEGREE



AP
First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is feted yesterday with an honorary law degree from the National University of Ireland in Galway.

First Lady Hillary's message of hope

By KATY WEITZ

HILLARY Clinton yesterday praised Northern Ireland's politicians for putting hope back into children's lives.

Speaking on a return visit to Belfast, she said the efforts towards winning a lasting peace had brought people from both traditions closer together and now "children are thinking as children should".

Admiring pictures of how they imagined the new PlayBoard Playspace - a five-acre play area in the city's Musgrave Park - she said they were more hopeful for the future.

The First Lady, who was involved in the planning of the project during her visit last September, said there was no better symbol of how well a community was doing than what it was doing for its children.

She said: "As you look at these pictures it is a far cry from some of the

TURN TO PAGE 2



BACK TO SCHOOL: First Lady Hillary Clinton meets some of the children from Belfast's Cranmore Integrated School yesterday

THE MIRROR, Thursday, May 13, 1999



AWARDED... Hillary Clinton yesterday with President's Prize winners Sister Noreen Christian and Alastair Kilgore, along with *Irish News* editor Noel Doran, and *News Letter* editor Geoff Martin. Picture: Hugh Russell

President's Prize for workers

By Rosie Uffindell
Social Affairs Reporter

TWO pioneers of cross-community work were awarded the President's Prize yesterday by First Lady Hillary Clinton in recognition of their efforts to build peace and reconciliation.

Sister Noreen Christian, a leading figure in the Currach and Forthspring initiatives straddling the west Belfast interface, and Alastair Kilgore, a worker at Corrymeela for 25 years, were each presented with the gift of a travel programme to the US.

The President's Prize, a joint initiative by the *Irish News* and the *News Letter*, was launched by President Clinton during his first visit to Northern Ireland in 1995.

The prize recognises those who, at grassroots level, have

dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life of their own community and who have also contributed in some way to developing cross-community links.

Noel Doran, editor of the *Irish News*, said: "I am delighted that through the President's Prize we have been able to recognise two individuals who have made a notable contribution to the cause of peace and reconciliation."

Sr Noreen, of the Dominican Order and who has also been awarded an MBE for her services to community relations, said the award was an affirmation of the work being done by many people at an interface level.

And she said she was confident about the prospects of peace for the future.

"Fears and tensions have been

dramatically reduced but the effect on those fears and tensions are still very much deep in our psyche," she said.

"We still need to be encouraged to take risks and to work together to build things together rather than separately."

"There are lots of question marks about the future but I do feel the will and the capacity is there."

Mr Kilgore, now employed as a community support worker with Corrymeela after years devoting his spare time on a voluntary basis to the community, said the award was more than a personal endorsement.

"It is significant that two communities have been awarded this," he said.

"It is a mark of the contribution that cross community

communities have made in the Northern Ireland situation.

"This also endorses the place of ordinary people doing ordinary things."

And he said he was hopeful that ways would be found through the existing impasse.

"At times some of the work is harder because, as we get to a crunch time, people get more entrenched. While some move forward, others are more hesitant."

"So it's about respecting those hesitations but not letting these hold back the trend."

"I am very hopeful that we will find our way together and that we will find ways forward."

As their prize, the two winners will travel to the US in September for a series of engagements and visits over a two-week period.

Irish Independent**Online**

13-May-1999

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US First Lady Hillary Clinton listening to the proceedings yesterday after she received the Freedom of Galway City and collected an Honorary Degree from the National University of Ireland, Galway

Message of hope on the path to peace

By NOEL SMITH

HILLARY Clinton left a powerful impression on more than 1,000 invited guests yesterday during her brief visit which was hailed as "truly historic" by the President of the National University of Ireland, Galway.

Mrs Clinton appeared to be in relaxed and chatty mood as she donned the academic robes to be conferred with a Doctorate in Laws by the university.

Officials said later that Mrs Clinton, who received several presentations to mark the visit, was "very deeply moved" by the warmth of the reception.

It was her wide-ranging, 30-minute address in the large, red-carpeted and historic quadrangle of the university that really gripped the audience and led



Today's Weather

Win the new



to rapturous applause.

She told people always to have hope in the search for permanent peace and she paid public tribute to the progress already achieved.

Shortly afterwards, after being conferred with the Freedom of the City by Mayor Angela Lynch-Lupton, Mrs Clinton spoke of how much she would like to return with husband Bill and daughter Chelsea. Chelsea, she said, had "fallen in love" with the west of Ireland and its people. The golf would be a magical attraction for Bill and she herself was overcome by the welcome of the people.

Anti-Nato protestors were kept well away from the First Lady who had travelled by motorcade from her overnight stay at Glenlo Abbey hotel, Bushypark to the university.

The protest was organised by the Galway-based 'No to War Campaign' and the Socialist Workers Party but was kept some 500 yards away from the First Lady.

However, anti-war chants, including "Stop the Bombing" and "No Welcome for Hillary Clinton", could be heard in the distance as the motorcade arrived.

In receiving what is the city's top civic honour, the First Lady joined a glittering list of dignitaries previously honoured, including past US presidents John F Kennedy and Ronald Reagan, Pope John Paul II and former Irish presidents Douglas Hyde and Eamon de Valera.

Clearly delighted with the honour, Mrs Clinton said she was "extraordinarily pleased" to receive the prestigious award and joked in signing the honours list she couldn't help but notice that she was in the company of many "distinguished gentlemen".

Irish Independent Online
13-May-1999

DAILY ANALYSIS BUSINESS WORLD SPORT MOTORING PROPERTY FARMING



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around the world



Radiant and confident . . . US First Lady Hillary Clinton pictured in Galway yesterday where she received an Honorary Doctorate from the National University of Ireland

First Lady shines as plaudits, and rain, pour down

By MIRIAM LORD

HILLARY Rodham Clinton was out on her own yesterday.

