

HRC Clips



The First Lady's Trip to the United Kingdom

December 12-December 14, 2000

Schedule for Hillary Rodham Clinton

Tuesday, December 12, 2000

Delegation Breakfast Reception
Ambassador's Residence
Closed Press

Courtesy Call w/ Irish President Mary McAleese
President's Residence
Pool Press, Host TV, Stills

Reception with Prominent Irish Women Leaders
Ambassador's Residence
Pool Spray for Remarks

Receiving Line with Oireachtas
Guinness Store House
Pool Press

Remarks to Reception Hosted by Taoiseach
Guinness Store House
Expanded Pool Press

Ropeline with Overflow Crowd
Guinness Store House
Closed Press

Private Reception
Guinness Store House
Host TV (at the top)

Embassy Event
Ambassador's Residence
Closed Press

POTUS remarks to the People of Dundalk
Market Square
Open Press

Wednesday, December 13, 2000

Photo Receiving Line
Belfast Opera House
Closed Press

Vital Voices Speech
Belfast Opera House
Open Press

Meet & Greet w/ Women Members of Parliament
Odyssey Center
WH Photo Only

Private Meeting
Odyssey Center
Closed Center

POTUS remarks to the People of Belfast
Odyssey Center
Open Press

Thursday, December 14, 2000

Tea with Her Majesty
Buckingham Palace
Closed Press

Photo Opportunity with her Majesty
Buckingham Palace
Pool Press

University of Warwick Arts Center
POTUS remarks at the University of Warwick
Open Press

CLIPS

FOR

DECEMBER 12, 2000

DECEMBER 12, 2000

Copyright 2000 Agence France Presse
Agence France Presse
December 12, 2000, Tuesday 12:12 PM, Eastern Time

HEADLINE: Clinton starts N.Ireland mission on swansong foreign trip

BYLINE: Kevin McElderry

DATELINE: DUBLIN, Dec 12

BODY:

US President Bill Clinton arrived early Tuesday in Dublin in an effort to jump-start Northern Ireland's stalled peace process on his swansong foreign trip before he leaves office.

His plane touched down at 8:25 am (0825 GMT). It is the third time he has visited Ireland during his presidency, after earlier trips in 1995 and 1998.

Clinton, accompanied by wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea, was greeted at Dublin airport by Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern.

He was due later to call on Irish President Mary McAleese, have talks with Ahern, visit a Guinness centre and deliver his keynote speech in Dundalk, the border town halfway to Belfast.

Clinton was a key player in crafting the April 1998 Good Friday peace deal between the province's Protestant majority and large Roman Catholic minority, paving the way for the power-sharing government now in place in Belfast.

But despite huge strides the process is logjammed over disarmament, police reforms and Britain's continued military presence.

In remarks before leaving Andrews Air Force Base, Clinton said the process had already come further than many expected.

"No one wants to go back to the way it was," the president said. "But there are differences about the implementation of the new police force ... and also about the schedule and method of putting the arms beyond use.

"And those are the two things that could still threaten the progress that we're making.

"And if there's something I can do before I leave to make one more shot to resolve this, I will do it."

The British and Irish governments are downplaying prospects of achieving a breakthrough during his trip, but stress the galvanising psychological impact it will have.

Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Mandelson said: "We need to give everyone the confidence to revive a spirit of compromise and accommodation, and I hope President Clinton will contribute to that.

"I think he can warm people up, focus people more on the big picture of what's involved here, both what we have achieved but also what's at stake if we allow things to roll back," he told BBC television.

The Belfast administration includes members of the Irish Republican Army's political wing Sinn Fein which wants to end British rule. Protestants want to maintain the link with London.

Because of the lack of disarmament, Northern Ireland's premier, Protestant Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble, banned Sinn Fein ministers from meeting their Dublin counterparts.

That infuriated Sinn Fein, already angered by what they see as the British government's drastic watering-down of key reforms to the Protestant-dominated police force.

In Dundalk Clinton was expected to underline the benefits of peace and how far the province and Ireland as a whole has come since Good Friday.

Hillary Clinton, newly elected senator for New York, was due to speak to a delegation of women members of the Irish parliament.

On Wednesday in Belfast, Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair were to meet political leaders, including Trimble and Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams.

Trimble has said he hopes the visit would "shift paramilitaries from their intransigent positions" on arms, while Adams said there was "no evidence" any package would surface this week to resolve the problems.

Later Wednesday, Clinton was to speak to an estimated 7,000 people in east Belfast.

In the evening he was to fly to England with Blair, followed by a round of engagements Thursday including an audience with Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace and a keynote foreign policy speech.

Copyright 2000 The Press Association Limited
Press Association Newsfile
December 12, 2000, Tuesday 11:15 AM Eastern Time

HEADLINE: HILLARY TO CALL MEETING OF WOMEN MPs
BYLINE: Chris Parkin, PA News

BODY:

Hillary Clinton is to convene a meeting of women parliamentarians from Britain and Ireland.

She reported her plans today after departing with daughter Chelsea from the itinerary set out for her husband, President Bill Clinton, during the opening day of his latest visit to Ireland.

Mrs Clinton, a little more than a month after securing election to the US Senate in New York, met female politicians from the Irish Republic at the official residence of the American ambassador to Ireland, Michael Sullivan, in Dublin's Phoenix Park.

The First Lady said should would be revealing more about her plans for an all-women parliamentary meeting in Belfast tomorrow.

But she confirmed it would involve politicians from England, Wales and Scotland - as well as both sides of the Irish border.

Mrs Clinton also told the Irish women parliamentarians that the entire family intended to return soon to Ireland, in a private capacity after her husband's departure from office.

Copyright 2000 Associated Press
AP Online
December 12, 2000; Tuesday 10:45 AM, Eastern Time

HEADLINE: Hillary Pledges To Work for Women
BYLINE: MARA D. BELLABY
DATELINE: DUBLIN, Ireland

BODY:

Hillary Rodham Clinton told Irish female politicians on Tuesday that she wants to "create opportunities for women's voices to be heard" worldwide after her husband leaves the White House and her own Senate career begins.

This came during a women-only reception with 40 female Irish politicians and the first lady and U.S. senator-elect from New York at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Dublin's Phoenix Park.

Clinton accompanied her husband, President Clinton, on his third official trip to Ireland but it is her fifth time visiting the country. The Clintons and their daughter, Chelsea, will travel to Northern Ireland and England before departing Thursday.

The first lady on Wednesday plans to announce an initiative to bring all the female lawmakers from Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales together for a special meeting.

She said she hoped some of her peers from the U.S. Congress would attend as observers. "Women in public life in appointed positions and in elected positions have a great many lessons to exchange with one another," said Clinton as her daughter listened. "I've observed that. Now I'm about to live that."

Irish women have a long record of political participation.

The Dail, which with the Senate makes up the Irish Parliament, has always boasted at least one woman. The Irish elected their first female president, Mary Robinson, in 1990 and the current president is also a woman, Mary McAleese.

"Women are very strong and very prominent here in Ireland," said Mary O'Rourke, who currently holds the Cabinet position responsible for public enterprise.

O'Rourke said Irish women wanted to salute Clinton for her own political achievements, including her election in New York. "We are so happy because of what you've achieved," O'Rourke told the first lady, as all 11 of Ireland's female senators listened.

Some 45.5 million Americans including President Clinton _ claim Irish-American heritage and Clinton's New York constituency boasts a large number of Irish-Americans.

While Clinton did not reveal any plans to return to Ireland as a senator, she confessed that her husband probably wouldn't wait long to come back.

"He is heartbroken that he hasn't been able to play golf," she said.

Copyright 2000 Associated Press

AP Worldstream

December 12, 2000; Tuesday 10:12 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: International news

DISTRIBUTION: Europe; Britian; Scandinavia; Middle East; Africa; India; Asia; England

HEADLINE: Clinton seeks to boost peace in Northern Ireland With Hillary-Ireland

BYLINE: DEB RIECHMANN

DATELINE: DUBLIN, Ireland

BODY:

With the Irish prime minister at his side, U.S. President Bill Clinton declared Tuesday that the stakes are too great in Northern Ireland to let the peace process sputter to a halt. "The people have embraced the peace and I don't think they want to go back," he said.

Wasting no time after his arrival in Dublin, the president conferred with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern about the uneasy state of play in Northern Ireland. They went together to a Guinness brewery in Dublin, where Clinton greeted Irish lawmakers and business leaders, shaking hands with Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness of the Sinn Fein party, which is linked to the Irish Republican Army.

"Nobody wants to go back to the troubles," Clinton said, using the local term for the years of violence and bloodshed. "There are still a few hills we have to climb. ... If you're contributing to the present vitality of this great nation, you are helping to make the peace whole. For that I am grateful."

In advance of the trip, the White House played down the prospect that Clinton would be able to broker steps that would lead to a lasting peace.

Nevertheless, Ahern said Clinton's trip, which includes stops in Northern Ireland and England, has helped the two sides "focus on still what are the difficulties and try to narrow them and look at the possibilities of what we can do."

Clinton carefully avoided direct reference to the disputes that remain, opting instead to encourage the parties to continue pursuing compromise because that is what their people want.

"My message is to those parties which aren't involved in the process, they ought to join ... To those who are part of the process and have disagreements still, I hope they'll try to work them out," Clinton

said.

Mindful that he'll be leaving office in a few weeks, Clinton pledged his assistance in Northern Ireland if the next president wants it.

"If I can be a resource, I will," he said.

Ahern praised the "open but determined mind" that he said Clinton brought to the peace process.

"America's record as honest broker and plain speaker helped us all to forge an historic compromise in the Good Friday agreement," Ahern said.

Clinton was accompanied on the trip by his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, the new senator-elect for New York and their daughter, Chelsea.

In remarks to about 40 female Irish politicians at a women-only reception, Mrs. Clinton pledged to raise the profile of women worldwide when she takes office Jan. 3.

"I hope to create opportunities for women's voices to be heard," she said.

In his first official stop, Clinton conferred with Irish President Mary McAleese at her home in Dublin.

The president also planned to travel north to Dundalk, the last town before Northern Ireland's border and a traditional power base for the Irish Republican Army.

Dundalk also has been a recruiting town for an IRA dissident group dubbed the Real IRA. The group claimed responsibility for a 1998 car bombing that killed 29 people in the town of Omagh, the worst terrorist strike in Northern Ireland's history.

In the past 30 years, more than 3,600 people have died in political and sectarian violence.

The conflict is between two sides: Unionists mostly Protestants who want Northern Ireland to remain a part of the United Kingdom, and nationalists mostly Catholic who want to see the six counties of Northern Ireland reunited with the rest of the island.

In Belfast, Clinton is to meet with David Trimble, Protestant first minister in the new Northern Ireland government, and Seamus Mallon, the senior Roman Catholic in that government.

In London, Clinton is to stay at Prime Minister Tony Blair's country residence, give a foreign policy speech and have morning tea with Queen Elizabeth II.

Copyright 2000 Associated Press

AP Worldstream

December 12, 2000; Tuesday 9:28 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: International news

DISTRIBUTION: Europe; Britain; Scandinavia; Middle East; Africa; India; Asia; England

HEADLINE: Hillary Clinton pledges to raise profile of women

BYLINE: MARA D. BELLABY

DATELINE: DUBLIN, Ireland

BODY:

Hillary Rodham Clinton pledged Tuesday to continue her family's interest in Irish matters after her husband leaves the White House and her own political career begins.

The first lady and U.S. senator-elect also signaled that she will work to raise the profile of women worldwide when she takes office Jan. 3.

"I hope to create opportunities for women's voices to be heard," Clinton told about 40 female Irish politicians during a women-only reception at the U.S. ambassador's residence in Dublin's Phoenix Park.

Clinton is accompanying her husband, President Clinton, on his third official trip to Ireland, which began Tuesday. The couple and their daughter, Chelsea, will travel to Northern Ireland and England

before departing Thursday.

The first lady said she would be announcing on Wednesday details of an initiative to convene all the women lawmakers from Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales for a special meeting.

She said she hoped some women from the U.S. Congress would be able to attend as observers.

"Women in public life in appointed positions and in elected positions have a great many lessons to exchange with one another," Clinton said, as her daughter looked on.

"I've observed that. Now I'm about to live that," she said.

Irish women have a long record of participation in politics.

The Dail, which with the Senate makes up the Irish Parliament, has always been able to boast at least one woman member. The Irish elected their first woman president, Mary Robinson, in 1990, and the current president is also a woman, Mary McAleese.

"Women are very strong and very prominent here in Ireland," said Mary O'Rourke, who currently holds the Cabinet position responsible for public enterprise.

O'Rourke said Irish women wanted to "salute" Clinton for her own political achievements particularly her Nov. 7 U.S. Senate win in New York.

"We are so happy because of what you've achieved," O'Rourke told the first lady, as all 11 of Ireland's female senators and many of the 22 women in the Dail listened.

Clinton said that her interest in Ireland, which she has visited five times, would remain strong, and that she hoped to "build on the relationships that I've been privileged to be part of."

Some 45.5 million Americans claim Irish-American heritage, and Clinton's own New York constituency boasts a large number of Irish-Americans.

While Clinton did not reveal any plans to return to Ireland as a senator, she confessed that her husband probably wouldn't wait long to come back.

"He is heartbroken that he hasn't been able to play golf," she said, referring to the rainy weather and his tight schedule.

She noted that he leaves office on Jan. 20, adding, "That probably means he'll be back on the 22nd."

Copyright 2000 PR Newswire Europe Limited
Press Association Newsfile

December 12, 2000, Tuesday 04:08 AM Eastern Time

SECTION: HOME NEWS

HEADLINE: CLINTON ARRIVAL PROMPTS NEW CALL ON IRA ARMS

BYLINE: Deric Henderson and Chris Parkin, PA News

BODY:

The IRA today faced new British demands to begin emptying its arms dumps as US President Bill Clinton prepared for talks in Belfast in a bid to end the deadlock on paramilitary disarmament which is threatening the Northern Ireland peace process.

High winds over the Atlantic delayed his flight reaching Dublin by 30 minutes, but a meeting with the Republic's Taoiseach Bertie Ahern signalled a quickening of the pace to try to agree some sort of deal.

President Clinton will meet Prime Minister Tony Blair in Belfast tomorrow, and although the parties are holding out little hope of a major breakthrough, the Government clearly believes there is an onus on the republican movement to make a move now on weapons.

Re-engagement with General John de Chastelain's decommissioning body would almost certainly mean a lifting of First Minister David Trimble's ban on Sinn Fein ministers attending North-South

ministerial meetings.

That decision is to be challenged in the High Court on Friday but Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Mandelson said today that there had to be a start to decommissioning.

As Air Force One with President Clinton, his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea on board touched down at Dublin airport, Mr Mandelson said a reduction in the security threat was needed.

He said: "I don't just mean the incidents of terrorist activity, but a reduction in the level of capability of terrorist organisations. That must mean the start of decommissioning."

Government-appointed arms inspectors have twice examined secret IRA weapons hideouts, but there has been no direct talks between General de Chastelain and the IRA since June.

Republicans have blamed the failure to clear the south Armagh countryside of towering British military surveillance posts and what they believe is the Government's refusal to implement in full the Patten recommendations on future policing arrangements for the delay in progress.

Mr Mandelson claimed: "All our difficulties at the moment and the unionist sanction against Sinn Fein in relation to the North-South bodies was triggered just for the sake of a lack of phone call between the IRA and General de Chastelain."

He told BBC Radio Ulster: "These things need to be put right. We need to have clear evidence of the IRA intentions in relation to decommissioning.

"That in turn will have an affect on our assessment of the security threat ... In that context we will be able to move, and we will move."

President Clinton will make a public address in the border town of Dundalk, Co Louth, later today before heading for Belfast.

This is his third presidential visit to Ireland and some White House sources believe he could return again after leaving office next month.

Tomorrow at Stormont he will meet Mr Trimble, deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon and Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams before making a keynote speech in front of a crowd of 8,000 at Belfast's showpiece Odyssey arena.

**Copyright 2000 The Atlanta Constitution
The Atlanta Journal and Constitution
December 12, 2000, Tuesday, Home Edition**

SECTION: News; Pg. 10A

HEADLINE: Irish hope Clinton visit soothes tensions

BYLINE: Bert Roughton Jr., Cox Washington Bureau

SOURCE: CONSTITUTION

BODY:

Dublin --- President Clinton is scheduled to begin his swan song visit to Ireland and Britain today with a symbolic mix of pints and politics.

In his third trip to Ireland, the president hopes to kick-start the stalled Northern Ireland peace process while reminding everyone of the benefits of lasting reconciliation.

But first, the president will visit the Guinness brewery in Dublin. He will tour the plant where the famous black beverage is produced and make one of two speeches as he breezes through the Republic of Ireland en route to Belfast in the north.

The image of Clinton sipping a dark foamy pint during a previous visit is often summoned as proof of the president's Irish roots. (Purists point out that the president was actually drinking a pint of Murphy's, but it is a point of only minor dispute.)

Clinton will be accompanied by his wife, Sen.-elect Hillary Rodham Clinton; their daughter, Chelsea; and Mrs. Clinton's mother, Dorothy Rodham.

Peter Mandelson, Britain's Northern Ireland secretary, said Monday that the arrival of the Clintons in the province could provide the impetus needed to push the peace process forward.

"I expect the president to remind people of how far we have come under this process, of how much we have achieved, of what we stand to lose if we allow it to slip back." Mandelson told reporters in London on Tuesday.

But Clinton will find the peace process at a thorny impasse between republicans who want Northern Ireland to be united with the Republic of Ireland and unionists who want the province to retain its ties to Britain.

The unionists have been angered for months by what they consider foot-dragging by the Irish Republican Army on giving up its weapons. At the same time, republicans complain British leaders have failed to deliver on promises to demilitarize the province and reform its special police.

Both sides want Clinton to use his influence to force a compromise. Clinton has indicated he has no plans to broker a deal personally but hopes his visit will encourage a more promising environment. He is scheduled to meet leaders of both sides of the conflict Wednesday in Belfast.

Clinton also is scheduled to address the Irish people Tuesday afternoon in Dundalk, a border town long known as a sanctuary for terrorists.

In recent years, the town has enjoyed an economic revival buoyed by American investment --- one of the key benefits of peace promised by Clinton.

Sandy Berger, Clinton's national security adviser, said Dundalk was chosen because the town suffered severely during the "Troubles" and has thrived in the peace. "I think that it symbolically expresses both what we can't go back to and what the future holds if they stay on course," Berger said. "This is a place which knows what violence has wrought and what peace can bring."

> ON THE WEB: Belfast Telegraph: www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/

Copyright 2000 Century Newspapers Limited
Belfast News Letter
December 12, 2000, Tuesday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1, 2

HEADLINE: PREPARE FOR CHAOS;

CLINTON ARRANGEMENTS ARE STILL BEING FINALISED

BODY:

ONE of the biggest security operations Northern Ireland has ever seen swings into operation today as US President Bill Clinton flies into the Province.

Last night the final details of the visit, which will last just under 24 -hours, were being slotted into place.

Mr Clinton's own security personnel, along with the RUC, have drawn up elaborate plans to ensure his safety.

The measures will bring chaos to the streets of greater Belfast both tonight and tomorrow.