And as you can see, she was very happy to get out of the House.

In the parlance of the Flood Tribunal, all the signs were that Hillary was "on a frolic", and doing very nicely, thank you. This sort of thing could give a First Lady ideas.

Her husband Bill may still be Leader of the Free World, but yesterday, Mrs Clinton captured an entire city. First she takes Galway, then she takes Manhattan ... she should be in the Senate in no time.

Actually, by the time Hillary left the City of the Tribes, she had also taken



Today's Weather



Win the new



two calfskin vellum scrolls, another Honorary Doctorate to add to her swelling collection, sundry pieces of bog oak, one engraved crystal platter and a special sculpture called Twin Spires. From the distance, it looked like a genetically-modified cow with about eight legs.

At this rate, the Clintons must have amassed enough parchment from Irish cities to wallpaper the Oval Office corridor and enough oak to soundproof it.

Wherever the unaccompanied Hillary goes these days, she is chaperoned by an unstated empathy from the people who watch and listen to her. Speculation and unasked questions are permanent companions. When she speaks, everyone searches between the lines for signals.

In Galway University, the City Fathers honoured Hillary Clinton as First Lady of the United States.

But the academics, while acknowledging her official position in America, seemed more concerned with Hillary Clinton "the remarkable and worthy" intellectual, lawyer, champion of women and children's rights, and a "great natural resource".

Then there was the way she looked. Strained and tired, said some. Radiant and confident, said others. More signals and signs there, and plenty of opportunities to scrutinise and empathise. Some even thought she dropped hints about her intention of running for the US Senate.

Mrs Clinton, having overnighted in Glenlo Abbey, first met a number of students and lecturers in the freshly painted Aula Maxima Hall.

Assembled guests were marched in and told to stand in line and wait, then the First Lady was ushered inside and walked along the receiving line like a President at a rugby international.

Arranged on a set of steps at the top of

the hall were the photographers, who were told not to step out of line and not to bump into the piano. They couldn't see very much, until Hillary finally walked towards them, looking up and into a stained glass window.

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Then somebody started playing the bagpipes. But you could still hear the protesters. Luckily, the rain stopped just in time for the procession, which moved through the college grounds at a snail's pace. Members of the university and the city council processed gravely in their colourful robes behind the city sword and mace.

The VIPs walked in a small group some distance behind, and behind them, looking distinctly undonnish, walked the Secret Service. A man and a woman, both with earpieces, chewing gum and in black teacher's gowns.

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carrying the box containing The Speech?

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Designed by Trinity Commerce



Chicago Tribune, Friday, May 14, 1999

Around the world

FROM TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

BRITAIN

Tune in to kids, Mrs. Clinton urges

LONDON—Modern society has come a long way in caring for children, but it must do a better job of listening to young people, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton said Thursday.

Citing last month's school shootings in Littleton, Colo., Clinton said that everything society does pales in comparison to keeping children safe.

"There may be no easy answers, there may be no single solution; we're well aware of that," she said at a conference called "Hearing Children's Voices" in London. "But we have a responsibility to listen to young people, to change attitudes and to offer a helping hand."

After the conference, Clinton and her British counterpart, Cherie Blair, met with a family of three generations who had fled Kosovo.

Later, Clinton flew to Italy. She is en route to Macedonia, where she is to tour camps of refugees from Kosovo.

KILLERS
ARE

attacking peace says first lady

By Rosie Uffindell

HILLARY Clinton spoke out yesterday against the killers of Lurgan solicitor Rosemary Nelson.

The US first lady said the murder was an attack not just on an individual but on the rule of law and the peace process itself.

Speaking in Belfast at the Vital Voices conference promoting the role of women in democracy, she said the murderers must not be allowed to succeed in their bid to derail the peace process. They must be brought to justice, she said.

"Her murder must be the final rebuke for all who would try to destroy the peace process," she said.

Mrs Clinton, a lawyer herself, made the speech the day after Ulster Unionist security spokesman Ken Maginnis stood by controversial comments alleging that Rosemary Nelson was "at worst, sympathetic" to the IRA.

Mrs Clinton told 400 delegates in the Spire Centre - and another 800 who joined by video link from Craigavon, Derry and Cavan - that peace was about taking risks, making compromises and moving forward.

She praised politicians David Trimble and Seamus Mallon, who both spoke at the event, and Secretary of State Mo Mowlam, who sent her apologies for not

attending, for their commitment to the peace process.

Mrs Clinton pledged America's continued support for the peace process.

"We will stand with you. We will stand with all who take risks for peace."

"We will stand with all who are interested in building opportunities and accepting responsibility for the future."

Among the guests at the Spire Centre event, sponsored by the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust, were SDLP leader John Hume, his wife Pat and Belfast Lord Mayor David Alderdice.

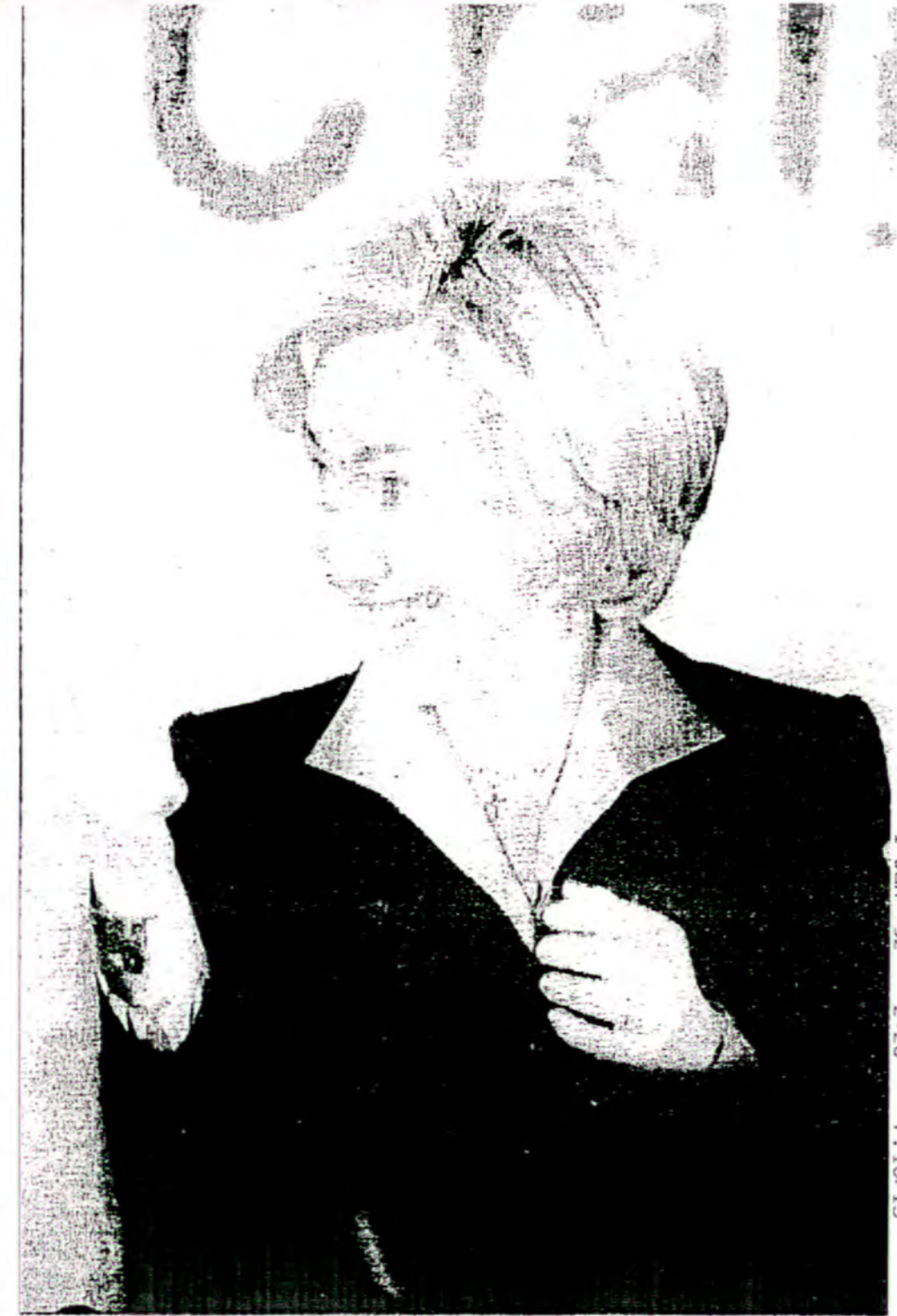
First Minister David Trimble praised Mrs Clinton and the Vital Voices project for helping provide resources and partnerships to further the role of women.

He said the "courage and commitment" of Northern Irish women had done much to "maintain the fabric of civil society through the many dark days of the last 30 years".

SDLP assembly member Brid Rodgers said Mrs Clinton's presence at the conference had raised the profile of women's participation in democracy.

Mrs Clinton left the conference before lunch to fly to London, where last night she met Kosovan refugees with Cherie Blair, wife of Britain's prime minister.

● President's prize: P3;
Editorial: P10



● MESSAGE OF HOPE ... Mrs Clinton clearly enjoying herself at the Vital Voices women's conference yesterday
Picture: Hugh Russ

Friday May 14 1999

THE IRISH NEWS

The Daily Telegraph - front page 14/5/97



BABY TALK: Cherie Blair asks Kosovo refugee Dijana Robaj about the teeth of her six-month-old daughter Veneta, as Hillary Clinton looks on, during a visit by three generations of the Robaj family to 10 Downing Street. Earlier, Mrs Blair and Mrs Clinton attended a legal conference in London at which they issued a rallying call for the rights of children around the world

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15/17/98
[Handwritten scribbles]



HONOUR: Hillary Clinton with President's Prize winners Noreen Christian and Alistair Kilgore, Irish News editor Noel Doran, left, and News Letter editor Geoff Martin, right Picture: Bob Hamilton

Champions of peace honoured

US First Lady Hillary Clinton yesterday joined with the editors of the News Letter and Irish News to honour the two latest recipients of the President's Prize.

The prize is a project set up by both newspapers during President Clinton's first visit to Belfast in 1995 to promote closer community relations.

The two winners, who met

Mrs Clinton after the Vital Voices conference in the Spires Centre, are Noreen Christian and Alistair Kilgore.

Founder-member of Cornerstone Community, Noreen Christian is a Roman Catholic nun who works with people on both sides of the peace-line in west Belfast. She is active with the Forthspring initiative which brings Roman Catholics

and Protestants together at the Methodist church on the Springfield Road.

After taking early retirement from Ashfield Boys Secondary School in Belfast in 1997, Alistair Kilgore took up the post of Deputy Director of the cross-community Corrymeela Centre in Ballycastle, where he has been a volunteer for the past 25 years.

News Letter

ESTABLISHED IN 1737

Morning View

Quiet heroes epitomise our very best

THE two latest recipients of the President's Prize epitomise all that is good in our at times bitterly divided society.

Former Dominican nun Noreen Christian and Corrymeela Community officer Alistair Kilgore hail from very different backgrounds but the work they do is motivated by the same passionate desire to build bridges of reconciliation.

Coincidentally, both have experience of working in Africa, a continent where problems of poverty, pestilence and war make our own difficulties seem minuscule in comparison. Perhaps that is why they returned determined to help heal divisions in a country which in other ways has so much going for it.