The traffic disruption, particularly in the east of the city and north Down, will be widespread, with a number of major routes closed for up to two hours at a time.

Mr Clinton arrives in Dublin this morning for a series of engagements which will include meeting Irish premier Bertie Ahern and President Mary McAleese.

Later he will travel to Dundalk before flying on to Belfast, where he is expected to arrive at the City Airport around 9pm.

The RUC warned drivers to expect traffic disruption tonight and tomorrow.

Bridge End, the Queen's Bridge and Oxford Street are all expected to be affected from 8.30pm while extra security measures will be in place in the Waterfront Hall area.

Anyone intending to go there is warned to allow for possible delays.

Tomorrow morning Mr Clinton will be at Stormont to meet Assembly members while his wife, Senator Hillary Clinton, will be attending a conference at the Grand Opera House.

Later, the President will make a keynote speech at the Odyssey complex.

Traffic into and out of north Down faces disruption from 8.30-10.30am and 12.15-2pm with the M3 Bridge, Sydenham By-pass, Parkway, Hawthornden Way and Upper Newtownards Road all closed at various times.

There will also be minor delays in the city centre throughout the day.

The M2 northbound from Belfast and the A57 to Belfast International Airport will be closed between 4 and 5.30pm.

A traffic information helpline will operate on 028 90 574000 today (2-11pm) and tomorrow (7am-5pm).

The Prime Minister met with David Trimble at Westminster last night.

A Downing Street spokesman said the meeting was a matter of course in view of the President's visit.

GRAPHIC: PRESIDENT CLINTON; PRESIDENTIAL HACKS FOR A DAY: Inst sixth-formers; Daniel Clarkson, left, Lewis Mawhinney and Gary Shaw. See Page 5

Copyright 2000 The Christian Science Publishing Society
The Christian Science Monitor
December 12, 2000, Tuesday

SECTION: WORLD; Pg. 7

HEADLINE: Clinton's swan song: one more try for N. Ireland

BYLINE: Alexander MacLeod Special to The Christian Science Monitor

DATELINE: LONDON

HIGHLIGHT:

The US leader, who played a crucial role in the peace process, returns Dec. 12-14.

BODY:

On what is most likely his final foreign trip as US president, Bill Clinton today begins a visit to Ireland, Northern Ireland, and Britain, where he is expected to try to break one of the most intransigent stalemates in Europe.

Mr. Clinton will confront a tangle of disagreements that analysts say could still derail the peace process, which has been one of Clinton's major foreign-policy commitments. These include:

- * The long-delayed decommissioning of both Protestant and Catholic paramilitaries.
- * The future of the Royal Ulster Constabulary, Northern Ireland's heavily Protestant police force, which British Prime Minister Tony Blair has sworn to reform.
- * Demands by Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army's political ally, to greatly reduce the number of British troops in Northern Ireland.
- * Political relations between the governments in Belfast and Dublin. David Trimble, first minister in Northern Ireland's self-rule government, currently refuses to let his ministers join in cross-border talks.
- * Sporadic violence by Protestant and Catholic groups opposed to the peace process.

Senior British officials appear to have only modest hopes for the Clinton visit. One told the Monitor: "At the very least, we would like to see him push the peace process ahead. His presence hopefully will remind all concerned of what stands to be lost."

Other reports, however, suggest Mr. Blair may be looking for more. Last week, the Dublin-based Irish Times reported that "senior British figures" have been pressing for a "concrete act of IRA decommissioning." The report said this could be taken quite literally, by encasing in concrete weapons dumps previously examined by international inspectors. The paper said this would put the arms "permanently beyond use" - echoing an IRA pledge in May.

But many here view Clinton's trip as an opportunity to deal with the "Real IRA." Though believed to have no more than 200 members, this IRA splinter group is considered one of the most dangerous opponents of the 1998 Good Friday peace settlement. It is responsible for a 1998 bombing in the city of Omagh, in which 29 people died.

Leading demands for a crackdown is Mr. Trimble, who is also leader of the Ulster Unionist Party. The mainly Protestant UUP supports British rule. The IRA and its offshoots are Catholic-based and want a united Ireland.

"We want to see what the president has to say ... with regard to the Real IRA, because I think one of the failures by the [British] government over the last few years is the failure to deal with Real IRA," Trimble said on Sunday.

His concern is shared by the London and Dublin governments as well as most political leaders in the province. They see Clinton's third visit as an opportunity to free up the peace process.

Last month, Britain asked the US Congress to impose a ban on the Real IRA. Hopes that Clinton may take this step were encouraged by his scheduled visit to Dundalk. The Irish border town has received millions in US aid, but it is also believed to be used by the Real IRA as a base for cross-border attacks. A source close to Trimble told the Monitor: "If the president were to declare a ban on the Real IRA during his visit to Dundalk, the impact would be considerable.... The Real IRA's activities there are anomalous and a constant threat to the peace process."

Those who worry what Clinton's imminent retirement will mean for the peace process are encouraged by the fact that his wife, Senator-elect Hillary Rodham Clinton, is tagging along. Mrs. Clinton plans to meet women parliamentarians in Dublin and is scheduled to give a speech on the empowerment of women in politics.

Copyright 2000 Gannett Company, Inc.
USA TODAY

December 12, 2000, Tuesday, FIRST EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 15A

HEADLINE: Senator-elect Hillary Clinton's memoirs could bring in \$5 million

BYLINE: Martha T. Moore

DATELINE: NEW YORK

BODY:

NEW YORK -- Senator-elect and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton left Monday for Ireland, ancestral home of many of her constituents, as the state Board of Elections reported that she had won more votes than all but two previous senators from New York.

She may return from the three-day trip with President Clinton to a record-setting deal for her memoirs. Publishers began bidding Monday for her promised book about her years in public life, including the president's impeachment and the couple's marriage difficulties. Rights to the book could fetch \$ 5 million or more, publishing insiders say.

Clinton recorded the third-largest vote total ever in a New York race for the U.S. Senate when she beat Republican Rep. Rick Lazio. Her 3,747,310 votes have been topped only by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan in 1988 and Sen. Robert F. Kennedy in 1964.

Clinton donated profits from her first book, *It Takes a Village*, to children's charities, and those from her most recent book, on the 200th anniversary of the White House, to the White House Historical Association. She may donate some of the proceeds from her memoirs to charity, too, but she and her husband also face millions in legal bills from independent counsel investigations.

CLIPS

FOR

DECEMBER 13, 2000

Irish Eyes Smile on Clinton as Peacemaking President Gets Hearty Welcome

By T.R. REID
Washington Post Foreign Service

DUNDALK, Ireland, Dec. 12— Ireland thanked Bill Clinton today for his role as a peacemaker, staging a day-long love fest that brought the president to the brink of tears in Dundalk's town square tonight as tens of thousands of people serenaded him with his favorite Irish ballad, "Danny Boy."

On a dismal December day, onlookers lined the streets of Dublin in the rain to shout greetings to Clinton, his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, and their daughter, Chelsea. At all of his public appearances, people cheered and cheered and kept on cheering. The president, who at home draws less and less attention as his term nears its end, clasped his hands, closed his eyes and smiled as the adulation washed over him.

Clinton returned the favor, constantly reminding the Irish of his affection for his mother's ancestral home. "It's cold, and it's dark," the president shouted to the ebullient crowd in Dundalk, "but I'm back in Ireland so... it's a beautiful day." In an explanation that was unnecessary here, Clinton added that he took that last phrase from a song by the Irish pop group U2.

Many people compared Clinton to this nation's other favorite U.S. president, John F. Kennedy. "The power of one man!" said Rosemary Hackett, who stretched over a clutch of screaming schoolgirls to touch the president's hand. "I shook Kennedy's hand at Wexford [Ireland] in '63, and this is just as thrilling." Hackett even excused the president for mispronouncing the name of her home town, Drogheda. It should be "Draw-huh-duh," but Clinton said "Drogayda."

The reason for Clinton's popularity is his role in the historic "Good Friday Agreement" of 1998, the peace plan that has largely ended 30 years of lethal sectarian violence in Northern Ireland, the British province that shares the Irish island with the Republic of Ireland to the south. The main purpose of his visit was to call on all sides to stick with the agreement.

During the years of talks leading to that deal, all sides agree, Clinton helped to move Northern Ireland's nationalists—most of them Catholics who want the province to merge with Ireland—toward an agree-

ment without losing the trust of the largely Protestant opposing camp, the pro-British unionists. He sent as his envoy former Senate majority leader George J. Mitchell (D-Maine), who sealed the deal after 30 months of negotiations.

"The Good Friday Agreement... would not have been possible without you, Mr. President," said Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern. Ahern said Clinton had contributed not only by talking repeatedly to the various parties, but by encouraging a flood of U.S. investment that over the past decade has helped turn this

long-impooverished country into the fastest-growing economy in Europe.

The town of Dundalk crystallizes that change. Situated just below the Northern Ireland border in a valley of potato fields, it has long been an outpost of the Irish Republican Army, which has waged a long and bloody guerrilla campaign against British rule in the north. A bomb that killed 29 people at Omagh, Northern Ireland, in 1998 was built in this town by an IRA splinter group. Money to fund that group has come from Irish nationalists in

the United States, according to Irish police. A nationalist group affiliated with the Omagh bombers holds regular fundraisers in New York and Boston.

But now Dundalk is being transformed by an influx of investment from major U.S. corporations. As Clinton noted in his speech here, Xerox Corp. has built a plant in Dundalk that employs 1,000 people. "And that economic development helps the people of Ireland realize," Clinton said, "that the past is history, not destiny."

Clinton repeatedly waxed nostal-

gic about his White House years. Addressing political and business leaders after a lunch of venison steamed in black ale at the Guinness brewery in Dublin, he said his relationship with Ireland was "one of the things I will most cherish about the eight years the American people were good enough to let me serve."

But whenever he seemed ready to lapse into the maudlin, the Irish people brought the president back to the happy mood of the moment. In the Irish equivalent of carrying coals to Newcastle, town leaders in Dundalk actually passed out the lyr-

ics of "Danny Boy" to the 40,000 or so people who jammed the town square, as if there were any Irish man or woman who didn't know the words.

Clinton obviously knew them, and he did his best to sing along, swaying to the music with one arm around his wife and the other around his daughter. But the moment proved too emotional, and he fell silent as the people of Dundalk finished the song in front of him.

Late tonight, Clinton arrived in Belfast, the Northern Ireland capital, for the second leg of his trip.

Clinton Rouses the Irish With a Plea to Cherish the Peace

By MARC LACEY

DUNDALK, Ireland, Dec. 12 — Tens of thousands of people crowded into the central square of this small border town halfway between Dublin and Belfast tonight to hear President Clinton make the final pitch of his presidency for continued peace in the land of his ancestors.

"As I prepare to leave my office, a large part of my heart will always be in Ireland, for all the days of my life," said the president, who traces his mother's family to Fermanagh County in Northern Ireland.

Drawing from an old Irish blessing, the president added: "And let me say, I will pray: May the road of peace rise up to meet you. May the wind of prosperity be always at your back. And may the God of St. Patrick hold you in the hollow of his hand."

On this his third presidential trip to Ireland, Mr. Clinton delighted his guests by pledging to continue working for reconciliation here long after he hands over the White House to his successor. But he came with a more immediate message — encouraging words that he hoped would be enough to prevent the fragile Good Friday Accord from unraveling and the violence that has so torn this region from returning.

"I come here near the end of my eight years of service as president of the United States to ask you to protect this progress, to cherish it, and to build on it," the president said. "Unionists and Nationalists, native-born Irish and immigrants, to all of you, I say again, you cannot win by making your neighbor lose."

Administration officials said they selected this remote town a few miles from the border for Mr. Clinton's major speech of the day because it had suffered the scourge of violence and then rebounded with both peace and prosperity. Dundalk has been used as a staging area by members of the Irish Republican Army in their battle with British



Associated Press

The Clintons sang with two Irish children after the president spoke in Dundalk. He will address the Northern Ireland Assembly today.

soldiers in the north. It now attracts high-tech companies, part of a major economic boom in the country.

"You in Dundalk know what it's like to face fear and isolation, with unemployment rising, the economy stalling and hope failing," the president said. "We know violence suffocates opportunity. Today, you are the proof of the truth and wisdom of peace. The border between Ireland and Northern Ireland is now more a bridge than a barrier."

Soon after touching down in Dublin early today, Mr. Clinton began making the rounds, greeting government officials ranging from Prime Minister Bertie Ahern to Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness of Sinn Féin, the political arm of the I.R.A.

He also toured the factory where Guinness beer is produced and shopped for wool sweaters with Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chelsea, delighting the crowds on the route.

At the Guinness plant, the president, who has said he is allergic to beer, abstained from the dark brew that has been produced there since 1759 and was once touted by the company as being richer in carbohydrates than a glass of milk. Later, however, he stopped at Fagin's pub with Prime Minister Ahern and, with scores of delighted patrons looking on, stood at the wooden bar and took a few sips of Bass.

"When in Ireland..." said the White House spokeswoman, Christine Anderson, her voice drifting off. Local television carried the presidential sips in close-up.

"The president only had a mouthful," the disapproving announcer said.

The president's much-publicized three-day visit — which he continues in Belfast on Wednesday and London on Thursday — comes at a delicate time in the peace effort, with a show-

down looming between Sinn Féin and the Ulster Unionists, the dominant Protestant party. The political solution that Mr. Clinton helped negotiate in 1998 is in danger of faltering as the parties grapple with issues like the demilitarization of the I.R.A. and reform of the heavily Protestant Royal Ulster Constabulary.

During his visit, Mr. Clinton was hailed as a peacemaker. "Peace can never be the product of just one man but, Mr. President, your leadership, your vision and your commitment have made an incredible difference," Joan McGuinness, a local businesswoman, told him. "We know it would not have happened without you."

Peter Flynn, 49, an electrician who huddled with many others in the cold night for a glimpse of Mr. Clinton, was eager to have him return.

"Hopefully, we'll see him back here when he's on his holidays in a couple of weeks," Mr. Flynn said.

After heading to Belfast tonight, Mr. Clinton will address the Northern Ireland Assembly, the power-sharing government in danger of collapse, on Wednesday. He will also hold a meeting with David Trimble, the first minister, who is under pressure by fellow Ulster Unionists to pull out of the Assembly to protest the I.R.A. failure to disarm.

Aides denied reports in local newspapers that Mr. Clinton had already decided to become a special envoy in Northern Ireland after he leaves office. But the president has said repeatedly that he intends to remain active in the world's trouble spots, albeit in a way that does not interfere with his successor.

"I think the new president, whoever it may be, will want to have a new team in place, and I will support that," the president told reporters in Dublin. "I want to support whatever decisions the new administration makes on foreign policy. And if I can be a resource, I will. If I can ever help the Irish, of course I will."

The

Clinton counting on that Irish luck

Says peace has 'to find a way'

By Ellen Hale
USA TODAY

DUNDALK, Ireland — President Clinton held out hope for the deadlocked peace negotiations in Northern Ireland on Tuesday, saying its leaders "just have to find a way through the last three or four difficult issues."

Clinton spoke upon his arrival in Dublin — his third trip to Ireland and his last as U.S. president. He immediately met with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern to discuss the still-unsteady peace process in Northern Ireland.

"It's obvious to me that the people want this thing to go on," he said, referring to the 1998 Good Friday Accord that established the framework for the struggling peace process between Northern Ireland's pro-Irish Catholics and pro-British Protestants. "I don't think reversal is an option."

Clinton also offered to serve as a resource in the peace process for the next administration: "If I can ever help the Irish, of course I will."

Accompanied by his wife, New York Senator-elect Hillary Rodham Clinton, and daughter Chelsea, the president joined Irish government, civic and business leaders for lunch at the Guinness Storehouse, home of the "black stuff," considered one of Ireland's national drinks.

Later, Clinton traveled to this Irish town that borders on Northern Ireland to speak to several thousand people in the market square. "You cannot win by making your neighbor lose," he told them.

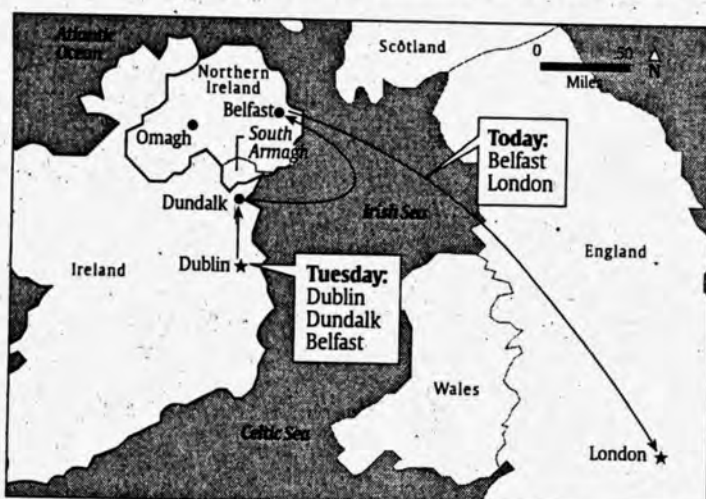
Located in an area with a reputation as being "bandit country," Dundalk is in the heartland of the Real IRA, the outlaw dissident group responsible for the bombing in August 1998 in Omagh, Northern Ireland, that killed 29.

Families of victims of the bombing have been pushing Clinton to formally designate both Real IRA and its sister organization, the 32-County Sovereignty Movement,



Pool photo by Maxwell

Cheers: President Clinton and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern toast each other Tuesday in Dublin. Today, he will be in Northern Ireland.



By Marcy E. Mullins, USA TODAY

terrorist organizations to prevent them from raising funds for their activities in the USA. Clinton was expected to condemn dissident terrorist groups, which are blamed for dozens of attacks in the region.

Dundalk also lies in one of the most heavily militarized areas in Europe. Thousands of British troops are stationed in the area, and there are major army installations. British Prime Minister Tony Blair is under public and political pressure to close some of the bases, particularly those in the South Armagh region of Northern Ireland — against the advice of his own security experts.

Dundalk also represents the economic success that has turned Ireland into what people call the "Celtic Tiger." Fifteen years ago, high inflation and unemployment forced many young people to emigrate, but then economic growth since 1994 has averaged 8% a year, and Ireland is experiencing a wave of return migration. The country recently surpassed the United States to become the largest exporter of software in the world.

Meanwhile, the number of U.S. firms in Ireland has grown from 40 to 100, representing \$4 billion in new investment since 1995.

"He (Clinton) has definitely made a difference in this country. The peace has helped the economic situation," said Tommy McDonnell, who owns Tommy "The Bike" McDonnell's bike shop in the center of town. "He is so loved here."

Waiting with her three children in the crowd, Mary White had a less than rosy view of the prospects for a lasting peace, even with Clinton's assistance.

"People like us who have always lived here know it will never happen," said White, a Catholic who lives right over the border in Ireland. She pointed to the green cap that her son, Brian, wore with a Celtic soccer team logo on it and added, "There are places he cannot wear that hat now, and I don't think that will ever change."

Clinton will meet today with representatives of all major parties involved in the Northern Ireland peace process at the Parliament building Stormont.

DECEMBER 13, 2000

Copyright 2000 U.S. Newswire, Inc.
U.S. Newswire
December 13, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: NATIONAL DESK

HEADLINE: Remarks by President Clinton to the People of Northern Ireland (1/3)

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Dec. 13

BODY:

The following was released today by the White House (1/3):

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON,
BRITISH PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR,
DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER SEAMUS MALLON,
AND FIRST MINISTER DAVID TRIMBLE
TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Odyssey Arena
Lagan Waterfront
Belfast, Northern Ireland

4:06 p.m. (L)

PRIME MINISTER BLAIR: Well, now, ladies and gentlemen, it's a really great pleasure to be with you here this afternoon. I'd like to say a very special word of welcome to the President of the United States of America, Bill Clinton. (Applause.) And, yes, to Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, as well. (Applause.) Got kind of a good ring to it. Welcome to them, and welcome to everyone here today.

And, Bill, if I can say to you a few personal words right at the outset. In your time as President, we've taken many steps down the road to peace. And if we turn this progress into a lasting peace and stability, then when its history is written, your name will be written large within it. (Applause.) Our countries have long had a unique relationship, and that will always be there. But today I want to say thank you not just to the United States, but to you, personally, for your commitment, your intelligence, your encouragement -- that Clinton magic that has taken us forward at key moments. You may be serving the end of your term in office, but I know, and we know, that your commitment to peace will never end. (Applause.)

It was in 1995 that you first came to Northern Ireland as President. And there have been big changes since then -- big changes that sometimes far too often we take for granted: unemployment down by 40 percent; the fastest growing economy in the whole of the UK here in Northern Ireland; people returning -- not leaving -- exports doubling; inward investment coming; tourism, now 1.6 million people a year; a construction industry of dramatic revival; 10 million pounds per month injected into the Lagan side development. Whole industrial areas being transformed here, this very Odyssey Center -- a 91.5 million pound investment.

I tell you, without our process of peace, these benefits would never have come to the people in Northern Ireland. And let us not forget that progress when we talk of the difficulties. (Applause.)

And a peace process is, indeed, what it says -- a process. It's not an event. It was never going to be the case that suddenly one day in April 1998, there were The Troubles, and the next day there was peace. It is a process that is painstaking, difficult, full of obstacles. And, yes, there will be those extremists who will still hanker after violence and the old ways. Yes, there will still be people who are sectarian in their attitudes. But I say the best answer to those people is not when they engage in violence to let them destroy the process of peace, but when they engage in violence, let us say to them: You will not stop the expressed will of the people being done; this process will carry on moving forward. (Applause.)

And that Good Friday agreement is still the way forward, the only

DECEMBER 13, 2000

Copyright 2000 U.S. Newswire, Inc.
U.S. Newswire
December 13, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: NATIONAL DESK

HEADLINE: Remarks by President Clinton to the People of Northern Ireland (1/3)

DATELINE: WASHINGTON, Dec. 13

BODY:

The following was released today by the White House (1/3):

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT CLINTON,
BRITISH PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR,
DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER SEAMUS MALLON,
AND FIRST MINISTER DAVID TRIMBLE
TO THE PEOPLE OF NORTHERN IRELAND

Odyssey Arena
Lagan Waterfront
Belfast, Northern Ireland

4:06 p.m. (L)

PRIME MINISTER BLAIR: Well, now, ladies and gentlemen, it's a really great pleasure to be with you here this afternoon. I'd like to say a very special word of welcome to the President of the United States of America, Bill Clinton. (Applause.) And, yes, to Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, as well. (Applause.) Got kind of a good ring to it. Welcome to them, and welcome to everyone here today.

And, Bill, if I can say to you a few personal words right at the outset. In your time as President, we've taken many steps down the road to peace. And if we turn this progress into a lasting peace and stability, then when its history is written, your name will be written large within it. (Applause.) Our countries have long had a unique relationship, and that will always be there. But today I want to say thank you not just to the United States, but to you, personally, for your commitment, your intelligence, your encouragement -- that Clinton magic that has taken us forward at key moments. You may be serving the end of your term in office, but I know, and we know, that your commitment to peace will never end. (Applause.)

It was in 1995 that you first came to Northern Ireland as President. And there have been big changes since then -- big changes that sometimes far too often we take for granted: unemployment down by 40 percent; the fastest growing economy in the whole of the UK here in Northern Ireland; people returning -- not leaving -- exports doubling; inward investment coming; tourism, now 1.6 million people a year; a construction industry of dramatic revival; 10 million pounds per month injected into the Lagan side development. Whole industrial areas being transformed here, this very Odyssey Center -- a 91.5 million pound investment.

I tell you, without our process of peace, these benefits would never have come to the people in Northern Ireland. And let us not forget that progress when we talk of the difficulties. (Applause.)

And a peace process is, indeed, what it says -- a process. It's not an event. It was never going to be the case that suddenly one day in April 1998, there were The Troubles, and the next day there was peace. It is a process that is painstaking, difficult, full of obstacles. And, yes, there will be those extremists who will still hanker after violence and the old ways. Yes, there will still be people who are sectarian in their attitudes. But I say the best answer to those people is not when they engage in violence to let them destroy the process of peace, but when they engage in violence, let us say to them: You will not stop the expressed will of the people being done; this process will carry on moving forward. (Applause.)

And that Good Friday agreement is still the way forward, the only

way forward. Because the principles at the heart of it, whatever the difficulties in implementing them, the principles at the heart of it are the right principles. The principle of consent; the principle of devolution and power-sharing; the principles of justice and equality and recognition of different identities; the principle that whatever our differences, whatever the problems within communities, those differences should only be resolved -- only ever be resolved by peaceful and democratic and nonviolent means. (Applause.)

And, yes, in implementing those principles, the difficulties remain -- on policing; on how we put the weapons beyond use and take the gun out of politics; on how we normalize our security, all these difficulties remain. But the principles are agreed and, therefore, what we need now is the will -- not just the political will, but the will in a community, each part of the community to implement the agreement we have made.

And there's one other big change, one other big change you will notice here, and that is the relations between the British and the Irish governments today. And I would like to pay a special word of tribute to someone who isn't with us this afternoon, Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach, who's done so much to move this process forward. (Applause.)

We -- we -- are making peace with our history in these islands. And in doing so, I believe we are representing that strand of humanity that seeks progress in every age.

There is an eternal debate between those who believe that events shape people and that we are powerless in the grip of historical forces, and those who believe, even if only at certain times and certain moments, that people can shape events and in doing so, make our own history. There are the doers and there are the critics; there are the strivers and there are the cynics. There are the ones who get their hands dirty trying, and the ones whose hands are clean because they never tried. And I tell you, those two men on the platform alongside the President, and countless others here today, they are the ones who are striving against all the odds to bring peace to Northern Ireland. And each one of them will be told they're selling out, and all of them will be told that they are betraying what they believe in. And all of them have the courage to know that the real betrayal would be to let this peace process go down. (Applause.)

They've taken the hard way. They pay a price for it. But I do believe that they will be the men future generations salute as people who had the vision to say that we will leave behind the bitterness and the hatred and the prejudice, and build a new beginning. You know, we know each other all pretty well now. Sometimes it's good and sometimes it's difficult, and sometimes we doubt.

But in the end, it's one thing that unites David and Seamus, unites all the people who work together in that Executive that no one could even have dreamt of a few years ago could happen, with Unionists and Nationalists and Republicans sitting down together and trying to work out the way forward. There's one thing that all of us have in common: However much sometimes we disagree, and however much sometimes it's difficult, we all know there is no other way forward. There is no alternative. There is no other choice that somehow offers a painless way of grasping the potential of the future.

This is our chance in Northern Ireland. For those of us who grew up with The Troubles an ever-present reality, for those of you, many of you, whose individual lives will have been scarred by those Troubles, you know and I know, we all know, this is our hope for peace.

So I want to tell you this: We will never give up the search for peace. Whatever the obstacles, we will overcome them. Whatever the difficulties, we will remove them. Whatever the barriers in the way, we will surmount them. Because, in the end, if we exist in politics for any reason, it is at these crucial moments of history to make a difference. And now we have.

Ladies and gentlemen, it's my very, very great pleasure to introduce to you one of the men that has made a difference over these past few years in Northern Ireland: the Deputy First Minister, a good friend, a good colleague and a good man, Seamus Mallon. (Applause.)

DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER MALLON: Mr. President, Prime Minister,

Senator-elect Clinton, Chelsea, Cherie, guests. It is my pleasure and honor to welcome you and your colleagues back to Northern Ireland. We gather here in the Odyssey Arena -- named after Homer's epic voyage of hope, of endurance, a tale that moves from barbarity and war to the serenity of a lasting peace. So there are resonances here, for our own rocky, uncertain journey of hope; for our own path towards peace.

Eight years ago, Mr. President, you pledged to join us on that journey. It was a remarkable pledge. There was no strategic interest at stake for your country. There was no domestic political imperative. Against the tide of conventional wisdom, you made your deeply personal act of courage and belief. Time and time again, you were there when the cause of peace needed you, leading the quest for reconciliation.

When some looked forward for a way out, you looked for a way through. With precise neutrality, you taught us to respect each other, to learn, in John Hewitt's words, that "you must give freedom if you would be free, for only friendship matters in the end."

With your help you helped us make our settlement, our ultimate act of friendship. It is called the Good Friday agreement. The people of Northern Ireland, of Southern Ireland, endorsed that settlement. And their message remains clear today. You saw it in Dublin, Mr. President; you heard it in Dundalk; and you can almost touch it here in Belfast. Let us spell it out: It is that peace will triumph. (Applause.)

But the beacon which you lit will not go out, that the will of the people, the Good Friday agreement, must and shall endure. Mr. President, when you came to Armagh two years ago, you defined your own unshakable belief in our future and in peace in a way that transcended ideologies, borders, countries, even continents.

As the sun then set, framed between the twin spires of St. Patrick's Cathedral, you said how Northern Ireland could be proof throughout the world that peace was not an idle dream. You pledged that if we chose peace, America would walk with us. You asked us to believe in our better selves, and you told us if we did, our real peace would resonate right throughout the world. That message is as challenging and inspiring today as it was then in Armagh.

Today, a different skyline greets you here in East Belfast; between the mountains and the gantries, as Louis McNiece described it -- a skyline of cranes, new buildings, new investment, much of it from the United States -- the fruits of new-found confidence in our common future.

Since your last visit, profound and irrevocable change has occurred. Out of a divided past we have moved to a new shared political partnership. We have been joined and helped by friends in Dublin -- the Taoiseach, the Minister of Foreign Affairs -- by the Prime Minister and his colleagues, the Secretary of State; by those in that government and the Irish government who, like the President, led when it was difficult to lead.

To Bertie Ahern, to Tony Blair, to Emanuel Prodi in Europe, we say a thank you. (Applause.)

Mr. President, the institutions of the agreement have become a reality, working to improve the lives of people and allowing trust to grow. When you met the new Executive this morning, we discussed our plans and ambitions: our first budget, our program for government, the difference the new institutions can make. There, you saw the face of a new and better future.

But we are not there yet, and we cannot allow this potential to be put at risk. Kernels of violence and the threat of violence persist. Just last week, coffins of two young men killed by terrorists, made their sad journey through the streets of Belfast and Dungiven, joining the over 3,000 lives lost that stretch back to the beginning of The Troubles. That is a chapter of our history which we must close, definitively, once and for all, now. (Applause.)

We cannot allow controversies and disputes to sap the goodwill and the trust which is building. We cannot draw recklessly from the well of hope, which springs from the Good Friday agreement. Instead, we must continue to build our new shining city on the hill. We must not limp along in uncertainty. We should not go on like this. It is time to stop

and think; to take stock; to measure our actions and our inactions against the imperatives of peace and the hopes of you, our people.

We would all do well to recall the words of the Israeli leader, Abba Eban, when he said, "men and nations behave wisely once other alternatives have been exhausted." I think we should, all together, governments and parties alike, declare with one voice that all other alternatives have been truly exhausted -- and proceed. (Applause.) And proceed together towards the new and better future, which is there almost within touching distance.

Mr. President, you know that you are very special to us. One reason for that is your ability to generate real hope. Hope is more than just the name of your birthplace. Hope does not have to be measured out with coffee spoons; it is an infinite resource that we all share.

You challenged us to believe in ourselves, and dare to hope, to stare violence in the face and say, no. You inspire us to believe that lasting peace is obtainable and attainable, and that we will reach our goal.

**Copyright 2000 Agence France Presse
Agence France Presse
December 13, 2000, Wednesday**

HEADLINE: Hillary Clinton and Cherie Blair speak out for women in Belfast
DATELINE: BELFAST, Dec 13

BODY:

The first ladies of the United States and Britain met here Wednesday to push for women's rights during the last US presidential visit by Bill Clinton.

Hillary Clinton, recently elected a New York senator, joined the British prime minister's wife Cherie Blair onstage at a Belfast conference called Women Raising their Voices for the new Northern Ireland.

Cherie Blair, who works as a leading barrister under her maiden name Cherie Booth, praised the outgoing first lady for having done "so much ... to encourage women all over the world".

"And we all know your commitment to women here in Northern Ireland has been outstanding," she added.

She said there was "sadness" that the trip was her counterpart's last as first lady, adding: "But there is great joy to know that you have now achieved your own democratic legitimacy as you start your new role on the world stage as senator."

Clinton pledged she would "always be there as a friend and an advocate and a partner as you continue the hard, hard work of peace and reconciliation. There is not any more important work to be done."

The two women were joined by the wife of Northern Ireland's First Minister David Trimble, Daphne. All three women are lawyers by training.

"That is one way some of us of a certain generation decided to have our own voices," said Clinton.

The US president was in Belfast to meet Northern Irish leaders and pledge his support for the Good Friday agreement which cleared the way for a power-sharing government between the Protestant and Roman Catholic communities.

**Copyright 2000 Associated Press
AP Online**

December 13, 2000; Wednesday

SECTION: International news

LENGTH: 435 words

HEADLINE: Mrs. Clinton Speaks to Irish Women

BYLINE: MARA D. BELLABY
DATELINE: BELFAST, Northern Ireland

BODY:

Hillary Rodham Clinton told Northern Ireland's women Wednesday that their small acts of compromise are helping to end decades of sectarian violence.

But the first lady and U.S. senator-elect also urged some 500 people gathered at Belfast's Grand Opera House to do more to make the 1998 peace agreement work.

"Imagine the message that could be sent from Belfast to people all over the world," said Clinton, joined onstage by Prime Minister Tony Blair's wife, Cherie, and Daphne Trimble, the wife of Northern Ireland First Minister David Trimble.

Since the first lady accompanied President Clinton on his inaugural trip to Northern Ireland in 1995, she has played an influential role in encouraging Protestant and Roman Catholic women to raise their voices in support of peace.

"We cannot go back to the time when every wife had to worry and said the same prayers to the same God that her husband would not get caught up in 'the Troubles,'" Clinton said, using the shorthand for Northern Ireland's three decades of sectarian strife.

In an impassioned 30-minute speech that earned her a standing ovation, she urged women to continue "those small acts of daily courage" and ensure that doomsayers are not allowed to turn back the progress made since the peace agreement was reached.

While Clinton acknowledged trust was now in short supply in Northern Ireland, she told the women that their most important task was to build a new and peaceful future for their children.

"This is one of those special moments where you have a chance to defy generations of hatred," she said.

Clinton reminded the audience that she was in Belfast last year to officially dedicate a playground built in the hope that Catholic and Protestant children would play together. She told the audience that the Belfast playground had inspired women in other violence-plagued countries, such as Rwanda.

"I asked the women (in Rwanda) what I could do for them and they said the one thing they wanted was a playground," she said. "They had read about the playground in Belfast and wanted one so their children could play together Hutu and Tutsi."

Clinton pledged that she and her husband would continue to work toward peace in the province even after he leaves the White House next month calling her contacts with the women of Northern Ireland "one of the greatest privileges of my lifetime."

Inez McCormick, who chairs the group Vital Voices, which aims to give women a greater role in the peace process, said the Clintons give peace efforts "a new push" every time they visit Northern Ireland.

Copyright 2000 Associated Press
AP Online
December 13, 2000; Wednesday

HEADLINE: Clinton Urges Peace in N. Ireland

BYLINE: SONYA Moss
DATELINE: BELFAST, Northern Ireland

BODY:

Drawn into the bitter divisions of Northern Ireland, President Clinton encouraged the people here Wednesday to "celebrate with pride and defend with passion" the crumbling peace pact that has given them a better life.

Standing before more than 6,000 people in Belfast's brand new sports arena, Clinton emphasized the changes that the 2-year-old Good Friday accord has brought to workaday Northern Ireland no more border checkpoints, no daily fear of terrorism, local government that represents all the people.

But that could vanish, Clinton warned, if ordinary citizens allow their elected leaders to give up on making the accord work.

"The enemies of peace don't need your approval. All they need is your apathy," Clinton said. "I do not believe that you want Northern Ireland to ever again be a place where tomorrow's dreams are clouded by yesterday's nightmares."

On the second day of his Northern Ireland mission, Clinton opened meetings about the future of the peace process with David Trimble, Protestant first minister in the new Northern Ireland government, Seamus Mallon, the government's senior Roman Catholic, and Gerry Adams of the Sinn Fein Party, which is linked to the Irish Republican Army. He also met British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The Good Friday agreement proposed a joint Catholic-Protestant government for Northern Ireland. That government now is threatened by the IRA's refusal to destroy its stockpile of weapons. Last week the IRA said it would move closer to disarmament only if Britain agreed to tougher legislative reform of the overwhelmingly Protestant Royal Ulster Constabulary police force, a statement Clinton cheered as good news.

As he arrived in Parliament, Clinton encountered Protestant hard-liners who oppose the two-year-old accord. He held tense, lengthy conversations with Democratic Unionists Nigel Dodds and Ian Paisley Jr., doing more listening than talking. He appeared visibly relieved to break free from the group, and chatted briefly with George Mitchell, the U.S. envoy who negotiated the 1998 pact.

Over a nearly three-hour period, Clinton met with Trimble, Mallon and Adams separately, as did Blair, said Clinton's national security adviser Sandy Berger. Clinton and Blair met with each other as well. Berger said Britain, Ireland and the United States agreed to tap experts from their countries to lead a coordinated effort to monitor and combat terrorism.

Afterward, all the leaders except Adams addressed the crowd at the Odyssey arena, home to Belfast's hockey team. Trimble said he would "stand firm" in his demand for gradual Irish Republican Army disarmament, an issue has bedeviled Northern Ireland's peace process for the past six years.

Still, Trimble said, "I do not intend to let the ship of peace sink on the rocks of old habits and hard grudges." Mallon cited the first sectarian killings since the Good Friday accord a Protestant cab driver from Belfast and a Catholic construction worker from Dungiven and urged his country to endure such violence no more.

"We must build our new, shining city on the hill," Mallon said. "We must not limp along in uncertainty, in a world of blame allocation and broken commitments."

Clinton cited the ongoing drama in the United States' presidential election as an example of the uncomfortable realities of democracy. He reminded the crowd to remember that the difficulties of shared power "are nothing compared to the difficulties of having no power at all, or living in constant insecurity and violence."