The award was established by the News Letter and Irish News following the peace poll held by the two newspapers in 1993. Nowadays the task of reconciliation is not nearly as daunting as it was in the worst days of the troubles, but it remains an essential requirement for the creation of a new society in which people can participate and prosper regardless of tradition or creed.

Those who, at grassroots level, have dedicated themselves during the darkest days to improving the quality of life in their own communities and across the divide, succeeded in laying the foundations on which the peace process was built.

Noreen Christian and Alistair Kilgore are outstanding examples of how ordinary people can change things for the better. We should all be proud of them, and all others like them.

By GARY KELLY

AMERICA'S First Lady Hillary Clinton chose a conference on the empowerment of women to launch a blistering attack on the murderers of Lurgan solicitor Rosemary Nelson.

Speaking before 400 women and a sprinkling of men at the Vital Voices conference in central Belfast yesterday, she said that the murder was an attack on the rule of law and a blatant attempt to derail the peace process.

"It is important that her killers must not be allowed to succeed - they must be brought to justice," she said.

Mrs Clinton, who praised the efforts of Northern Ireland's political leaders to cement the peace process, said that the people involved in the Vital Voices project showed that the forces for justice and empowerment were stronger than ever.

"Vital voices is part of a larger effort that I have been privileged to view...the way that people have pulled together to



PAMELA BALLENTINE

High praise for Pamela

PAMELA Ballentine is the latest UTV personality to grab the attentions of a top American.

For the TV presenter's bravura performance in linking the Vital Voices conference was warmly praised by Hillary Clinton, who hinted that the White House might have some use for her polished Ulster tones.

The First Lady thanked the blushing presenter for doing the "most fantastic job".

"That voice is absolutely wonderful. We hope we can borrow Pamela and her skills again," she gushed.

Her words of approval were reminiscent of the praise heaped on UTV colleague Kate Smith by actor Tom Cruise, who compared her blue eyes to Paul Newman's.

Said Pamela: "Having only just met Mrs Clinton very briefly beforehand, it was a very nice gesture."

make peace real in their lives."

She said that the work of Vital Voices was part of a global democracy movement that was giving women the opportunity to shape their own destinies.

Before an audience that included First Minister David Trimble, Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon and SDLP leader John Hume, the First Lady said she knew how hard they were working to bring the institutions of the fledgling

Assembly to life.

The conference, which took place at the headquarters of the Presbyterian Church in Fisherwick Place, included a video link-up to women involved in the Vital Voices project in Craigavon, Londonderry and Cavan.

In his speech, Mr Trimble told Mrs Clinton that his hope was that when they met again, the Assembly would be up and running.

Referring to the delay in the move to a Northern Ireland executive, he said "It is a deep source of frustration not to be able to get on with the job. I'm determined that we will sooner rather than later achieve devolution as a means to empower the whole of the community."

Taking up the theme of the deadlock in the political process, Mr Mallon said that was important to move to a politics that goes beyond factionalism towards inclusion.

"We must remember that the peace process doesn't belong to a small group of political leaders or Governments, it belongs to the massive majorities that voted for it in the island of Ireland, north and south."

Before leaving, Mrs Clinton said: "I look forward to more opportunities to return and also to host and welcome you to the United States."

Outside, meanwhile, a small but vocal group was acting as a "vital voice" of protest against the NATO bombing of Serbia.

Barbara Muldoon, of the Socialist Workers' Party and the No to War Campaign, is an ardent feminist who believes in the promotion of women's rights.

She said: "I appreciate the sincere attempts of people in Northern Ireland in the search for peace. But there is very little sincerity about a woman, who comes over talking about peace but is part of an administration that has killed innocent Serb civilians."



Hillary Clinton gets a warm Belfast welcome

"Hillary Blasts Nelson's Killers."

Irish Independent

15-May-1999

Online

DAILY
ANALYSIS
BUSINESS
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PROPERTY
FARMING



Win the new



Amongst women there is belief in peace

By MAURICE HAYES

HILLARY CLINTON'S visit to Belfast on Thursday to address the Vital Voices conference revealed another force in Northern Ireland politics which is growing in potency and is not yet being sufficiently recognised.

The women's movement has its well known champions in politics like Monica McWilliams but its influence goes much deeper. In many ways, women have been the secret weapon of the peace process.

It was mothers who intervened to prevent their sons dying, who blunted the edge of the hunger strike as a weapon of protest. It was women too who suffered while their husbands and sons were killed or imprisoned who decided that enough was enough and began to exert the sort of pressure in the areas in which the paramilitaries were based which pushed them, on both sides, towards a peaceful resolution of political problems.

It was women too who were concerned about the bread and butter issues, about health and housing and social disadvantage, about training and jobs for their kids and a chance for themselves to escape from the traps which gender, family, and a male dominated culture had placed them in. The women's movement in Northern Ireland is more strongly characterised by these pragmatic issues than by feminist theology. They have come from community groups and from community development rather than from any theoretical position and they have found their voice. In the evidence of the Vital Voices conference it is an increasingly confident and assertive one, and one that must certainly be a force in politics before long, particularly at a local level. Community development in Northern Ireland was a creature of the troubles.

It took root first in the nationalist communities partly to compensate for the services which government agencies were withholding or providing on an unsatisfactory basis, partly as an expression of solidarity, and partly as a means of building self confidence and leadership among communities which were demoralised, disadvantaged or dissatisfied.

The result has been the growth of a community sub-structure of great strength and tenacity which underpins political activity in the north. Interestingly enough, the movement was much slower to take off in Protestant areas.