A lone heckler, apparently opposed to Clinton's comment that violence is on the wane, tried to shout Clinton down. "I'll listen to if you let me finish," Clinton told him, drawing claps and stomps of approval from the crowd. But when the man kept yelling, Clinton said, "OK. I'll ignore him if you will."

"You have spent so many years mourning your losses," Clinton said. "I hope you will now celebrate with pride and defend with passion the progress you have made."

Blair called on his fellow leaders to gather the will to implement the agreement. He gave a nod to Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, who was not present Wednesday but who Blair said is among the leaders who have laid their credibility on the line for peace.

"All of them have the courage to know that the real betrayal would be to let this peace process go down," Blair said.

Adams, who sat in the Odyssey audience, said even though there are still wrinkles in the process, Clinton can rest assured that he has blazed a solid trail for his successor. "The USA now has a peace policy toward Ireland. I can't see any president abandoning that," Adams said.

Earlier in the day, as they made their way through the Great Hall of the Stormont Parliament Building, the president received a warm welcome from the province's major British Protestant party, the Ulster Unionists. But he ended up surrounded by Democratic Unionist Party members who had been excluded from the afternoon's negotiations because of their opposition to the 1998 Good Friday peace accord.

Lawmaker Cedric Wilson said later he told Clinton that he had been soft on terrorism, allowing "terrorists on the street and gunmen in the government."

"He got rather upset and angry," Wilson said. "As he was moving off, he looked back rather angrily and said to me, 'You're accusing me, then, of encouraging terrorism.' And I said, 'Exactly, Mr. President.' That's how it was left. No hugs and kisses."

Wilson was referring to the early paroles for more than 200 IRA prisoners and the guaranteed role in the Northern Ireland administration for Sinn Fein party both stipulations of the Good Friday pact.

British and Irish leaders had hoped Clinton would use his visit to announce that he will seek to have the Real IRA, a splinter group from the Irish Republican Army, added to the U.S. list of terrorist organizations.

Clinton said the matter was under review.

President Clinton's last presidential visit to Northern Ireland ended Wednesday with a peace process still stalled and politicians feuding, yet citizens still longing for a violence-free future. He told the people of Belfast to "claim your moment" for peace.

Clinton succeeded in recharging the talks to resolve 30 years of sectarian and political violence over Britain's rule of Northern Ireland. He left with an informal agreement between the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom to do more to counter terrorists unhappy with the new and fragile power-sharing government in the north.

"I believe in the peace you are building. I believe there can be no turning back. I believe you are committed to that," Clinton said before leaving for London where he planned to meet Thursday with Queen Elizabeth II and make a foreign policy speech. "And I think it's very important that people the world over see what you are doing and support you along the way."

The president met for nearly three hours with members of the Northern Ireland Assembly but none of the leaders made any announcements about how they can surmount key issues disarmament by terrorist groups and police reform that are threatening to unravel the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.

"It is still for you to claim your moment," Clinton told more than 6,000 people who packed a brand new sports arena along a revitalized city waterfront.

David Trimble, Protestant first minister in the new Northern Ireland government, warmed up the audience for Clinton, saying he would "stand firm" in his demand for gradual Irish Republican Army disarmament. "I do not intend to let the ship of peace sink on the rocks of old habits and hard grudges," he said. "We are learning to define ourselves by what we are for, not what we are against."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair defended his government's cautious approach to scaling down its military forces in Northern Ireland in response to the Irish Republican Army's 1997 cease-fire. Despite IRA dissidents' continuing effort to wreck the cease-fire, Blair said, Britain had already reduced British forces in the province to around 13,000, the lowest level in three decades.

A lone heckler, apparently disputing Clinton's comment that violence is on the wane, tried to shout Clinton down. "I'll listen to if you let me finish," Clinton told him, drawing stomps of approval from the crowd. But when the man kept yelling, Clinton told the crowd, "I'll ignore him if you will."

Clinton spent several hours at Stormont, an imposing, neoclassical structure faced with six columns that houses the Assembly. The president mingled in its Great Hall with all 108 Assembly members, who stood clustered in their respective political affiliations, mirroring the very problem of getting all sides to see eye to eye.

Lawmaker Cedric Wilson said he told Clinton that the United States had failed to stand up against "terrorists on the street and gunmen in the government." Wilson was referring to the early paroles for more than 200 IRA prisoners and the guaranteed role in the Northern Ireland administration for Sinn

Fein Party both stipulations of the Good Friday pact.

"The president could use the force of the United States and his office to say to these people that the days of terror are finished," Wilson told reporters.

Clinton later told reporters: "No, we're not soft on" terrorism.

Clinton and Blair each met separately with Trimble; Seamus Mallon, the government's senior Roman Catholic; and Gerry Adams of the Sinn Fein Party, the political arm of the IRA.

National security adviser Sandy Berger said the United States, the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom agreed to do more to counter terrorism. "This is a mechanism by which the three governments will be able to work together more effectively to deal with those groups that reject the process of peace and seek to continue the path of violence," Berger said.

British and Irish leaders had hoped Clinton would use his visit to announce that he will seek to have the Real IRA, a splinter group from the Irish Republican Army, added to the U.S. list of terrorist organizations.

Clinton said the matter was under review.

First lady Hillary Clinton also pushed for peace, telling 500 people gathered at Belfast's Grand Opera House that women can do more to help the peace process. "We cannot go back to the time when every wife had to worry and said the same prayers to the same God that her husband would not get caught up in 'the Troubles,'" she said.

President Clinton's last presidential visit to Northern Ireland ended Wednesday with a peace process still stalled and politicians feuding, yet citizens still longing for a violence-free future. He told the people of Belfast to "claim your moment" for peace.

Clinton succeeded in recharging the talks to resolve 30 years of sectarian and political violence over Britain's rule of Northern Ireland. He left with an informal agreement between the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom to do more to counter terrorists unhappy with the new and fragile power-sharing government in the north.

"I believe in the peace you are building. I believe there can be no turning back. I believe you are committed to that," Clinton said before leaving for London where he planned to meet Thursday with Queen Elizabeth II and make a foreign policy speech. "And I think it's very important that people the world over see what you are doing and support you along the way."

The president met for nearly three hours with members of the Northern Ireland Assembly but none of the leaders made any announcements about how they can surmount key issues disarmament by terrorist groups and police reform that are threatening to unravel the 1998 Good Friday Agreement.

"It is still for you to claim your moment," Clinton told more than 6,000 people who packed a brand new sports arena along a revitalized city waterfront.

David Trimble, Protestant first minister in the new Northern Ireland government, warmed up the audience for Clinton, saying he would "stand firm" in his demand for gradual Irish Republican Army disarmament. "I do not intend to let the ship of peace sink on the rocks of old habits and hard grudges," he said. "We are learning to define ourselves by what we are for, not what we are against."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair defended his government's cautious approach to scaling down its military forces in Northern Ireland in response to the Irish Republican Army's 1997 cease-fire. Despite IRA dissidents' continuing effort to wreck the cease-fire, Blair said, Britain had already reduced British forces in the province to around 13,000, the lowest level in three decades.

A lone heckler, apparently disputing Clinton's comment that violence is on the wane, tried to shout Clinton down. "I'll listen to if you let me finish," Clinton told him, drawing stomps of approval from the crowd. But when the man kept yelling, Clinton told the crowd, "I'll ignore him if you will."

Clinton spent several hours at Stormont, an imposing, neoclassical structure faced with six columns that houses the Assembly. The president mingled in its Great Hall with all 108 Assembly members, who stood clustered in their respective political affiliations, mirroring the very problem of getting all sides to see eye to eye.

Lawmaker Cedric Wilson said he told Clinton that the United States had failed to stand up against "terrorists on the street and gunmen in the government." Wilson was referring to the early paroles for more than 200 IRA prisoners and the guaranteed role in the Northern Ireland administration for Sinn Fein Party both stipulations of the Good Friday pact.

"The president could use the force of the United States and his office to say to these people that the days of terror are finished," Wilson told reporters.

Clinton later told reporters: "No, we're not soft on" terrorism.

Clinton and Blair each met separately with Trimble; Seamus Mallon, the government's senior Roman Catholic; and Gerry Adams of the Sinn Fein Party, the political arm of the IRA.

National security adviser Sandy Berger said the United States, the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom agreed to do more to counter terrorism. "This is a mechanism by which the three governments will be able to work together more effectively to deal with those groups that reject the process of peace and seek to continue the path of violence," Berger said.

British and Irish leaders had hoped Clinton would use his visit to announce that he will seek to have the Real IRA, a splinter group from the Irish Republican Army, added to the U.S. list of terrorist organizations.

Copyright 2000 Associated Press
AP Worldstream
December 13, 2000; Wednesday

HEADLINE: Hillary Clinton says women play key role in making peace work

BYLINE: MARA D. BELLABY

DATELINE: BELFAST, Northern Ireland

BODY:

Hillary Rodham Clinton told Northern Ireland's women Wednesday that they deserve credit for giving the province a chance at peace, saying their small acts of compromise are helping to end decades of sectarian violence.

But the first lady and U.S. senator-elect also urged some 500 people gathered at Belfast's Grand Opera House to do more to make the 1998 peace agreement work.

"Imagine the message that could be sent from Belfast to people all over the world," said Clinton, joined onstage by Prime Minister Tony Blair's wife, Cherie, and Daphne Trimble, the wife of Northern Ireland First Minister David Trimble.

Since the first lady accompanied President Clinton on his inaugural trip to Northern Ireland in 1995, she has played an influential role in encouraging Protestant and Roman Catholic women to raise their voices in support of peace.

"We cannot go back to the time when every wife had to worry and said the same prayers to the same God that her husband would not get caught up in 'the Troubles,'" Clinton said, using the shorthand for Northern Ireland's three decades of sectarian strife.

In an impassioned 30-minute speech that earned her a standing ovation, she urged women to continue "those small acts of daily courage" and ensure that doomsayers are not allowed to turn back the progress made since the peace agreement was reached.

While Clinton acknowledged trust was now in short supply in Northern Ireland, she told the women that their most important task was to build a new and peaceful future for their children.

"This is one of those special moments where you have a chance to defy generations of hatred," she said.

Clinton reminded the audience that she was in Belfast last year to officially dedicate a playground built in the hope that Catholic and Protestant children would play together. She told the audience that the Belfast playground had inspired women in other violence-plagued countries, such as Rwanda.

"I asked the women (in Rwanda) what I could do for them and they said the one thing they wanted was a playground," she said. "They had read about the playground in Belfast and wanted one so their children could play together Hutu and Tutsi."

Clinton pledged that she and her husband would continue to work toward peace in the province even after he leaves the White House next year calling her contacts with the women of Northern Ireland "one of the greatest privileges of my lifetime."

Inez McCormick, who chairs the group Vital Voices, which aims to give women a greater role in the peace process, said the Clintons give peace efforts "a new push" every time they visit Northern Ireland.

Copyright 2000 Century Newspapers Limited
Belfast News Letter
December 13, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 7

LENGTH: 150 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON VISIT: ALL-WOMEN TALKS PLANNED

BODY:

HILLARY Clinton is to convene a meeting of women parliamentarians from Britain and Ireland.

She reported her plans yesterday after departing with daughter Chelsea from the itinerary set out for her husband during the opening day of his latest visit to Ireland.

Mrs Clinton, a little more than a month after securing election to the US Senate in New York, met female politicians from the Republic at the official residence of the US ambassador, Michael Sullivan, in Dublin's Phoenix Park.

The First Lady said she would be revealing more about her plans for an all -women parl- iamentary meeting in Belfast today.

She said that it would involve politicians from England, Wales and Scotland - as well as from both sides of the border.

Mrs Clinton also told the Irish women par- liamentarians that the entire family intended to return soon to Ireland, in a private capacity.

Copyright 2000 Century Newspapers Limited
Belfast News Letter
December 13, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 4, 5

LENGTH: 438 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON VISIT: FORTY SHADES OF GREEN AND A DROP OF THE BLACK STUFF . .

BODY:

GERRY Adams' warm embrace of Hillary Clinton was one of many gestures of Irish -American affection on display in Dublin yesterday.

An illustrious group of nationalists and republicans, including Mr Adams and his Sinn Fein colleague, Martin McGuinness, and SDLP leader John Hume, joined nearly 2,000 guests for Mr Clinton's lunch engagement at the newly- refurbished Guinness Storehouse.

Recalling the pivotal role he has played in the peace process, Mr Clinton said: "I have often wondered how I got involved in all this."

Watched by his wife and daughter, Mr Clinton told the audience, including Nobel Prize-winning poet Seamus Heaney, about his Irish roots, which have been researched back to an 18th century farmhouse in Fermanagh.

He said: "It is literally right on the border.

"In my family, the Catholics and Protestants intermarried and so maybe I was somehow genetically prepared for the work.

"Maybe because there are 45 million Irish Americans and I was trying to get a few votes. I don't know.

"The truth is, it just seemed to be the right thing to do."

Irish premier Bertie Ahern listed the US companies that have contributed to the booming Irish economy and added: "Truly it can be said that the United States has repaid the role of the Irish in building America in an earlier age."

Mr Clinton agreed: "I believe that America has in some tiny way repaid this nation and its people for the massive gifts that your people have given to us over so many years, going back to our beginnings."

Having the President for lunch marked a publicity coup for Guinness.

During his first Irish visit in 1995, Mr Clinton was photographed in a Dublin pub sampling a pint of Murphys, a rival stout.

Mr Clinton made up for it by using a few spare minutes in the Guinness gift store to do some Christmas shopping.

After checking the dollar to punt exchange rate, the President accepted an offer of a staff discount on some Guinness merchandise, including rugby shirts and Irish woollen scarves.

In addition, he was given a silk tie and his wife a silk scarf.

In his closing remarks, Mr Ahern thanked Chelsea Clinton for promising to him in September to bring her parents back to Ireland.

He thanked Hillary Clinton for her role in encouraging Irish people and observed that Ireland had a new friend in the Senate.

But, most of all, he thanked the outgoing President "for all of the time, all of the calls, all of the meetings".

"Every time we needed you, you had time to make a call. You never seemed to be busy."

"I was," Mr Clinton appeared to say, to laughter.

GRAPHIC: SUPPING TIME: Bill Clinton in the Gravity Bar at the headquarters of Guinness; WARM WELCOME: Irish-American goodwill as Adams meets Clinton in Dublin; STAFF DISCOUNT: Bill; GIRL POWER: Chelsea Clinton waves in response to; wolf- whistles from building workers watching from; ladders and scaffolding when she; and her parents went shopping at Nassau Street in the centre of Dublin

Copyright 2000 Midland Independent Newspapers plc
Birmingham Evening Mail
December 13, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: Pg. 2

LENGTH: 335 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON'S FAREWELL PEACE PLEA; REDOUBLE EFFORTS, HE TELLS THE IRISH

BYLINE: Correspondent

BODY:

US President Bill Clinton was today preparing to meet Northern Ireland's political leaders after appealing to them to secure the province's fragile peace process.

Mr Clinton, his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea arrived in Belfast last night after urging the people

of Ireland, north and south, to redouble their efforts to make peace permanent.

Emotional

In an emotional farewell speech to the people of the Irish Republic on his third and final visit as President, Mr Clinton told over 20,000 people in Dundalk that if peace held in Ireland it could hold out hope for other trouble spots around the world.

Quoting the Pope from his visit to the nearby town of Drogheda in 1979, the US President said: 'Violence only delays the day of justice.'

'The Bible says there are many parts but one body. If one part suffers, then every other part suffers with it. Life teaches us over and over and over again that in the end, you cannot win by making your neighbour lose.'

'Unionist and nationalist, native born Irish and immigrant, to all of you I say again. You cannot win by making your neighbour lose.'

The US President recalled his visit to Omagh in the aftermath of what he called the 'horrid bombing' by the Real IRA in 1998, paying tribute to those who had turned out to see him and his wife Hillary.

'You stood up for peace then and I ask you to stand up for peace today, tomorrow and the rest of your lives.'

Among those listening to President Clinton in Dundalk were Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams and the party's ministers in the Stormont executive, Martin McGuinness and Bairbre de Brun.

Stormont

Mr Clinton was due to meet them along with Prime Minister Tony Blair, First Minister David Trimble, Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon and other political leaders at Stormont.

He was delivering a keynote speech in Belfast's new entertainment complex, the Odyssey arena, later in the day before the First Family was leaving for London.

THE MAIL SAYS: Page 12

GRAPHIC: PRAISE: President Bill Clinton is congratulated by wellwishers in; Dundalk THIRST: Sampling a pint while in the Guinness headquarters

LOAD-DATE: December 14, 2000

Copyright 2000 Southam Inc.

Calgary Herald

December 13, 2000 Wednesday FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. A15

LENGTH: 348 words

HEADLINE: Ireland bids Clintons warm farewell

BYLINE: Bruce Wallace, Calgary Herald

DATELINE: DUNDALK, Ireland

BODY:

Quoting Irish poets and rock stars, Bill Clinton bid a sentimental farewell to the Irish

Republic on Tuesday night, imploring the thousands gathered in Dundalk's Market Square "to stand up for peace today, tomorrow and the rest of your lives."

His eloquent exhortation delivered in this economically revived town near the border with Northern Ireland capped a day of bows for the U.S. president, who made the search for a lasting Irish peace settlement a cornerstone of his foreign policy.

He may find a somewhat less rapturous reception today when he visits Belfast, where Unionists, mostly Protestant, remain suspicious of his obvious ease in the company of republican leaders, largely Catholic, such as Sinn Fein Leader Gerry Adams.

They will not have been soothed by the images Tuesday night of the friendly clutch and exchange of laughs at stage-side between Clinton and Adams, leader of the political wing of the Irish Republican Army.

But there was no questioning Clinton's popularity in the town of 30,000, which has reaped perhaps more benefits from the peace process than any other. Jammed into the square and patiently waiting for over three hours in the chill night air, they cheered every wave from Clinton, his wife, Hillary, and daughter, Chelsea.

In turn, Clinton told them they were "proof of the fruits of the wisdom of peace."

As the closest border town to the turbulent Northern Ireland county of South Armagh, Dundalk suffered from its nasty reputation as a sanctuary for terrorists who found it an easy hop to safety after a hit in Northern Ireland.

Just as South Armagh was branded bandit country, Dundalk became known as El Paso.

But since the Good Friday peace agreement was signed, American investment in particular has poured into Dundalk, turning it into an information technology boomtown.

But Dundalk is not entirely free of its past. Some of the men suspected of carrying out the 1998 Omagh bombing that killed 29 people also live in Dundalk.

The perception remains that the town is the cockpit of dissident republicanism.

GRAPHIC: Color Photo: Associated Press ; U.S. President Bill Clinton, samples a pint in the Gravity Bar at Guinness's headquarters in, Dublin, Ireland, Tuesday during his visit to the Irish Republic.

Copyright 2000 Chicago Tribune Company
Chicago Tribune

[View Related Topics](#)

December 13, 2000 Wednesday, CHICAGO SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: News; Pg. 3; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 996 words

**HEADLINE: CLINTON BIDS FAREWELL TO IRELAND;
PRESIDENT IS ROUNDLY CHEERED FOR BREAKING DEADLOCK IN PEACE
PROCESS**

BYLINE: By Ray Moseley, Tribune Foreign Correspondent.

DATELINE: DUNDALK, Ireland

BODY:

In an emotional farewell to the people of Ireland, President Clinton on Tuesday pleaded with thousands of cheering well-wishers to protect the fragile peace process he helped to build, even as it was being shaken by fresh tremors of political rancor and threats of breakdown.

Beginning his third visit to Ireland, and the last of his presidency, Clinton chose to press his message of peace Tuesday night in this town just south of the border with Northern Ireland that is a stronghold of the Real IRA, the dissident republican group that was responsible for the 1998 Omagh bombing that killed 29 people.

Michael McKevitt, the head of the Real IRA, lives just south of the town and has a small business in Dundalk.

Clinton made no reference to this but focused on a message that Ireland owes its "amazing" economic boom to its commitment to peace and urged: "Stay with it."

"Stand up for peace today, tomorrow and for the rest of your lives," he called out to a crowd of more than 20,000 wildly cheering people who jammed the Dundalk town square. Many had waited six hours or more for a chance to see the president who will take his place in Irish history as the man

who ignited the peace process in Northern Ireland and pushed it to agreement with a high degree of personal commitment.

But even as Clinton visited Dublin and Dundalk, and moved on Tuesday night to Belfast for talks with Northern Ireland leaders, the peace process was being threatened. Northern Ireland First Minister David Trimble has excluded Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, from North-South political bodies because of Protestant anger over the IRA's failure to give up weapons.

Sinn Fein is unhappy with terms of a police reform that it argues has been watered down to meet Protestant objections. And Trimble faces deep opposition within his Ulster Unionist Party to his policies.

These disputes come against a background of renewed tit-for-tat violence that has seen one Protestant and one Catholic slain in the past week. White House officials cautioned before Clinton's visit that they did not expect breakthroughs in the peace process, but said Clinton would try to persuade political leaders to stay the course and not let the province sink back into full-scale violence.

Clinton was accompanied by Senator-elect Hillary Rodham Clinton, their daughter, Chelsea, and his mother-in-law, Dorothy Rodham. Wherever they went, the Irish hailed Clinton as a historic peacemaker and he lavished them with praise while boasting of his Irish roots on his mother's side.

"It's marvelous that this good man has come to our town," said Dundalk housewife Frances Hearty. "He is the only one who has done anything to help with the troubles in Northern Ireland. We are very annoyed about the reputation Dundalk has acquired because of the Real IRA. It's unfair, because this is a good town. I hope President Clinton's visit might help the peace process."

"We love him here," said Chris Joyce, 38, a mechanic. "Everybody loves Clinton. I couldn't believe it when he announced he was coming. This will send out a positive image of the town."

"If it weren't for Clinton, there wouldn't have been any peace process," said Jimmy Quigley, 45, a laborer. "I'm proud of him for what he did. Everybody is glad to see peace at last."

Protestant leaders in Northern Ireland had urged Clinton to use his Dundalk speech to announce he was formally outlawing the Real IRA in the U.S., a move that would prevent it from raising funds there. But he made no direct reference to any party to the conflict. His speech was full of sentimental references to Ireland, but also carried a warning and a plea.

"Life teaches us over and over and over again that in the end you cannot win by making your neighbor lose," he said. "Nothing will compare to the gift Ireland gives the world if you make peace here permanent. You can give people all over the world desperately needed hope and proof that peace can prevail; that the past is history, not destiny."

Clinton ended his speech with a prayer: "May the road of peace rise up to meet you. May the wind of prosperity be always at your back. And may the God of St. Patrick hold you in the hollow of his hand."

Afterward, he joined townspeople in singing "Danny Boy," reputed to be one of his favorite songs.

Then he plunged into the crowd, pumping hands for about 10 minutes before leaving in a motorcade for the 90-minute drive to Belfast.

Earlier in the day, looking tired after the flight from Washington, he called on President Mary McAleese, held talks with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern and attended a civic reception at the headquarters of the Guinness breweries in Dublin.

In a speech at the reception, he recalled obliquely that past U.S. presidents had not involved themselves in Northern Ireland affairs out of concern for offending the British government. "We seemed paralyzed and prevented from playing a constructive role," he said, adding that he decided to change that policy in the hope the Irish and the British would be better off. That, he said, had come to pass.

Clinton joked that when he began his involvement, "half the political experts in my country thought I had lost my mind." After several all-night sessions of phone calls back and forth between Ireland and Washington, he said, he concluded "I had lost my mind." But he said the effort had been worth it.

"I believe America has in some tiny way repaid this nation and its people for the massive gifts of your people you have given to us over so many years, going back to our beginnings," he said. "One of the things I will most cherish ... is that I had a chance to put America on the side of peace and dignity and equality and opportunity for all the people in both communities in Northern Ireland."

At every stop, Ahern said the success of the peace process would not have been possible without Clinton, adding that Ireland would never forget that.

GRAPHIC: PHOTOPHOTO: President Clinton shares a toast with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern on Tuesday at a Dublin pub. AP photo.

Copyright 2000 Cox News Service
Cox News Service
December 13, 2000

SECTION: Washington - general news

LENGTH: 786 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON GETS EARFUL ON STALLED IRISH PEACE PROCESS, BUT STILL URGES ALL SIDES TO RESOLVE ISSUES

BYLINE: BERT ROUGHTON JR.

DATELINE: BELFAST, Northern Ireland

BODY:

President Bill Clinton bid farewell to Northern Ireland Wednesday with the decades-old sectarian conflict persisting despite the unusual personal attention he has invested during much of his presidency.

While the historic 1998 Good Friday peace accord is clearly bearing fruit _ a constant theme of Clinton's whirlwind tour across the island _ its implementation is still far from complete. Some observers fear it could break down altogether within weeks if some of its thorniest issues cannot be resolved.

The American president, who was the object of seemingly endless adoration during most of his visit, on Wednesday experienced in Belfast a taste of the bitter realities that still plague the peace process.

Hard-liners from both sides took full advantage of the opportunity to voice their concerns personally to Clinton, who at times has played umpire in the dispute. The tension that lies beneath the veneer of civility that is prevalent in Belfast these days became apparent.

At Stormont, where the Northern Ireland Assembly meets, dissident Protestant politician Cedric Wilson handed Clinton a letter describing the Good Friday accord as "an appeasement mechanism to meet the demands of terrorism and in particular the terrorism of the (Irish Republican Army)."

At one point during his morning visit to Stormont, Clinton was nearly surrounded by hard-liners who gave the president an earful for about 10 minutes. Clinton, who will leave office next month, listened politely and took notes.

"I will take this on board," Clinton told them.

The president arrived in Ireland Tuesday to find the peace process at an impasse. There was no clear sign as he left Wednesday that much had changed because of his visit.

Nevertheless, National Security Adviser Samuel "Sandy" Berger described the president's visit as productive. "It is clear that all of the parties with which he met are committed to the Good Friday agreement," Berger said.

He also said that the visit served as an impetus for both sides to resolve their differences. "I think it accelerated the process of dealing with this issue," he said.

After meeting with both sides, Clinton said the United States, Britain and the Republic of Ireland agreed to increase cooperation to counter terrorism. Protestant leaders have expressed deep concerns that the U.S. government was not taking terrorists seriously and was too tolerant of

fund-raising efforts in the United States that benefits militant groups. Clinton said experts from the three countries would meet soon to develop a plan of attack.

Clinton arrived in midmorning at Stormont, where British Prime Minister Tony Blair and other officials stood waiting for him in the drizzle for nearly an hour.

Clinton held meetings with Blair, David Trimble, the province's unionist first minister, and Seamus Mallon, the government's senior Irish nationalist. He also met with Gerry Adams, the head of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA.

Unionists, most of whom are Protestants, want Northern Ireland to remain under British rule, while nationalists, most of whom are Catholics, want the province to be united with the Republic of Ireland.

The factions are at an impasse over unionist demands that the nationalist IRA surrender its weapons. The IRA says it will not disarm until the British government removes more troops from Northern Ireland, and reforms the province's special police force, which nationalists view as anti-Catholic. Some observers fear that these differences could lead to a collapse of the Northern Ireland Assembly as early as next month.

Later, Clinton spoke at the \$135 million Odyssey arena, Belfast's sparkling new entertainment center. He said the center and other redevelopment along Belfast's waterside district symbolizes the economic benefits of peace. "Ten years ago, I'm not sure you could have

gotten the investment necessary to build this arena or to revitalize the entire area," he told an enthusiastic crowd of about 7,000.

He noted to the crowd that this was his final chance to speak to them as president. "I think you know that I have loved this land and the work I have tried to do for peace," he said. "But the issue is not how I feel; it's how your kids are going to live."

After the remarks, Clinton flew on Air Force One to London. He and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, and daughter Chelsea were to spend the night at Chequers, Blair's country home.

Clinton planned to wrap up his farewell visit here by meeting in London with Queen Elizabeth II for tea on Thursday, then delivering a foreign policy address at the University of Warwick.

Bert Roughton Jr.'s E-mail address is: [bertr\(at\)coxnews.com](mailto:bertr(at)coxnews.com)

**Copyright 2000 Associated Newspapers Ltd.
DAILY MAIL (London)
December 13, 2000**

SECTION: Pg. 16

LENGTH: 1265 words

HEADLINE: My last push for peace;

In the shadow of Omagh, Clinton tries to bequeath hope to Ireland

BYLINE: Paul Harris

BODY:

HE rode into town like the Lone Ranger on one last mission for peace.

Wherever there was trouble to be solved, Bill Clinton voiced a robust hope for the future.

Wherever there were wrongs to be righted, he found a suitably empty phrase to stir the soul.

For anyone familiar with those Westerns in which the American good guys always win, the President's appearance in the little Irish town of Dundalk somehow seemed entirely appropriate.

After all, this long-time heartland of republicanism was once known as El Paso, in tribute to the legions of outlaws it hid. And Clinton, his silver hair glistening under floodlights, played the hero with considerable style.

The question no one could answer yesterday was whether, when the presidential tour is over and Mr Clinton drives off into the sunset, there will be some lasting legacy in his wake.

Or whether this was just a 'victory lap' to stake his claim as a key player in any permanent peace that emerges after his presidency ends.

Somewhere in the crowd that turned out in the rain to greet him, a small group of people had brought their own script.

Four relatives of those who died in the Omagh bombing, hatched and executed by the Real IRA from its Dundalk stronghold, clutched messages asking the President to help make the killers answer for their crime.

They held aloft banners of their murdered children and loved ones, among 29 killed in the atrocity two years ago.

The aim of the families in a campaign backed by the Daily Mail was to enlist the help of the president in their search for justice.

Last night, they still did not know for sure whether they would even be allowed to meet him or First Lady Hillary Clinton, who is travelling at his side.

A few miles away at the pretty seaside town of Blackrock, in a prim bungalow on a quiet estate, Michael McKevitt said to have formed the Real IRA three years ago had been putting the final touches to the Christmas decorations.

Santa stockings hung either side of the fireplace and fairy lights sparkled in a front room. Just the kind of family scene, in fact, that many of the bereaved Omagh relatives will never be able to share again.

McKevitt and his wife Bernadette, sister of IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands, are among those likely to be sued by the Omagh families.

Amid strict security, checks were understood to have been made in Dundalk's main square to ensure that McKevitt, if he was there, did not get close enough to the president to 'ambush' him with an embarrassing public handshake.

More productively, perhaps, Mr Clinton was widely expected to announce before he leaves tomorrow that the Real IRA will be outlawed in the U.S., placed on the proscribed list of terrorist organisations.

It would mean an end to legal fundraising for the organisation of dissident republicans by sympathisers, plus a dramatic cut in the steady flow of dollars being channelled into its funds.

If that happens, at least it will be a bad day at Blackrock.

Michael Gallagher, whose 21-year-old son Adrian was killed in the Omagh atrocity, said: 'Everything is geared up to putting pressure on this organisation and it now must be enormous.

'The Arabs can stick their fingers up to the Americans, but these people need American support.

'A ban might not necessarily mean it drying up, but it would be a significant step as far as we are concerned.' The issue will also be raised with Mr Clinton today when he meets Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble in Belfast during talks with the Province's political leaders.

He will also urge the President to put renewed pressure on the Provisional IRA to disarm.

'Mr Trimble will certainly be urging Mr Clinton to take steps to proscribe the Real IRA it's an issue we have already raised with his officials,' said his spokesman.

Despite a huge police investigation, no one has been convicted of the

Omagh attack. The Daily Mail is supporting a campaign by the families who lost relatives in the bombing to take legal action against the alleged bombers.

Meanwhile, President Clinton's trip to Dublin and Dundalk continued its curious mix of politics and pleasure.

Among those he met were the Irish Republic's Taoiseach Bertie Ahern, and Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams.

The sight of Mr Adams and fellow Sinn Fein minister Martin McGuinness, both of whom have long histories of terrorist links, in warm embrace with the First Lady is perhaps an example of how far some people have compromised in the search for peace.

Later Mr Clinton, Hillary and their daughter Chelsea went shopping. Mr Clinton also visited one of Dublin's most famous pubs. And it was in Dublin that he first tried to explain why he was here.

Earlier, it had been put to him that he must care a great deal about Northern Ireland and the peace process. 'Yeah, I do,' he replied softly.

By the time he got to the Guinness Brewery and storehouse (which he asked to be included in his itinerary) he was in more robust mood.

Referring to his role in the Northern Ireland peace process, he said: 'I have often wondered how I got involved in all this . . .

'Maybe because there are 45mil-lion Irish Americans and I was trying to get a few votes, I don't know.

The truth is, it just seemed to be the right thing to do.' Now, he said, it was vital that the peace process should not be wrecked. Too much had already been gained to let it go now.

In Dundalk, his aides said the President wanted to help the people 'lift their sights', a phrase that would doubtless have raised a few smiles among those who still rule by Armalite locally.

He spent 20 minutes in the town, patting Ireland on the back, praising its economy and telling it what a bright future it had.

But he warned: 'You cannot win by making your neighbour lose.

Two years ago after the horror of the Omagh bombing, you good people filled these streets. You stared violence in the face and said "no more".

'I ask you to stand up for peace today, tomorrow and the rest of your lives.' At today's talks with Mr Clinton in Belfast, none of the party leaders expects any major breakthrough over the disarmament and policing deadlock that is threatening the future of the peace process.

Perhaps Bill Clinton will have to ride again.

Police officers were told to treat all Irish-born citizens as potential terrorist suspects in a leaked memo from their chief constable.

A notice to officers in Humberside described Operation Pre-Empt as a drive to 'identify prioritise and monitor likely targets for terrorist attack'.

It asked officers to notify Special Branch as soon as possible of 'anyone of Irish origin, descent or background' who is brought into custody subject to police inquiry or brought to their attention by members of the public 'in particular when seeking accommodation'. North Hull MP Kevin McNamara, a former spokesman on Northern Ireland, said the policy was 'going back to the worst days of the Prevention of Terrorism Act'.

He added: 'This is offensive and racist. I thought the days of snooping on the Irish were over. This is taking us back to the Seventies.' Last night Humberside Chief Constable David Westwood said he had withdrawn the policy, after earlier defending it.

'As a major UK port, the use of Humberside as a route into the UK mainland to import terrorist devices cannot and will not be ignored,' he said.

'We must take steps to prevent the horrors of terrorist action. I am not suggesting in any way that all Irish people are terrorists.'

SECTION: Pg. 06

LENGTH: 686 words

HEADLINE: Embrace for Adams opens Clinton's visit President gets a hero's welcome for final Dublin trip, reports David Sharrock

BYLINE: By David Sharrock

BODY:

BILL Clinton warmly embraced Sinn Fein's leader Gerry Adams yesterday as he arrived in Dublin for his third and final visit to Ireland as American President.

This time there was no coyness in the meeting at a brewery. Five years ago the men shook hands beyond the reach of news cameras on Belfast's Falls Road.

For better or worse, Mr Clinton will always be remembered as the President who granted Mr Adams a visa at a time when the Provisional IRA was still murdering and bombing.

Hillary Clinton accepted a kiss from Martin McGuinness, the former chief of staff of the Provisional IRA who is now the Stormont education minister.

Mr Clinton told the Irish Taoiseach Bertie Ahern and a gathering of the Irish establishment at the Guinness brewery why he became involved in Irish politics at the start of his term.

"I have often wondered how I got involved in all this," he said. "Maybe because there are 45 million Irish Americans and I was trying to get a few votes, I don't know. The truth is, it just seemed to be the right thing to do.

"We seemed paralysed and prevented from playing a constructive role when I became President. I decided to change America's policy in the hope that in the end not only the Irish, the British too, would be better off."

Mr Clinton, with only weeks left in power, received a hero's welcome from the Irish government when Airforce One landed in driving rain. He was accompanied by his wife and their daughter Chelsea.

He met the Irish president Mary McAleese and her family, who are from Belfast, at her official Phoenix Park residence. While their parents discussed matters of state, Chelsea and Mrs

McAleese's three teenage children also found plenty in common. Over soft drinks, Chelsea and Emma, Mrs McAleese's eldest daughter, chatted animatedly.

After some Christmas shopping in Dublin and a pint of stout in a pub in Mr Ahern's constituency, the presidential party headed north for the border town of Dundalk.

As Mr Clinton arrived in the County Louth market town, which has earned notoriety in the last decades as a haven for on-the-run IRA terrorists, he was greeted by thousands of well-wishers.

Dundalk's bloody reputation has recently been revived with the disclosure that the leaders of the Real IRA - which opposes the Good Friday Agreement and which murdered 29 people and unborn twin girls in Omagh in 1998 - live in and around the town.

The suburban home of Mickey McKevitt, the former Provisional IRA quartermaster general who founded the Real IRA, was deserted yesterday. Those who live in the unremarkable house in the seaside neighbourhood of Blackrock had been preparing for Christmas, with presents in the living room.

This scene of domestic happiness is in sharp contrast to the events which have shaped the border region's reputation. Robert Nairac, the undercover soldier, was kidnapped and murdered nearby. A Northern Ireland judge and his wife were blown up at the border.

Mr Clinton's border crossing represented his transition from the warm and convivial welcome in

"And after some of the all-night sessions I had, I thought I'd lost my mind."

But he added: "I hope and believe we have changed over the last eight years. I care a lot about this."

"The way it used to be was a source of great pain to a lot of Americans. One of the things I'll most cherish is that I've had a chance to put America on the side of peace and dignity."

Clinton said Ireland's work for peace had been a great example to other troublespots worldwide.

And he spoke warmly of America's links with Ireland and friendship with Britain.

He said: "About 40 million American people have some Irish blood and we have also had a unique relationship with Great Britain."

"The British burned the White House but since then it's been pretty good."

Irish premier Bertie Ahern, Ulster Secretary Peter Mandelson, SDLP leader John Hume and Adams all hailed Clinton's work for peace.

He was due to carry on that work last night with a speech in the border town of Dundalk, stronghold of Omagh killers the Real IRA.

Clinton was set to tell the Republican fanatics to lay down their guns and join the rest of Ireland's people.

His speech said: "People can see the benefits of peace. My message to those parties who are not involved in the process is that they ought to join."

Clinton is likely to turn up the heat on the Real IRA, who are threatening a pre-Christmas bombing campaign, by banning them from fund-raising in the USA before he leaves office.