Partly this was because of an historical dependence on the ruling party, which equally let down the Protestant working class. There was too, something of a religious basis. Community was something which came more easily out of the Catholic tradition: Protestantism tended to stand for personal responsibility, individualism and self reliance. One was warm and woolly and imprecise about relationships, the other clear and sharp and unambiguous. Whatever about that, community development is now taking place in Protestant areas too and is the stuff which sustains the smaller loyalist parties



Today's Weather



MORTGAGES & PENSIONS

and provides their base in the community, if not their electoral support. A recent survey intended to find out why there was a disparity in grants from European Peace and Reconciliation funds in Catholic and Protestant areas found that it was directly related to the number of applications and to activity. Community development (and the capacity to apply for and to use grants) was much more advanced in nationalist areas.

Whatever else has emerged, there is the growing involvement of women in community activities. This was a slow development at first, but is gaining momentum as women gain confidence. Many of the early beginnings were supported by charities like the Ireland Fund but recently dispersment of non-charitable money by the international fund for Ireland and the European Union Programme for Peace and Reconciliation have made a major impact.

It was revealed at the conference that over 1,000 grants had been made to women's group which had moved them from tea and social chats to grappling with social and economic issues, to personal development and leadership, to courses in entrepreneurship and local development, to training and tourism and computers and further education. One got the sense of an army on the move which would soon begin to make an electoral impact, not necessarily in a single party, but through all the political parties (apart perhaps from the more chauvinistic elements on the unionist right). George Mitchell in his account of peace making in Northern Ireland paid tribute to the small women's representation which had gained entry to the forum through a slightly skewed electoral process. They did however perform a function out of all proportion to their representational strength in mediating between the parties, in softening the edge of conflict, and in general pushing the traditional parties away from romanticism and ideology to the practicalities of daily life.

Women like Monica McWilliam, Pearl Sagar, May Blood and Geraldine O'Regan, Geraldine McAteer and Broa Hynes, are the surest guarantee that the society will not go into reverse that peace in the end will prevail.

One has to think too that had it been left to these women the business might well have been finished by now. As it is, it is slower than most of the public clearly would prefer. Both unionists and republicans seem to have frozen on the last hurdle. Everyone accepts that the outcome is tantalisingly close but republicans seem incapable of making the final gesture or saying the necessary words which will reassure unionists and unionists are unable to move without a clear and visible sign that arms are being put out of use, which the others seem increasingly incapable of making. At least however the atmosphere has improved and the body language. While there is disappointment and dismay at the failure to complete the agreement there is no sense that this will not happen eventually. The general feeling is of a system which might stall but which is irreversible. The public cannot only not stomach it, it cannot imagine a return to war. The fact that unionists and Sinn Fein are talking is seen as a plus, that they are not slanging each other in public and speak of each other with due restraint.

THE CONTINUED sectarian attacks on Catholic houses and workplaces is a worry. On the other hand, the discussions David Trimble is engaged in with the Garvaghy Road residents gives some hope of relief, if not yet of an ending of the dreary Drumcree saga. So too does the withdrawal of pickets from Harryville Church and the decision of the Orange Order more widely not to congregate at Drumcree this year, and the likelihood that the Ulster Unionist Party will shortly break its formal links with the Orange Order. Meantime, the parties edge closely together without actively touching. Of all the

false dogmas in Northern Ireland, the doctrine of unright time is the most pernicious.

Hillsborough was right for unionists, but republicans were not ready. Now republicans want a settlement but unionists want to wait until after the European elections. Then there will be Drumcree, then the marching season, and then and then and then. Meantime, there are problems in the health service, social and economic problems which are crying out for the attention of a locally based administration. The women's movement could teach them a thing or too about getting on with it.

Skopje, Macedonia

Hillary Clinton set to visit refugees

By Deborah McGregor
in Washington

When First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton visits refugee camps in Macedonia tomorrow, her official mission will be to convey a message of compassion from her husband and all Americans to the displaced Kosovars.

But Mrs Clinton, who has been waiting weeks for the right moment to visit the Balkan refugees, will also be delivering her own messages of hope and encouragement based on recent meetings with more than a dozen heads of US aid foundations to discuss ways to provide relief to Kosovo's ethnic Albanians.

President Bill Clinton said his wife's mission would be "to clarify our compassion and concern for the predominantly Moslem Kosovar Albanians who've been driven from their homes and seen their loved ones murdered".

Mr Clinton recently visited refugees in Germany.

Aides to Mrs Clinton said the First Lady had been eager to visit the refugees but had been looking for the right moment to do so. Many US celebrities and politicians have paid high-profile visits to the refugee camps in recent weeks.

Her visit will also serve as a sign that Mr Clinton remains unwaveringly committed to continuing the air war until Slobodan Milosevic, the Yugoslav president, agrees to Nato's demands.

Mrs Clinton's visit comes at a time when speculation about her political ambitions continues to run high. She has yet to decide if she will be a candidate for the US Senate, representing New York.

But her high-octane travel schedule, which has included numerous speaking engagements in that state, has fuelled the notion that she is seriously considering running.

Some analysts have suggested that the Kosovo situation may present difficulties for the First Lady, because it could appear inappropriate for her to enter a full-blown political campaign effort while the nation is at war.

If she were to launch a Senate bid, she would also be battling the "carpet-bagger" label, since she hails not from New York but from Illinois.

Recent opinion polls suggest Mrs Clinton's earlier lead over her opponents has essentially evaporated.

Mrs Clinton plans to stop in London before heading to Macedonia.

● Tony Blair, the prime minister, is expected to pledge his support next week for Bulgaria to make an early start in negotiations to join the European Union - matching a similar promise made to Romania.

He will visit Albania and Bulgaria to review the refugee situation and meet political leaders.

A government official said the prime minister been impressed by the great strides the Bulgarian government had made to reform its political and economic institutions, and the solidarity it has shown with Nato.

PM-Macedonia Hillary Clinton, 1st Ld-Writethru, a0525,0469

First lady arrives Macedonia to tour refugee camps

Eds: LEADS thruout to UPDATE with Clinton arriving in camps, color, quotes.
No pickup.