He was also expected to delight a huge crowd in Dundalk by singing a duet of Danny Boy with local star Brian Kennedy.

Security in Dundalk was massive, with hundreds of US secret service agents guarding the President.

From there, he was expected to go to Belfast to prepare for talks with Prime Minister Tony Blair and the leaders of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Clinton is due to meet First Minister David Trimble, his deputy Seamus Mallon, and Adams.

The President will use all his charm in a bid to bridge widening gaps between the sides. But his task is widely seen as extremely tough.

Yesterday, he held talks with Ahern over how to end the stalemates over decommissioning of terrorist weapons and the future shape of the police in Ulster.

Afterwards, Clinton said: "The people want this to go on and I think the leaders have to find a way through the last three or four difficult issues."

"It can be done. I'll do what I can to be helpful."

Ahern said: "The President will help people try to narrow down difficulties and look at what we can do."

Trimble has warned the whole process could collapse within weeks unless the IRA finally starts handing over weapons.

He has banned Sinn Fein ministers McGuinness and Barbre de Brun from all -Ireland ministerial meetings because of the IRA's refusal to start decommissioning.

Sinn Fein will challenge the ban in court on Friday.

More problems have been created by republican demands for the removal of Army watchtowers in

Ireland to the grittier realities of the current political impasse. The Irish government, Sinn Fein and the SDLP have all been urging Mr Clinton to bring pressure to bear on Tony Blair to persuade him to risk dismantling the Army presence in South Armagh, a few miles from Dundalk.

Mr Blair's security advisers have warned him that the current level of terrorist threat makes any such move too great a gamble. There is also pressure on the Provisional IRA to begin decommissioning its weapons.

After visiting Dundalk, Mr Clinton continued his journey by road to Belfast. Once across the border more people had gathered at Newry, County Down, to cheer his cavalcade.

All along the dual carriageway heading north RUC Land Rovers guarded the route.

He was greeted in Belfast by Peter Mandelson, the Ulster Secretary, and Lady Carswell, the Lord Lieutenant of Belfast. The Democratic Unionist Party Lord Mayor of Belfast, Sammy Wilson, had a "previous engagement". Mr Clinton was driven through the city to his hotel, where he was met in private by Mr Blair.

Copyright 2000 Scottish Daily Record & Sunday Mail Ltd.
Daily Record

December 13, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 6, 7

LENGTH: 805 words

HEADLINE: WE HAVE TO KEEP GOING;

CLINTON BID TO KICKSTART THE PEACE PROCESS ON LAST TRIP TO IRELAND

BYLINE: Ted Oliver

BODY:

BILL CLINTON yesterday begged all sides in Northern Ireland not to give up on peace.

The US President told VIPs in Dublin: "We have to keep going.

"The people want this to go on. Nobody wants to go back to the Troubles."

With rows over policing and IRA guns threatening the Good Friday Agreement, Clinton made a third and last trip to Ireland as President in a bid to bring back the feel-good factor.

Few see hope of an early breakthrough but Clinton still looked glad to be back in the land of his ancestors.

And wife Hillary was so pleased to see Sinn Fein leaders Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness that she stunned onlookers by kissing them.

A beaming First Lady pecked both Republicans on the cheek. They were the only people among scores of dignitaries at Dublin's Guinness brewery to be greeted with such affection.

Hillary rarely does anything without thinking, and this gesture seemed to be aimed at Irish-American voters in her new Senate seat of New York.

But it will anger Unionists who see Adams and McGuinness as terrorists.

It was a rare moment of controversy as Clinton, Hillary and daughter Chelsea got a heroes' welcome.

Clinton hinted that he would like to keep helping the peace process after he leaves office - but only if whoever succeeds him agrees.

With just weeks left in the White House, the President was in nostalgic mood in his speech at the brewery.

He said: "When I started my involvement with the peace process, half the political experts in my country thought I had lost my mind.

south Armagh, and for controversial reforms of the Royal Ulster Constabulary to be introduced in full.

Earlier, Hillary announced plans to call a conference of women MPs from Belfast, Dublin, England, Scotland and Wales. She promised to give more detail on the scheme today.

**Copyright 2000 Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service
Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service
The Dallas Morning News
December 13, 2000, Wednesday**

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

KR-ACC-NO: K3624

LENGTH: 962 words

HEADLINE: Hailed as peacemaker, Clinton makes joyous return to Ireland

BYLINE: By Gregory Katz

BODY:

DUNDALK, Ireland _ President Clinton on Tuesday made an emotional and joyous return to Ireland, where he was hailed as peacemaker by large crowds in Dublin and in Dundalk, a once-troubled border city now in the midst of an economic boom.

Appearing relaxed and happy, Clinton made a brief stop at Fagans, a favored Irish pub, for at least a few sips of Bass Ale and, during his speech in Dundalk, quote from the revered Irish band U2's current hit single. He even made a brief joke about possibly becoming a bartender here when he leaves office next month.

"It may be dark and cold, but I'm back in Ireland, and I'm glad to say, in the words of U2, it's a beautiful day," he said to thunderous applause as he spoke in the windswept town square of Dundalk, long known as a haven for paramilitary bands but now seen also as a model of high-tech economic growth.

After a day filled with pleasant events, Clinton gets down to business Wednesday morning when he holds separate meetings with Northern Ireland's political leaders, who are deeply split over the Irish Republican Army's refusal to give up its substantial arsenal.

If Clinton is unable to forge some sort of compromise, both sides warn that the vaunted Good Friday agreement that has brought a coalition government of Protestants and Catholics to Northern Ireland will be in serious danger of collapse in the coming months.

Clinton did not use his speech here to address these issues, disappointing Protestant loyalists who had called for him to use his appearance in Dundalk to condemn the so-called "Real IRA," a splinter group that is still engaged in a violent campaign to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

Instead, the president emphasized how Ireland's incredible economic expansion _ which has brought the once moribund island nation the fastest-growing economy in Europe _ has been spurred by the relative peace of the last six years. He pointed out that Ireland has replaced the United States as the world's leading software exporting nation.

"We know that violence suffocates progress," he said. "To Unionists and Nationalists alike, I say to you that you cannot win by making your neighbor lose. I ask you to stand up for peace today, tomorrow and for the rest of your lives. You must treat the past as history, not as destiny."

Clinton, accompanied by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and their daughter, Chelsea, seemed reluctant to leave the stage on what may turn out to be the last foreign trip of his presidency. He sang "Danny Boy" when his speech was finished, then plunged into the crowds to shake hands.

Earlier in the day, he visited the famed Guinness brewery in Dublin, where in a brief speech he said that his administration's work on the peace process was a labor of love offered in gratitude for the many contributions Irish immigrants have made to American life.

"I can tell you that every effort has been an honor," he said. "I believe America has in some tiny way repaid this nation and its people for the massive gifts of your people you have given to us over so many years, going back to our beginnings. I hope that is true."

The visit to Dundalk brought Clinton to a town that has long been a stronghold for leaders of the Real IRA, the splinter group responsible for a number of deadly bombings, and the town has traditionally been used by IRA commanders seeking a safe haven from the troubles north of the border that is just 10 miles away.

In addition, many victims of IRA attacks are believed to be buried in secret graves in the picturesque forests outside of town, adding to Dundalk's somewhat sinister reputation.

Despite cold, rainy weather, a large crowd of enthusiastic residents waited for Clinton in the Dundalk town square, which had been festooned with U.S. flags and big signs that said, "Welcome, Bill," as if the president were an old-time friend.

Many in the crowd said Clinton had made a substantial contribution to the long, difficult peace process and expressed concern that the next president _ whether it's Al Gore or George W. Bush _ will not take the same personal interest in helping to end the centuries-old Irish conflict.

"It's very good that he's coming," said Melissa Nackin, a grandmother who warmly remembers President John F. Kennedy's visit to Ireland nearly 40 years ago. "President Clinton has done a lot for Ireland, and we're going to miss him. Whichever of the other two gets in won't be as him. He says what he thinks."

Nackin said Clinton has understood that the vast majority of the Irish people simply want to live in relative tranquility without the upheavals of the last three decades.

"He's been really good for peace, and that's all we want," she said, clutching a small American flag in the brisk wind. "And we think his visit will be really good for the town. We've got a bad reputation, but 99.9 percent of the people here are peace-loving people, and this is our chance to show it."

Others in the crowd said they hoped Clinton followed through on suggestions in recent days that he play some type of advisory role in the peace process after his term ends in January.

"I think that would be very good," said Angela Rankin. "He seems to have the ability to get people to talk to each other. I think he's a great statesman _ number one because of his work in Ireland, and then the Middle East _ and I think you should be proud of him. He's one of the best American presidents."

Her husband, Jim Rankin, said Clinton's decision to get personally involved with the peace process had changed the course of Irish history.

"I think he's the best thing that ever happened to us," he said.

(c) 2000, The Dallas Morning News.

Visit The Dallas Morning News on the World Wide Web at <http://www.dallasnews.com/>

**Copyright 2000 Associated Newspapers Ltd.
The Evening Standard (London)
December 13, 2000**

SECTION: Pg. 9

LENGTH: 658 words

HEADLINE: Clinton 'asking Blair to give way on Army patrols'

BYLINE: Valentine Low

BODY:

PRESIDENT CLINTON today got down to the serious business of politics as he appealed to Northern Ireland's leaders to break the deadlock in the peace process before Christmas.

In contrast to the speeches and photo opportunities of yesterday's visit to the Republic of Ireland, today's visit centred on three hours of talks with the main party leaders behind closed doors at Stormont.

However, as Mr Clinton continued his attempt to sign off his presidency with a diplomatic triumph, there were reports that the key to breaking the impasse could come in Mr Clinton's meeting today with Tony Blair.

Irish government sources said Mr Clinton would press the Prime Minister to consider a major gesture of demilitarisation in south Armagh in a bid to get the IRA to make a concession on decommissioning.

The President was also believed to be putting pressure on the IRA - via his talks with Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness at Stormont - to get involved with the de Chastelain commission so there can be real movement towards putting weapons beyond use.

He also had talks with Mr Blair, First Minister David Trimble, Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon and other party leaders.

The atmosphere of political intrigue was heightened by an unexplained early-morning visit by Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams to Mr Clinton's hotel. Mr Adams refused to say who he was seeing at the Hilton or why he was there.

Although the official line is that no immediate breakthrough will come as a result of the visit, many people hope that Mr Clinton's efforts will help get the peace process moving again.

"The President's trip has intensified the pace of discussions among the parties and between the governments, and I think that's good," said Sandy Berger, Mr Clinton's national security adviser.

"The President hopes that his presence here, his private conversations and his public dialogue with the people here will remind them what's at stake."

His discussions with the Northern Ireland parties took place against the background of mounting tensions between Unionists, nationalists, republicans and the British Government.

Sinn Fein is angry at the Ulster Unionists for banning its ministers on the Northern Ireland executive, Martin McGuinness and Bairbre de Brun, from attending meetings with the Irish government on cross-border co-operation.

Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble introduced the sanction following pressure from hardliners furious at the IRA's failure to engage in direct talks with the international disarmament commission since devolution was restored in the province in May.

The Government's policing reforms are also threatening to disrupt the process, with the nationalist SDLP under pressure but reluctant to endorse them.

Sinn Fein has accused the Government of aggravating the situation with the pace of its programme to scale down British Army patrols and military installations in republican areas of the province. Irish Premier Bertie Ahern acknowledged these problems. But he said: "There is no alternative to the Good Friday Agreement and no other way forward than the road of peace. We will stay on this course, no matter how long it takes."

Mr Clinton, his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea arrived in Belfast last night after urging the people of Ireland, north and south, to redouble their efforts to make peace permanent.

In an emotional farewell speech to the people of the Irish Republic on his third and final visit as President, Mr Clinton told more than 20,000 people in Dundalk that if peace held in Ireland it could hold out hope for other troublespots around the world.

"Unionist and nationalist, native-born Irish and immigrant, to all of you I say again, you cannot win by making your neighbour lose."

Later today Mr Clinton will deliver a keynote speech in Belfast's new entertainment complex, the Odyssey arena, before leaving for London.

GRAPHIC: PEACE BID: NORTHERN IRELAND SECRETARY PETER MANDELSON JOINS TONY BLAIR AND PRESIDENT BILL CLINTON IN BELFAST TODAY PICTURE: REUTERS

SECTION: Pg. 19

LENGTH: 665 words

HEADLINE: Hillary makes it a double act in Bill's last stand

BYLINE: Valentine Low

BODY:

PRESIDENT CLINTON'S search for a diplomatic triumph in Northern Ireland turned into a Bill and Hillary double act today as he put pressure on party leaders in talks behind closed doors at Stormont while the First Lady delivered a powerful speech in the centre of Belfast.

Mr Clinton pressed leaders from both sides to make concessions in an attempt to break the deadlock in the peace process before Christmas.

But any thoughts that the day's negotiations would run smoothly were quickly swept aside as Mr Clinton became embroiled in a stormy meeting with hardline Unionists when they ambushed him on his way into the talks.

In sharp contrast to the atmosphere of universal adulation that marked yesterday's visit to the Irish Republic, the angry members of Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionists - the third largest party in Northern Ireland's Assembly - were outraged that they had been excluded from official talks with the President.

Cedric Wilson gave him a letter describing the Good Friday peace pact as "an appeasement mechanism to meet the demands of terrorism, and in particular the terrorism of the IRA."

Nigel Dodds said that at one point during their nine-minute conversation Mr Clinton complained that the DUP man was effectively accusing him of encouraging terrorism.

"Exactly, Mr President," he replied. He added: "There were no hugs and kisses. It was a stormy end to our meeting."

Mr Dodds went on: "We pointed out to him that an inclusive process means that you just do not exclude the majority Unionist voice, that you must include the DUP."

"On the issue of decommissioning we told him that the time had come after all the promises given before and during the talks and before Sinn Fein got into government for there to be movement on arms."

"The time has come to cough up on weapons or face democratic sanctions."

"As for policing, we told him that the vast majority of Unionists resented the emasculation of the RUC and we stressed that the US emphasis should be on economic investment which is to our mutual benefit."

Shortly after meeting the Assembly members, Mr Clinton said he hoped his discussions with parties would help move the peace process forward.

Standing beside Mr Blair and the two leaders of the Northern Ireland Executive, David Trimble and Seamus Mallon, he said: "It is important for the US to continue the process. I hope that the next president will be heavily involved and highly supportive of the efforts of the parties to move the Good Friday Agreement forward."

While Mr Clinton went into a series of talks with leaders of the Ulster Unionists, Sinn Fein and the SDLP, the First Lady - and Senator-elect for New York - addressed a women's conference in the Opera House.

"I know that trust is probably the commodity in shortest supply," she said. "Trust-building takes time any way we can bring people together across the sectarian divide helps to build trust and break down barriers."

"It means that we learn to respect one another. With that respect comes the opportunity to work with one another."

The row with the Democratic Unionists was underlined by Belfast Lord Mayor Sammy Wilson's decision to ignore Mr Clinton's visit.

Meanwhile, there were reports today that the key to breaking the impasse could come in Mr Clinton's meeting today with Tony Blair. Irish government sources said Mr Clinton would press the Prime Minister to consider a major gesture of demilitarisation in south Armagh in a bid to get the IRA to make a concession on decommissioning.

The President was also believed to be putting pressure on the IRA - via his talks with Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness at Stormont - to get involved with the De Chastelain commission so there can be real movement towards putting weapons beyond use.

Although the official line is that no immediate breakthrough will come, many people hope Mr Clinton's efforts will help get the peace process moving again.

LOAD-DATE: December 14, 2000

Copyright 2000 EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS

The Express

December 13, 2000

LENGTH: 443 words

HEADLINE: THERE'S NO GOING BACK ON PEACE, CLINTON TELLS TERRORISTS

BYLINE: BY TED OLIVER AND KIRSTY WALKER

BODY:

THE ultimate comeback kid President Bill Clinton lived up to his name yesterday when he was given a hero's welcome in Ireland as he attempted to kick-start the stalling peace process.

The charismatic American president, greeted with cheers along the lined streets of Dublin, warned terrorists that there could be "no going back on peace".

Mr Clinton met with politicians including Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams and last night made a historic visit to the heartland of the Real IRA in Dundalk - home of the Omagh bombers - amid tight security.

Before he leaves office he is expected to place the Real IRA on the US list of proscribed terrorists - as demanded by the families of the Omagh bomb victims - preventing them raising funds in the States.

Earlier he delivered a strong message to politicians and paramilitaries saying that "reversal isn't an option."

He said: "The people by and large have embraced the peace and in some ways are leading the process. I don't think they want to go back.

"I think the leaders just have to find a way through the last three or four difficult issues and I think it can be done. I'll do what I can."

Mr Clinton also spoke of the sleepless nights he had spent worrying over the situation in Northern Ireland.

He said: "I have often wondered how I got myself into all this. When I started with the peace process, half the political experts in America thought that I had lost my mind. And during some of those all-night sessions, I began to think that I had lost my mind. But every effort that I made has been an honour."

Downing Street was yesterday attempting to play down the significance of his visit and warned that a break-through should not be expected. But ministers said they hoped his impetus would encourage the IRA to start decommissioning their weapons. Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Mandelson said a reduction in the security threat was necessary. "I don't just mean the incidents of terrorist activity, but a reduction in the capability of terrorist organisations. That means the start of decommissioning."

Mr Clinton, with wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea, was near to tears as Irish Prime Minister Bertie

Ahern lauded the role he'd played on the Irish question.

Mr Ahern said: "Every time we needed you, you had the time to make the call. It should be regarded as part of your legacy as peacemaker and we'll never forget it in this country." The President, who is due to meet Tony Blair today in Belfast, had meetings with several leading politicians, enjoyed drinking Guin-ness and a spot of Christmas shopping with his family on the first day of his trip.

**Copyright 2000 The Financial Times Limited
Financial Times (London)
December 13, 2000, Wednesday Europe Edition 1**

SECTION: FRONT PAGE - FIRST SECTION; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 70 words

HEADLINE: FRONT PAGE - FIRST SECTION: Clinton enjoys a last round in Dublin

BODY:

Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary greet drinkers at a pub in Dublin yesterday on his last trip to the country as president. Speaking earlier in the Irish Republic's capital, Mr Clinton urged Northern Ireland's political leaders to "find a way through the last three or four difficulties" to implement the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement. Full report, Page 8; Editorial Comment, Page 16; Observer, Page 17 Reuters

**Copyright 2000 The Florida Times-Union
The Florida Times-Union (Jacksonville, FL)
December 13, 2000 Wednesday, City Edition**

SECTION: NATIONAL INTERNATIONAL; Pg. A-9

LENGTH: 376 words

**HEADLINE: Clinton champions N. Ireland peace Sides disagree over key factors **

BODY:

DUNDALK, Ireland -- With a song and a plea for peace, President Clinton touched down in this hardscrabble border town last night for a last political hurrah on the southern side of this ancestral island.

Speaking in a main square festooned with Christmas lights and framed by American and Irish flags, Clinton urged thousands of chilled spectators, 'stand up for peace, today, tomorrow and for the rest of your lives.'