With PM-Yugoslavia-Kosovo, Bjt

AP Photos planned

By MELISSA EDDY= Associated Press Writer=

SKOPJE Macedonia (AP) First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton toured a refugee camp today housing thousands of ethnic Albanians and met with Macedonian leaders trying to cope with the difficulties created by the Kosovo crisis.

Hundreds of refugee children, smiling and waving, crowded the fence at the Stenkovec I camp as the first lady entered the tent city, accompanied by U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill and his wife.

One 11-year-old boy, Fatos Rexhep, walked up to her and presented her with a UNICEF cap. Later, the boy told reporters he had been at the camp for two weeks after Serb police drove his family from Kosovo, telling his father they would kill his children if they did not leave.

The boy said his father died of a heart attack en route to safety in Macedonia.

In remarks to aid workers, Mrs. Clinton told them that the United States would not abandon its efforts to get the refugees home.

NATO launched airstrikes on Yugoslavia March 24 to force Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to accept a peace plan for Kosovo, a province in southern Yugoslavia.

The alliance is demanding not only a total withdrawal of Milosevic's forces from Kosovo and the return of refugees but the deployment of an international peacekeeping force, a big sticking point in diplomatic negotiations that include Russia.

"I want to send a message to the refugees that we do not intend to let the evil which Milosevic perpetrated against these people keep them away from their homeland and their homes," Mrs. Clinton said. "That is a very basic, fundamental commitment that is shared not only by those in the U.S. who are committed to this effort but our allies as well."

There are also signs of growing tensions in the overcrowded tent city. On Monday, refugees staged a mass protest complaining about poor conditions and alleged harassment by Macedonian police officers.

President Clinton has said his wife's mission is "to clarify our compassion and concern for the predominantly Muslim Kosovar Albanians who've been driven out of their homes."

Mrs. Clinton flew here after visiting Belfast, Northern Ireland, and London, where she addressed a children's rights conference.

Mrs. Clinton will return to Washington from Macedonia.

Albana Pireva, 18, said the trip "shows she cares and wants to know about the way we live."

"We are glad she's coming to visit," said Milihate Pronaj, 19. "We're expecting her to tell us something new, something for our future."

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Macedonia meeting



ASSOCIATED PRESS

■ First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton shakes hands with U.S. officers from the NATO forces deployed in Macedonia today upon her arrival at Skopje Airport. She is expected to visit the Stenkovec camp to see firsthand the challenges facing Macedonia, which currently has more than 230,000 refugees in nine overcrowded camps. More on the Balkans in Nation/World, 10A.

FBIS

062MAY14 UNCLAS 2M FYROM: Hillary Clinton Arrives in Skopje, Heads to Refugee Camp AU1405084199 Paris AFP (North European Service) in English 0834 GMT 14 May 99

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SKOPJE, May 14 (AFP) -- US First Lady Hillary Clinton arrived in Macedonia Friday for a one-day visit during which she will meet with Kosovo Albanian refugees at the Brazda refugee camp, also known as Stenkovec One, officials said.

Clinton, arriving in the morning from Naples where she made a brief stopover Thursday evening, was greeted at Skopje airport by the wife of President Kiro Gligorov, Nada, and Deputy Foreign Minister Boris Trazhkovski.

She was expected to go directly to the Brazda camp before meeting with Macedonian leaders.

The tent city, erected by British NATO troops around a small airport just north of Skopje, now hosts 18,700 refugees, according to an estimate Thursday from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The First Lady will then go to the residence of US ambassador Christopher Hill to meet Macedonian relief organizations and Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski.

She will also meet with President Kiro Gligorov at his residence, before returning to Washington.

"The purpose of Mrs Clinton's visit is to express appreciation and strong support for Macedonia and its efforts to provide for the hundreds of thousands of Kosovar refugees here," the US embassy in Skopje said Thursday.

Separately, President Bill Clinton, in a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski on Thursday, promised to work for an increase in US aid for Macedonia, Georgievski's office said.

Clinton voiced support for Macedonia's work to shelter Kosovo refugees and said he would shortly propose a bill to Congress to boost the aid level.

The United States will do "everything it can for Macedonia to gain financial support," he was quoted as saying.

Macedonia has criticised NATO and EU nations for not doing more to help it cope with the sudden influx of Kosovo Albanian refugees that followed the March 24 start of NATO air strikes on Yugoslavia.

The economy of this landlocked former Yugoslav republic of 2.2 million has been crippled by the Kosovo conflict, and there are fears its delicate ethnic mix of Macedonians, Albanians, Serbs, Bulgarians, Greeks and others will be upset if the refugees stay too long.

[Description of Source: AFP (North European Service): North European Service of the independent French press agency Agence France-Presse]
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**** filed by:FBIS(--) on 05/14/99 at 04:43EDT ****

**** printed by:WHPR(SCOH) on 05/14/99 at 08:20EDT ****

MACEDONIA

First Lady Pays Visit To a Camp

By DAVID ROHDE

SKOPJE, Macedonia, May 14 — Hillary Rodham Clinton swept through Macedonia today on a visit that illustrated Washington's continuing struggle to balance the diverse strands of its Kosovo policy.

In a refugee camp appearance so carefully scripted that Administration officials chose which refugees Mrs. Clinton would speak with, she commiserated with Kosovo's expelled masses. After hearing refugees' accounts of their flight from Kosovo, she said their plight reminded her of movie depictions of the Holocaust like "Schindler's List."

"We do not intend to let the evil Milosevic has perpetrated against these people keep them away from their homeland and homes," Mrs. Clinton said.

While expressing sympathy for the refugees, however, Mrs. Clinton went out of her way to avoid offending Macedonian sensibilities.

Ethnic Macedonians, who make up two-thirds of the population, generally oppose NATO's bombing. They also fear that if ethnic Albanians — who made up one-third of Macedonia's population before the crisis — continue to pour in from Kosovo, Macedonians will be reduced to a minority in their own country.

So although Mrs. Clinton spent the morning addressing refugee suffering, she spent the rest of the day trying to defuse anti-American sentiment and to bolster Macedonia's fragile coalition Government, a mix of Macedonian and Albanian parties.

"It's important for people in my country and elsewhere to put themselves in the position of the refugees," she said, "but also in the position of the Macedonian people, who have responded as they have in the last weeks. I'm very grateful to them as well."

But the essential issue remains when the roughly 200,000 refugees here might return to Kosovo.

"We are trying very hard to permit you to return to your homes in safety," Mrs. Clinton said. "That's what my husband, the United States Government and the NATO allies are trying to accomplish."

The New York Times

SATURDAY, MAY 15, 1999

First Lady Brings Publicity, Aid to Macedonia

By ANNE SWARDSON
Washington Post Foreign Service

BRAZDA, Macedonia, May 14—First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, the first high-ranking American to visit here since the Kosovo crisis began, brought two messages to Macedonia today.

Touring a refugee camp of 18,000 people, Clinton urged Americans not to become "immune" to the plight of more than 740,000 Kosovo Albanians expelled from their homeland since NATO began its air war against Yugoslavia on March 24. "We are trying to do everything possible to make these lives and stories real, not to let them fade into the background," she said.

And she soothed the irritated government of Macedonia, which has taken in the refugees only reluctantly and at the price of more foreign aid. Clinton today added

another \$2 million to the pot—the first installment of a \$21 million reallocation of funds for Macedonia.

The first lady met with four refugee families and heard the tales of devastation and despair that are commonplace here.

One mother had not seen her three youngest children since March 31, when Serbian police pushed them aside in the crowded train station in Pristina, Kosovo's capital. Another woman had one son-in-law killed in a massacre in the village of Racak in January; another is still inside Kosovo.

Clinton seemed most affected by tales from refugees who arrived at the Macedonian border aboard jammed, hot trains, carrying what few possessions they could manage.

"Think about those trains," she said. "I don't know how many of you saw [the films] 'Schindler's List' or 'Sophie's Choice.' Think about what

that means—driving people from their homes, separating families, loading them into trains—at the end of this violent century that we should have learned something from."

Even as Clinton toured the camp, a few refugees were entering Macedonia from Kosovo. For 10 days, almost no one has crossed the frontier—initially because Macedonian border guards were blocking refugees, then because Serbian authorities were not allowing them to leave.

Today, 36 people came here, including Artan Misini, 26, from the town of Urosevac. There, he said, some 1,500 people were trying to leave. "The food situation is very bad," he said.

There are 233,000 Kosovo refugees in Macedonia, according to the U.N. refugee agency, and officials here have expressed reluctance to take them in for fear of upsetting the

country's delicate ethnic balance. Before the Kosovo crisis, ethnic Albanians accounted for 22 percent of Macedonia's 2 million people; the inflow of refugees has increased the proportion to one-third. A majority of Kosovo's refugees here live with friends or family; the rest are in camps.

After her camp tour, Clinton met with Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski, parliamentary president Savo Klimovski and local aid officials, and her message could not have been more straightforward: "I want to clearly express our appreciation to the government of Macedonia for the efforts they have made. It has been an incredible burden on Macedonia."

She also promised a Macedonian clothing manufacturer that she would personally call designer Liz Claiborne to persuade her to increase her orders from Macedonia.



BY LUCIAN PERKINS—THE WASHINGTON POST

Hillary Rodham Clinton strolls with children during a visit to a refugee camp in Macedonia. Clinton also listened to the accounts of refugee families.

BALKANS

Milosevic's 'evil' won't prevail, Mrs. Clinton tells Kosovo refugees

By Uli Schmetzer

TRIBUNE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

STANKOVIC I, Macedonia—Hillary Rodham Clinton told Kosovo refugees at this massive camp Friday that America would not allow the "evil" leadership in Belgrade to prevent their eventual return home.

While the first lady almost crawled into the small tents to talk to refugees, eight NATO jets returning from missions in Yugoslavia left vapor trails in the sky above her—a grim reminder that the war was only a few miles away across the border in Kosovo.

Under a merciless sun, Clinton tried to lift the spirits of the thousands of Kosovars who have fled from Yugoslav President Slobodan

Milosevic's military and paramilitary forces. Many of the refugees have lived for nearly two months in cramped, smelly camps, eating cold rations and standing in line for staples.

"These people all want to go home. They all want to live in peace and security," she said after touring a roped-off corner of the sprawling camp.

Tension in the camps has been growing in recent days.

About 4,000 refugees staged a protest two days ago, complaining about poor conditions and harassment by Macedonian police, who have taken over security responsibility from NATO troops. The police, mainly Slavs, have shown scant compassion for the ethnic Albanians, apparently out of concern they could upset the delicate ethnic balance in Macedonia.

Refugees allege that some countries, such as France, select mainly Roman Catholic ethnic Albanians for transfer from the camps to their countries. Most Albanians are Muslims. Girls have complained that self-styled Muslim "orderlies" among the refugees force them to wear long sleeves instead of sleeveless blouses in the heat.

But as Clinton drove to the camp on Friday during her one-day visit to Macedonia, police checkpoints on the road to the camp were unmanned for the first time in two months.

Hugged and kissed by refugees during her 35-minute tour, she said: "I want to send a message to the refugees that we do not intend to let the evil which Milosevic perpetrated against these people keep them away from their homeland and their homes."

But she had no answer to voices asking: "When can we go back?"

The first lady was the latest in a series of prominent visitors here, among them British Prime Minister Tony Blair and NATO chief Javier Solana. They have come to Macedonia and Albania to show solidarity with the refugees and the two small Balkan nations, bearing the brunt of the Kosovo crisis.