For Clinton, the trip to Dundalk, a town once blighted economically and psychologically by the terrorist troubles that inflamed nearby Northern Ireland, proved to be a high point as his final presidential foreign tour began in Ireland, Northern Ireland and England.

'As I prepare to leave my office a large part of my heart will be in Ireland,' Clinton said, before grasping his wife Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea and joining in with the crowd to sing Danny Boy.

Trying to cement the 1998 Northern Ireland peace accord that he helped to achieve, Clinton is using his visit to gently nudge one-time foes to put in place key elements of an overall agreement while also basking in public acclaim as a peacemaker.

On an island where old grievances sometimes never die, Clinton reminded the audience 'that the past is history and not destiny.

'In the end, you cannot win by making your neighbor lose,' he said.

Today, Clinton is due to meet with members of Northern Ireland's local assembly and to give a speech at Belfast's new hockey arena, before flying to England where he will meet Queen Elizabeth II.

Northern Ireland's leaders are struggling to implement key ingredients of the 1998 peace accord. The peace process is stalled, as guerrilla groups still refuse to give up their weapons.

For Dundalk, Clinton's visit was especially emotive and politically intriguing.

For years, it was fertile ground for the Irish Republican Army, with rebel fighters seeking refuge in the pubs, homes and nearby countryside.

But after the 1998 Omagh bombing left 29 dead, the town made a dramatic U-turn. Thousands turned out to condemn the attack in which the Real IRA claimed responsibility.

'You stared violence in the face and said 'no more,' ' Clinton said yesterday.

GRAPHIC: Photo: XWX106 CLINTON IRELAND CLINTO Associated Press President Clinton and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern (right) talk with Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein. First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton also attended the reception yesterday at the Guinness brewery in Dublin.

Copyright 2000 Scottish Media Newspapers Limited
The Herald (Glasgow)
December 13, 2000

SECTION: Pg. 1

LENGTH: 233 words

HEADLINE: Clinton calls on Ulster to give hope to world

BYLINE: Michael Settle Chief Political Correspondent

BODY:

BILL Clinton last night urged a 30,000 crowd in a town near the Irish border: "Redouble your efforts for peace."

As the US president prepared for critical talks in Belfast today in a bid to rescue the troubled Northern Ireland peace process, he appealed for nationalists and unionists to set their differences aside.

He declared in Dundalk, County Louth: "You cannot win by making your neighbour lose," adding: "If you make peace here permanent, you can give people all over the world desperately needed hope and proof that peace can prevail.

"The past is history, not destiny. That is what I came here to ask you: to redouble your efforts."

Although Mr Clinton, on his third and final presidential visit to Ireland, pledged to do all he could to help overcome the difficulties, London and Dublin do not expect any major breakthrough before Christmas.

As Mr Clinton tries to inject fresh momentum into the stalled peace process, Hillary Clinton is to convene a meeting of women parliamentarians from Britain and Ireland.

Mrs Clinton, a little more than a month after securing election to the US Senate in New York, yesterday met female politicians from the Irish Republic at the official residence of the American ambassador to Ireland, and confirmed her proposal would involve politicians from Scotland, England, and Wales, as well as both sides of the Irish border.

GRAPHIC: PRESIDENTIAL PINT: Bill Clinton enjoys a Guinness at the Gravity Bar in the company's headquarters in Dublin Picture: PAT MAXWELL/PA

LOAD-DATE: December 14, 2000

Copyright 2000 The Houston Chronicle Publishing Company
The Houston Chronicle
View Related Topics
December 13, 2000, Wednesday 3 STAR EDITION

SECTION: A; Pg. 30

LENGTH: 915 words

HEADLINE: THE PRESIDENT IN IRELAND;

Clinton urges crowd to build on fragile peace process

SOURCE: Houston Chronicle News Services

DATELINE: DUNDALK, Ireland

BODY:

DUNDALK, Ireland - Tens of thousands of people crowded into the central square of this small border town halfway between Dublin and Belfast on Tuesday night to hear President Clinton make the final pitch of his presidency for continued peace in the land of his ancestors.

Clinton, who traces his mother's family to Fermanagh County in Northern Ireland, acknowledged Tuesday that there are "still a few hills to climb," but urged residents not to turn their backs on peace.

On this, his third presidential trip to Ireland, Clinton delighted audiences by pledging to continue working for reconciliation long after he hands over the White House to his successor.

But he came with a more immediate message - encouraging words that he hoped would be enough to prevent the fragile Good Friday Accord from unraveling and the violence that has so torn this region from returning.

"I come here near the end of my eight years of service as president of the United States to ask you to protect this progress, to cherish it, and to build on it," the president said. "Unionists and Nationalists, native-born Irish and immigrants, to all of you, I say again, you cannot win by making your neighbor lose."

Administration officials said they selected this remote town a few miles from the border for Clinton's major speech of the day because it had suffered the scourge of violence and then rebounded with both peace and prosperity.

Declaring "a new day in Dundalk and a new day in Ireland," Clinton stressed that none of the business investment - from companies such as Xerox Corp. - now feeding Dundalk's prosperity would have happened had the Irish people failed to negotiate peace and allowed those who oppose it to prevail.

"You stared violence in the face and said, no more," he said. "You stood up for peace then, and I ask you, stand up for peace today, tomorrow and the rest of your lives."

"The past is history, not destiny," Clinton said. "Oh, yes, there are still a few hills to climb. But you now know the value of peace."

"We know violence suffocates opportunity. We know in the end, there can be no full justice without jobs. Fortunately, the Irish had the courage to grasp the chance for peace and the new beginning."

At the end of his speech, the Irish singer Brian Kennedy performed a rendition of Danny Boy. Then the president stepped out in the crowd to shake hands and hug the throng of admirers, including a group of schoolgirls who nearly crashed a barrier while yelling, "We want Bill."

The president's much-publicized three-day visit - which he continues today in Belfast and Thursday in London - comes at a delicate time in the peace process, with a showdown looming between Sinn Fein and the Ulster Unionists, the dominant Protestant party.

The political solution that Clinton helped negotiate in 1998 is in danger of faltering as the parties grapple with issues dependent on trust, like the demilitarization of the IRA and reform of the heavily Protestant Royal Ulster Constabulary.

Soon after touching down in Dublin early Tuesday, Clinton began making the rounds, greeting government officials ranging from Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern to Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness of Sinn Fein, the political arm of the IRA.

He also toured the factory where Guinness beer is produced and shopped for wool sweaters with Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chelsea, delighting the crowds lining his motorcade route.

At the Guinness plant, the president, who has said he is allergic to beer, abstained from the dark brew that has been produced there since 1759.

Later, however, he stopped at Fagin's pub with Ahern. There, with scores of delighted patrons looking on, the president stood at the wooden bar and took a few sips of Bass ale.

In remarks to about 40 female Irish politicians at a women-only reception, Mrs. Clinton pledged to raise the profile of women worldwide when she takes office Jan. 3 in the U.S. Senate.

"I hope to create opportunities for women's voices to be heard," she said.

After heading to Belfast late Tuesday night, Clinton today will address the Northern Ireland Assembly, the power-sharing government now in danger of collapse. He will also hold a private meeting with David Trimble, the first minister who is under pressure by fellow Ulster Unionists to pull out of the assembly to protest the IRA's failure to disarm.

The president will have tea with Queen Elizabeth on Thursday and give an address on global development at Warwick University before departing for Washington.

Aides denied reports in local newspapers that said Clinton had already decided to become a special envoy in Northern Ireland after he leaves office. But the president has said repeatedly that he intends to remain active in the world's trouble spots, albeit in a way that does not interfere with his successor.

"I think the new president, whoever it may be, will want to have a new team in place, and I will support that," the president told reporters in Dublin. "I want to support whatever decisions the new administration makes on foreign policy. And if I can be a resource, I will. If I can ever help the Irish, of course I will."

Throughout his visit Tuesday, Clinton was hailed as a peacemaker. "Peace can never be the product of just one man but, Mr. President, your leadership, your vision and your commitment have made an incredible difference," Joan McGuinness, a local businesswoman, told him. "We know it would not have happened without you."

GRAPHIC: Photos: 1. Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, left, and President Clinton join in celebration after Clinton's speech Tuesday in Dundalk, Ireland (b/w); 2. First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton addresses women leaders Tuesday in Dublin during the first family's visit to Ireland. President Clinton will visit Belfast today (b/w); 3. President Clinton samples a pint on Tuesday at the Guinness brewery in Dublin, during an unprecedented third Ireland trip (color, p. 1); Photos by Associated Press

Copyright 2000 Newspaper Publishing PLC
The Independent (London)
December 13, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 3

LENGTH: 1308 words

HEADLINE: WITH SMILES AND WARM HANDSHAKES, CLINTON TRIES TO VANQUISH THE PEACE PROCESS DEMONS

BYLINE: Mary Braid In Dundalk

BODY:

"DUNDALK," CIAN McCrave suddenly shouted from his pushchair, and followed that contribution, precocious enough for someone just 18 months old, with a few little cries of "Bill Clinton", and a wave of a miniature US flag.

In the main square of the border town of Dundalk, Cian's mother, Aideen, 35, yesterday explained how Cian's sister Sarah, six, decked from head to toe, like her brother, in the stars and stripes, is also mad about America's president.

"Sarah has just said 'Mammy, I am a great fan of Billy Clinton'," laughed Mrs McCrave, as she watched the square, just a few miles from the British Army's high border watchtowers, being tarted up for the unexpected honour of a Clinton visit. "A lot of people are afraid to visit Dundalk because of its violent reputation, so Clinton visiting is like Santa coming early. It will be remembered for 100 years."

In the United States, Bill Clinton's political legacy still bitterly divides opinion. By contrast, most of Ireland seemed to be in love with the President yesterday. A perfect choice then for Clinton's final foreign trip in a foreign-policy dominated presidency. From the moment he bounded down the steps of Air Force One in Dublin, followed by Hillary and Chelsea, to make his usual warm, lingering

handshakes and begin his quest to vanquish "lingering demons" in the peace process, his welcome was uniformly rapturous.

Despite constant, heavy rain, it endured through formal meetings in Dublin, a pint of the black stuff at the Guinness centre, a reception attended by 2,000 people - including the Nobel laureate Seamus Heaney and political leaders Gerry Adams and John Hume - shopping at Blarney Woollen Mills, and the final arrival after dark in Dundalk.

As the First Family stepped from their limousines for their unscheduled shopping trip in Nassau Street, construction workers poised on ladders and scaffolding nearby let out good-natured wolf-whistles, which the President's wife and daughter rewarded with broad smiles and waves.

They spent about half an hour - and IRpounds 200 (pounds 155) - inside the shop. Mr Clinton bought a traditional-style fisherman's jumper, two silk ties and some Waterford Crystal ornaments before being driven out of the rainswept city.

"The President is a very friendly man," said one of the shop assistants.

President Clinton is on a three-day trip to the Irish Republic, Northern Ireland and London. Despite the considerable contribution of its own politicians to the peace process, south of the border at least, it is the President who is credited with breathing life into the peace talks and pushing Ireland on to the international political stage long before it was fashionable to do so.

Clinton's enemies of course will explain his pre-visit offer to serve as a future Irish peace envoy as a desperate jobs pitch by a man who must come to terms with not being the most powerful being on the planet. Cynics will suggest the final Irish visit - the third since he took office - is just a last-ditch attempt, fuelled by vanity, to salvage a lasting foreign-policy success from his presidency.

In yesterday's Irish Times the columnist Fintan O'Toole described Clinton, however compromised at home, as "the best US president Ireland ever had." Peter Mandelson, Britain's Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, pitched in, describing Clinton as "a one-off ... a cross between a thoroughly charming and charismatic human being and a political computer."

In Dundalk, Phil Lynch, Cian and Sarah McCrave's grandfather, put Clinton's appeal very simply. "The others (US presidents) paid lip service," he said. "President Clinton actually cares. He knows more about Ireland than I know about the country myself."

Mr Lynch insisted that despite the latest doldrums in the peace process, and a resurgence in sectarian violence, peace would triumph. "But I am worried about Clinton going," he said. "I don't think Bush will care as much." And though Mr Lynch insisted he did not really expect the President to conjure up another breakthrough this week, like everyone else he added the caveat that only Mr Clinton could work such magic.

During Mr Clinton's presidency, Ireland has prospered. The north has enjoyed its own boom and the Republic has the fastest growing economy in Europe. The fragile new peace has been hugely important. But subsequent American investment, personally encouraged by President Clinton, has helped Ireland enormously.

And nowhere more so than in Dundalk, infamous as the home of the Real IRA, the dissident republicans held responsible for the 1998 Omagh bomb. Dundalk's hardline republican reputation has made economic rejuvenation particularly difficult. Four local men were recently named on BBC television as the Omagh bombers.

And while 15,000 people from Dundalk marched against the bombers on the first anniversary of Omagh, shame by association lingers. Yesterday one teenage boy spat out the name of one of the alleged terrorists and said he could not wait to leave Dundalk behind.

On the road from Dublin to Belfast, Dundalk has a bypass. Until recently everyone used it. No-one wanted to visit a bleak, washed-up bolt hole for cross-border gunmen. People body-swerved, and so did business. Until, everyone tells you, Clinton came along. For everyone in Dundalk believes they have Clinton, and US investment, to thank for their new business park, shopping centres, and the sudden, unexpected chance, through the visit, to change its old reputation in front of the international media. "We were astounded he chose to come here," said one local business woman. "But we believe he picked us because he understands what we have suffered."

It's just a week since Dundalk found out that Mr Clinton would drop in during his last foreign visit. Aided by a vanguard of White House officials and security men, the town has seized the moment, hopeful for rehabilitation but still clinging to the black humour that saw it through its darkest years. The arrival of seven US helicopters last week brought out the town.

"The last time Dundalk saw seven helicopters land was when the British Army's radar went wrong and its soldiers landed on the wrong side of the border," joked Brian Harten, arts officer with Dundalk council. The helicopters have entered local folklore along with the dark-suited American security men who have since swamped the town. "It's the first chance people here have had to say 'I'm sorry but I'm busy just now with a secret service man'," said Mr Harten.

Mr Harten pulled together Ireland and Dundalk's best fiddlers and ceilidh bands to entertain Clinton last night. Dundalk's greatest musical export, The Corrs, could not make it although, Clinton, a Corrs fan, offered to fly the group in on Air Force One. His other special request was met - a rendition of his favourite ballad, "Danny Boy", by Brian Kennedy and eight local school children.

It was a sentimental song for a man the Irish feel very sentimental about.

It seemed a fitting goodbye. "I don't know much about politics," said Michelle Bellew, 24, a Dundalk hairdresser. "I just like him, despite Monica. You can't help warming to him." Like everyone else, she believed he actually cared.

At this latest precarious political juncture, Ireland desperately needs people who care. Dundalk is on the turn but it is easy to see how it could slip again, how boom could become bust. In Dublin, the comfortable middle classes, enjoying the fruits of new prosperity, tend to regard Northern Ireland as a "mad aunt in the attic", whose continuing instability threatens everything. On the border the desire for Irish reunification is more keenly felt. "I want to see the border come down," said Phil Lynch. "And when it does, President Clinton will have played his part."

GRAPHIC: President Clinton and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton arrive in; Dublin for the start of their three-day visit; Greeted by the Irish; President, Mary McAleese, second right, and her husband, Dr Martin; McAleese, second left; At a meeting with Bertie Ahern, Ireland's Prime Minister, in the Office of the Taoiseach in Dublin The US President shakes hands with well-wishers jostling for his attention during a visit to the; Guinness Brewery in the Irish capital yesterday Chris Ison/AP

Copyright 2000 The Irish Times
The Irish Times
December 13, 2000

SECTION: CITY EDITION; FRONT PAGE; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 401 words

HEADLINE: Like white-headed pint, Clinton worth the wait

BYLINE: By FRANK MCNALLY

BODY:

If Bill Clinton is short of work in his retirement years, he might consider a role as a walking Guinness advertisement.

He's smooth, goes down well with the Irish, and has a white head; all the whiter, he said himself, since he became involved with Northern Ireland. He's a lot warmer than a pint of Guinness, admittedly. But the other thing he has in common with the black stuff is that, like a proper pint, he can be slow arriving.

The world-famous brewery was a natural choice of venue on a day when Dublin raised a parting glass to the Clinton years, and plenty were raised and sunk during the wait for the President. We wondered if the White House spin doctors had raised last-minute objections when they realised the name of the venue.

First Watergate, Irangate, Monicagate, and now a US president was walking straight into... St James's Gate! But 1-1/2 hours behind schedule, the American wake for the Clinton presidency was under way.

Bertie Ahern began and ended his warm-up speech with a flourish, first welcoming the President to the "heart of the Liberties in the greatest city in the world" and urging Hillary Clinton to "give them

hell" in her new role as senator.

In between, the Taoiseach thanked the President for his unfailing support throughout the years of the peace process, recalling that the "talks about talks and meetings about meetings" had been so numerous that future historians would be "dizzy" following them. Having drunk pints for two hours, the audience knew how the historians would feel.

But when the Taoiseach told the President Ireland would never forget his efforts, the words were loudly applauded.

Then it was President Clinton's turn, for a short and bittersweet address in which he sought to explain how he became involved with Ireland. He considered a supernatural explanation: that he was haunted by the spirit of James Hoban, the Irishman who designed the White House.

He mentioned the obvious one: "Maybe it's because there are 45 million Americans and I was trying to get votes." And then, having drawn laughter from the cynics, he lowered his eyes and said: "The truth is, it seemed the right thing to do."

At one point, he even seemed to brush away a tear. It was probably just an itchy eyelid, but his farewell to Dublin was an occasion worthy of nostalgia. By the end of the afternoon, there wasn't a dry glass in the house.

Copyright 2000 The Irish Times
The Irish Times
December 13, 2000

SECTION: CITY EDITION; HOME NEWS; THE CLINTON VISIT; Pg. 8

LENGTH: 782 words

HEADLINE: A new era beckons but Clinton will be missed

There is business yet to be done, but there was an acknowledgement yesterday that the intensive engagement with Ireland by the world's most powerful politician is coming to an end, reports Mark Brennock, Political Correspondent

BODY:

It was another remarkable day in President Clinton's political and personal relationship with Ireland. Both Mr Ahern and President Clinton acknowledged an era was ending and another beginning. President Clinton responded to a question about his future role in Ireland by saying he would do anything he could to help, but that policy would be up to a new president. Mr Ahern concentrated on hard economics in his speech, implicitly recognising that in the absence of President Clinton's unique personal engagement, the future Ireland/US relationship may be dominated by business rather than emotional ties.

The Government decided weeks ago to use this visit to project Ireland's economic success story to an American audience. Tentative plans were discussed to have the President visit one of the high-tech US multinational operations in the State, before the Guinness Storehouse was settled on. The brewer's new hospitality venue is largely a shrine to one of Dublin's oldest products, but some clever scriptwriting work refocused the event as a tribute to the modern and burgeoning technology sector. This home of traditional industry was to become the centre of a digital business park, Mr Ahern said.

Mr Ahern told the audience - including US business people and a large number of US journalists - that Ireland is the place to be if you are a US technology multinational. The message was the same in Dublin and Dundalk: "Ireland has changed and changed very fast. We have a new economy and modern society."