All of them have promised to help these countries carry the financial burden imposed by a war that cut off landlocked Macedonia's main exports and road routes through Yugoslavia. The government in Macedonia wants NATO membership and foreign debt relief in return for being host to the refugees.

Meanwhile, hundreds of refugee children, waving and shouting "NATO! NATO!" crowded the area reserved for Clinton's visit. They had waited for two hours in scorching heat for America's first lady, who later expressed U.S. sympathy with a nation where refugees now constitute one-tenth of the population.

After she left the camp, many of the children stripped down and jumped into a murky brook that runs along the back fence to cool off.

Earlier in the day, Fatos Rexhep, 11, rushed up to Clinton and gave her his UNICEF baseball cap. One of her aides quickly carried it to the official limousine.

The boy said his father had died of a heart attack during the family's escape from Kosovo. He said Serb police had told his parents they would shoot the children if the family didn't leave.

A woman, Feti Proaj, complained she hadn't seen her three children and husband for three weeks. "You will be with your family very soon," Clinton told her.

After leaving the Stankovic camp, Clinton visited a 16th Century Orthodox Church and examined its frescoes and icons before meeting with local Macedonian aid agencies, the first people to help the refugees at the beginning of the crisis.

She arrived in Macedonia on a U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules transport plane escorted by an Army helicopter.

Before she departed for Washington on Friday afternoon, one of the refugees summed up the taste of disappointment she left behind:

"We expected her to tell us something new, something for our future," Albana Pireva, 18, said.

WAR IN THE



An ethnic Albanian woman kisses Hillary Rodham Clinton during her one-day visit Friday to the Stankovic refugee camp in Macedonia. Reuters photo



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hillary Rodham Clinton speaks with ethnic Albanian children Friday at the Stenkovec refugee camp in Macedonia.

First lady listens to refugees' woes

She also delivers assurances and aid to Macedonia

By Alissa J. Rubin

Los Angeles Times

BRAZDA, Macedonia — For everyone who visits the refugee camps of Kosovo Albanians, there comes a moment when it becomes clear what it would be like to go through what the refugees have endured.

For Hillary Rodham Clinton, that moment came outside tent B-12 in a camp here on Friday, when 42-year-old Fetije Pronaj, a worn-faced woman with collar-length dark hair, told her story.

She came from a small village north of Pristina, the capital of Kosovo. When Serb forces emptied her village, they herded everyone onto trains. As she stood on the station platform, she held tight to her 8- and 11-year-old sons' hands while her husband looked after her three older daughters.

"Then they began to separate the women from the men. They were pointing guns at us," she said.

Suddenly in the crush of the crowd and the shoving of the soldiers, she lost her sons' hands, she could not see them anywhere, and she was pushed onto the train.

Pronaj is now in Macedonia's Stenko-

vec I refugee camp with only two of her five children, and it's unclear where her husband and other three children are.

Clinton heard her story Friday morning on her trip to Macedonia, which was aimed at highlighting the plight of ethnic Albanian refugees from Kosovo and assuring this poor Balkan nation that the United States understands the stress that the influx has placed on it.

Aid officials say Macedonia has taken about 233,000 of the nearly 800,000 refugees who fled Kosovo since NATO started bombing Yugoslavia on March 24 to force it to end its repression of the Kosovo Albanians.

Clinton also announced the release of the first \$2 million in a \$21 million economic development package for Macedonia that is designed to help the fledgling democracy create new small businesses through microcredit organizations.

"I want very clearly to express our appreciation to the government and the people of Macedonia for the steps they have taken in responding to this unprecedented crisis," she said. "It's been an incredible burden on the people of Macedonia . . . so I'm very grateful to them," she said.

While Clinton was enthusiastic during her meeting with Macedonian President Kiro Gligorov, Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski and others, it was only during her tour of refugee camps that her practiced politician's manner fell away.

As she started to leave the camp of 23,000, which was hot and dusty and smelled of sweat and sewage, she spontaneously started to talk to the crowd of aid workers and journalists.

"I'm picturing myself in the faces and stories," said Clinton, and then it was Fetije Pronaj's face that seemed to appear before her.

"When you talk to a woman, who in the push of the crowd with the Serbian police . . . forcing people onto those trains, the hands of the children she was holding evaporate — all of us have had that experience where you are holding onto a little hand and it gets hot in a football crowd or some other place," she said.

"And now, she doesn't know where three of her children are, she has no idea whether they are in Kosovo, whether they were put on a later train, she has no idea what has happened to them," Clinton said, shaking her head slightly.

The Washington Times

WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 1999 ★

Haunting hungry eyes

Macedonian Ambassador Lubica Acevska has just returned from a visit to a Kosovar refugee camp in her country and is haunted by the hopelessness she found there.

Miss Acevska was accompanying first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton on the trip Friday to the tent city of 32,000 people.

"One little girl attached herself to me," she told Embassy Row yesterday. "I can still see her face."

Miss Acevska said she was pained by the sight of elderly refugees, "the old people with hungry eyes."

"You feel so sorry for them. But what can you do? ... I can't get them out of my mind," she said.

Miss Acevska called on other nations to relieve Macedonia, which has been flooded by more than 200,000 refugees driven out of Kosovo by Yugoslav forces.

"It so tragic the other countries aren't doing more to help the refugees," she said.

Mrs. Clinton's visit helped uplift the spirits of refugees, even if it was a temporary respite from the hot, crowded realities of the camp. During the first lady's tour, the temperature hit the 90s, an unusually hot day in a Macedonian spring, Miss Acevska said.

"They were happy to see her. It shows they are not forgotten," she said.

The Macedonian government appreciated Mrs. Clinton's visit.

"We were very pleased she came. She is committed to helping us," the ambassador said.