He listed growth statistics and pointed to social partnership. He mentioned Dell, Gateway, Microsoft, Hewlett Packard, IBM and Intel, all of whom have substantial operations in Ireland. "Ireland has captured up to 10 per cent of all US Foreign Direct Investment into the EU in recent years, and up to 40 per cent of greenfield investment in electronics," he said.

Mr Ahern also acknowledged the end of an extraordinary period of US engagement in Irish affairs. He praised Mr Clinton's recognition "that the world is now one place" and the way he "helped shape and define America's responsibility in the world of today." Although he did not say so, there was an

implicit recognition that this global view may not be shared by a President George W Bush, who apart from trips across the Texas border into Mexico, has only travelled abroad on three occasions in his life.

Earlier yesterday morning, the Republic's female ministers, deputies and senators got to meet Hillary Clinton - the incoming Senator rather than the outgoing First Lady. Her speech to the invited gathering at the US ambassador's residence concentrated on the difficulties she said faced many women in elected roles. She announced a convention of women parliamentarians from throughout these islands, with further details to come in Belfast today.

President Clinton discussed international investment in Ireland with the Taoiseach, but inevitably, the peace process dominated their talks in Government Buildings yesterday morning. Today Mr Clinton has a final round of face-to-face talks with the Northern party leaders he has got to know so well, before holding what are seen as very important talks with Mr Blair.

Questioned by reporters at Government Buildings, he referred to a query regularly put: Why has he devoted so much time to Ireland? He listed a few possible explanations including some sentimental and historical reasons. He joked that it might have something to do with the 40 million Irish/American voters in the US. He concluded: "It just seemed the right thing to do."

Then he repeated his regular comment, guaranteed to make the general Irish public feel good about themselves. The progress made in the Irish peace process had had a major impact on peace processes in other countries, he maintained. "The Irish have proved that you can do this."

Mr Ahern spoke of how President Clinton had brought the authority of his office and his personal skills of negotiation and persuasion to the process. "You leave a legacy as a peacemaker and we'll never forget it in this country," he said.

And was that a tear the President wiped from his eye? Just as the Taoiseach spoke this line, Mr Clinton's right eye appeared to become watery and he rubbed, then wiped, at it with his hand.

This is President Clinton, the world's greatest political media performer, so we can't be sure. But it would have been an appropriate reaction. Mr Ahern's speech in the Guinness Storehouse was pitched at the future. But it also marked the end of eight extraordinary years in the relationship between Ireland and America, made possible by the personal commitment of a remarkable politician.

Copyright 2000 The Irish Times
The Irish Times
December 13, 2000

SECTION: CITY EDITION; HOME NEWS; THE CLINTON VISIT; Pg. 9

LENGTH: 407 words

HEADLINE: President arrives fashionably late to charm the crowds in Dundalk

BYLINE: By DEAGLAN DE BREADUN

DATELINE: DUNDALK

BODY:

President Clinton arrived fashionably late and the crowd was catatonic with cold when he got there.

But they came back to life when his motorcade rolled in. As the most powerful man in the world walked onstage, parents lifted up their children to see. There wouldn't be another day like this for a while and it would be long remembered.

They have long memories in Co Louth. Introducing the President, council chairman Pearse O'Hanrahan recalled that in 1842 Daniel O'Connell had addressed a crowd almost as large in the same square. Mr O'Hanrahan brought a smile to people's lips when he inadvertently called the guest of honour "President Hillary" instead of President Clinton.

This was his lap of honour, a sentimental journey to the land where he has some vague ancestral connection.

Nobody mentioned El Paso. Dundalk people don't take kindly to the reference. It's true that during the Troubles some pesky critters came south of the Border seeking refuge. But Cowboy Bill was a

different proposition and he was coming to a very different Dundalk.

No longer burdened with the overflow from the Troubles, Dundalk is riding the Celtic Tiger in style. "This is now a boom town," the President said.

Everyone was beaming: Hillary and Chelsea, Bertie Ahern and Celia Larkin, local man and Cabinet member Dermot Ahern. Special guests included former US Ambassador Jean Kennedy Smith and her successor Mike Sullivan wearing his trademark stetson. Gerry Adams shook hands with the President.

The crowd was extremely young. Perhaps more than any other town south of the Border, Dundalk has a major stake in preserving the Good Friday peace and last night's rally was a rare example of political leaders addressing a mass open-air audience of ordinary people on the bright prospects and persistent problems in the situation.

Clinton charmed the crowd: "It's great to be in the home town of the Corrs." Flattery was dispensed by the gallon about "your amazing Irish economy". Well-briefed as always, he listed notable people from Louth, including public servant T.K. Whitaker, Government Press Secretary Joe Lennon and The Irish Times Washington Correspondent Joe Carroll.

"It's a new day in Dundalk and a new day in Ireland", Bill said. If an Irish politician tried that, it would be seen as corny, but when the first citizen of the US says it, you want it to be true, you want to be caught up in the American enthusiasm.

Copyright 2000 The Irish Times
The Irish Times
December 13, 2000

SECTION: CITY EDITION; HOME NEWS; THE CLINTON VISIT; Pg. 10

LENGTH: 403 words

HEADLINE: Hero Bertie drinks toast at local

BYLINE: By EITHNE DONNELLAN

BODY:

"Good oul Bertie, bringing him to Drumcondra." The words of a regular in Fagan's lounge just before the US President arrived. Those within earshot cheered.

If Bertie wasn't a hero in his native Drumcondra on Dublin's northside already, he certainly was after taking the US President, First Lady and their daughter to his local for a drink.

Notice of the unscheduled stopover was short. Bar owner Mr Eamonn O'Malley said he only learnt of the possibility that Mr Clinton and his entourage would be dropping in, in the early morning.

The presence of uniformed and special branch gardai around the premises attracted attention, however, and by lunchtime, locals were gathering and rumours about whether the Clintons would call were rife.

The dilemma was whether to wait in the front bar or the lounge. Those who chose the lounge were the fortunate ones, for shortly after 4.30 p.m. Mr Clinton's limousine pulled up at the side door and his party entered with the Taoiseach, Mr Ahern, and his partner, Ms Celia Larkin.

Mr Clinton and his wife, Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton, moved about easily, shaking hands with customers as they walked towards the bar. Mr Clinton was served a glass of Carlsberg, Mr Ahern a pint of Bass, and Mrs Clinton, Ms Chelsea Clinton and Ms Celia Larkin drank spring water.

In 15 years of bar work, Mr Peter Roe never quite had a moment like this. To him fell the privilege of serving Mr Clinton and his entourage. "He said it was wonderful to be here and said this was a beautiful place," he said.

Mr Clinton shook hands with all the bar and kitchen staff. Ms Tina Kirwan, a kitchen assistant, was standing on a stool in the background when the President waved at her to come forward.

"I thought he was very down to earth to do that. He said he was pleased to meet me and I said I was pleased to meet him. I told him I had been watching him on television all morning and he said 'good for you'," she recalled.

Mr Eamonn O'Malley said he was absolutely thrilled to entertain Mr Clinton, even if the visit lasted less than 10 minutes. "If somebody told me a few days ago they would come to Fagan's I would not have believed it," he said.

Ms Simone Clifford from the Navan Road got to shake hands with Mr and Mrs Clinton. "They both gave very warm handshakes. I don't think it has actually hit me yet that I got to meet them. I suppose it will sink in later," she said.

Copyright 2000 The Irish Times
The Irish Times
December 13, 2000

SECTION: CITY EDITION; HOME NEWS; THE CLINTON VISIT; Pg. 12

LENGTH: 427 words

HEADLINE: US President leaves the Taoiseach standing

BYLINE: By TIM O'BRIEN

BODY:

Airforce One touched down at Dublin Airport at 8.24 a.m. yesterday - and then kept the Taoiseach standing on the tarmac for a further 36 minutes before President Clinton alighted.

The fleet, which consisted of Air Force One, Air Force Two, another aircraft carrying members of congress and senators and a back-up aircraft, arrived landed inside a tight security cordon which had been placed around the airport since midnight on Monday.

The cordon was enforced by 400 members of the Garda and airport police and by five United States Black Hawk and three Chinook helicopters.

A further two United States Marines' helicopters were on hand to ferry the presidential party from the airport.

The Garda helicopter hovered overhead.

The number of United States secret service men at the airport was not disclosed.

All aircraft movements at the airport were halted as Airforce One landed. The VIP welcoming party, which consisted of the Taoiseach Mr Ahern and his partner, Ms Celia Larkin, the Tanaiste, Ms Harney, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Cowen and his wife, Mary, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Ms Liz O'Donnell, and her husband, Michael, as well as others who had been waiting in the north terminal's executive suite, made their way out onto the airport tarmac.

Lighted table lamps and wood panelling were just visible through the windows of Airforce One, giving some indication of the comfort inside as the assembled dignitaries waited outside. And waited.

Just as unhappy memories of Boris Yeltsin at Shannon began to be revived, President Clinton appeared with the First Lady, Senator Hillary Clinton, and their daughter Chelsea. It was exactly 9 a.m.

The presidential party was greeted by the US ambassador to Ireland, Mr Michael Sullivan, who ascended the steps and returned to present the Clintons to the Taoiseach and other members of the welcoming party.

Mr Ahern shook the President's hand warmly, grasping him by the arm and went on to kiss both the First Lady and Chelsea Clinton on both cheeks.

Once the greetings were over Mr Ahern and Mr Clinton walked to the President's waiting helicopter, followed by the first family.

The welcoming session and transfer to the presidential helicopter from Airforce One took four minutes and 45 seconds.

The President's helicopter then took off for the US ambassador's residence in the Phoenix Park.

It was accompanied by the Chinooks.

Planes at the airport were delayed for up to 50 minutes during the arrival and departure of the presidential party.

Copyright 2000 The Irish Times
The Irish Times
December 13, 2000

SECTION: CITY EDITION; HOME NEWS; THE CLINTON VISIT; Pg. 13

LENGTH: 683 words

HEADLINE: Meeting of UK, Irish women in politics planned

BYLINE: By PATSY MCGARRY

BODY:

The First Lady, Mrs Hillary Clinton, has said she is planning to convene a gathering of the women parliamentarians in these islands.

She said she would be announcing further details in Belfast today, but she anticipated women from the Republic, Northern Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales attending, with US congresswomen as observers, would take part.

Speaking to women members of the Oireachtas at the US ambassador's residence in Dublin yesterday, she said she had found, in talking to women in Dublin, Belfast and London, that they "run into the same difficulties". They could "share experiences" at such a gathering, she said.

She recalled a conference in Montevideo, Uruguay, where women "from the far right and communist left" found they had many issues in common. She also felt it was a way of "ensuring women play a huge role in the peace process in Northern Ireland". There were "troublesome issues there", she said, which would need reconciliation to resolve.

From "noon January 3rd" she would be a senator, she told her audience, and she hoped to build on the relationships she had formed with women around the world over the past eight years. She believed there was "still a great deal of work to be done, even in the most advanced countries", where women were concerned.

There were "continuing challenges . . . in balancing home and work" as well as in dealing with double standards. In other countries, it was often a question of basic human rights. There was so much women in public life could learn from each other. There were 13 women in the new senate, she said, "13 out of 100". There had been nine women in the outgoing senate. With "so much rancour, it was refreshing to see how these nine women treated each other with respect. There was a "great need for a civil approach to public discourse". Mrs Clinton, who was accompanied by her daughter, Chelsea, was welcomed by Ms Jane Sullivan, the wife of the US ambassador, Mr Mike Sullivan. She was introduced by the Minister for Public Enterprise, Ms O'Rourke.

Ms O'Rourke described the group of about 40 present as Ireland's "very strong and prominent" women who had "gathered to salute a very great woman".

"Imagine," Ms O'Rourke said, "a campaign of 16 months! referring to Mrs Clinton's senate run. "And the nights awake - the horrendous times . . . and the horrid things said to you and planning what to say back; the heart-wrenching in the still of the night, and wondering why did I ever?"

She praised Mrs Clinton for undertaking such "a huge adventure" at "such personal risk", and for her work in education and her focus on children. She also praised her "for bringing your daughter here", adding, "your own tell you the truth".

Ms O'Rourke, reminding them that she used to be a teacher, quoted from Robert Frost's *The Road Less Travelled* "I took the one less travelled by, and that has made all the difference.

Ms Sullivan welcomed Mrs Clinton from "the white heat of New York politics" and quoted Herman Melville, from Mrs Clinton's book *It Takes a Village*, before introducing her as "the honourable Hillary Rod ham Clinton".

The senator-elect began by saying that listening to the introductions, she felt she was "recently departed and deeply loved". The Sullivans and Clintons had been friends "for more years than I care

to remember".

She recalled the day when the Sullivans' then teenage daughter caused a flutter at the governor's residence in Wyoming, where they were living. The girl had dyed her hair pink "or was it orange?" "This," she had said to her parents, indicating her technicolour head, "... this is a life crisis!"

She and Chelsea were very happy to be here, she said, though Bill was "heartbroken he cannot play golf. I am convinced Bertie Ahern did it deliberately," and suggested the President would be back on January 22nd, two days after he left office, for a round of golf.

She thanked the women present who were wearing black suits "in solidarity". They "really do come in handy" she said, and meant you didn't have to worry every day what to wear.

Copyright 2000 The Irish Times
The Irish Times
December 13, 2000

SECTION: CITY EDITION; HOME NEWS; THE CLINTON VISIT; Pg. 13

LENGTH: 481 words

HEADLINE: The smiling survivor of White House hoopla
After a hard eight years, Chelsea Clinton must be having one relaxing Irish holiday. Tom McCann reports on the President's daughter

BODY:

The First Daughter stepped onto the tarmac in Dublin yesterday morning as silent and reserved as always, steeled for the endless line of dignitaries she would have to meet throughout the day.

But the relief was obvious. In one month she gets to hand over her title to a new set of presidential children, and with it the painfully intense public spotlight that has tortured her through family crises and gawky, frizzy-haired adolescence.

Let the Bush and Gore kids worry about that now. Chelsea is taking time out from school to enjoy her last days with a key to the White House and access to Air Force One.

Before Ireland, she went with her parents to Vietnam and met the Sultan of Brunei, and over the summer she served as a US ambassador to the Sydney Olympics.

The presidency has produced many messed-up children before her. But despite those pressures, the 20-year-old who has been a politician's daughter since the day she was born has somehow managed to grow up like any ordinary young woman.

She was born when Mr Clinton was governor of Arkansas and named after Hillary Clinton's favourite song, Chelsea Morning by folk singer Joni Mitchell.

When her high school began studying Islam, she invited her class to meet the King of Morocco. She had to hear public talk of her parents' infidelities at the age of 13.

"But she's very grounded, and I don't quite know how she did it," said presidential historian Gil Troy. "She strikes me as in many ways similar to the Johnson or Nixon girls - young women raised in the spotlight who were able to take a lot of the hoopla of White House with a grain of salt."

Not at all like Ronald Reagan's daughter, Patti Davis, he said, who wrote a spiteful book about her parents and posed nude for Playboy. "She seems unlikely to be a ne'er-dowell like the Franklin Roosevelt kids either."

Chelsea is to graduate from Stanford University in California this June. Once interested in a career as a paediatric cardiologist, she is now said to be considering postgraduate work at Oxford in economics.

She took her autumn semester off to take on the hectic schedule of her mother's New York Senate race. For hours, Chelsea sat quietly in the corner reading books as the campaign bus travelled the state. At each stop, she dutifully shook hundreds of hands, endlessly saying "thank you for coming" and "we need your vote".

"There comes a time in many women's lives when we start wondering if we can ever make it up to

our mothers for what we owe them," said New York Times columnist Gail Collins. "It is entirely possible that Chelsea has evened the score."

This is Chelsea's first official trip to Ireland. But in 1997, she visited Clare with a friend, and she has obviously made more unpublicised visits here.

Yesterday the Taoiseach said she promised last September to bring her parents back to Ireland again soon.

Copyright 2000 MGN Ltd.
The Mirror
December 13, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 4, 5

LENGTH: 638 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON'S PEACE VISIT: PUSH ON FOR PEACE

BYLINE: James Hardy Political Editor, In Dublin

BODY:

PRESIDENT Clinton breezed into Ireland yesterday and challenged republican paramilitaries to lay down their arms and join the search for peace.

Clinton, on his final visit to Ireland as president, chose Dundalk - the home of the Real IRA - to drive home his message last night.

Tens of thousands of people turned out to hear him appeal to them to keep the peace process going.

During speeches throughout the day, he said: "Nobody wants to go back to the troubles. There are a few hills we still have to climb and we will figure out how to do that.

"We have to keep going. I don't think a reversal is an option.

"The people want this to go on and the leaders have to find a way through the last three or four difficult issues. I think it can be done."

In remarks directly aimed at the Real IRA he said: "People can see the benefits of peace and my message to those parties who are not involved in the process is that they ought to join."

The Real IRA, made up of renegade republican terrorists, has refused to lay down its arms and is threatening a pre-Christmas bombing campaign in a bid to wreck the peace process.

Mr Clinton insisted negotiations had made too much progress to be thrown away.

He spoke movingly of his desire for peace in Ireland and the reasons he became so closely involved.

"I care a lot about this. I want you to know people around the world look to you and draw courage from what you do."

Clinton went on: "When I first started my involvement with the Irish peace process, to put it charitably, half of the political experts in my country thought I had lost my mind.

"And some of the all night sessions I had making phone calls backward and forwards through the whole night, after about the third time I thought, to put it charitably, I had lost my mind."

"One of the things I will most cherish about the eight years I have been American president is I had the chance to put a mark on the side of peace, dignity and equality of opportunity for all the people in both communities. I don't know how I hoped to have such good fortune and even if it did give me a few more grey hairs I am still grateful that I did. Good luck and stay with it."

Clinton, who will meet Tony Blair today, flew into Dublin with wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea. They were whisked to the city by helicopter and a meeting with President Mary McAleese.

Afterwards Clinton met Irish Premier Minister Bertie Ahern. Then it was on to Dublin's world-famous Guinness factory where the guests included republican leaders Gerry Adams and Martin

McGuinness.

The Sinn Fein chiefs were greeted with a kiss from Hillary, who beamed with pleasure as she pecked them on the cheek.

The show of intimacy would have been unthinkable only a few years ago.

For the first three years of his presidency, Clinton would not be photographed in public even shaking hands with Adams.

Later, it was to the border town of Dundalk, halfway between Dublin and Belfast, where stars and stripes were hanging in almost every shop window. Businesswoman Joan McGuinness praised Clinton's involvement.

She said: "It's wonderful to see how the town has thrived and prospered in the last few years. It's wonderful to feel the spirit of optimism."

Last night relatives of the Omagh bomb victims predicted that Clinton would ban Real IRA fund-raising in the US. Michael Gallagher, whose son Adrian died in the August 1998 blast, said: "We are pleased that the President and the First Lady are taking a continuing interest."

"But America, no matter who is President, must make sure that the Real IRA and its supporters cannot raise money to help them commit similar atrocities in the future." Relatives hope for an announcement from the president before he leaves tomorrow.

j.hardy@mirror.co.uk

GRAPHIC: SONG OF PEACE: President Bill Clinton, wife Hillary and daughter, Chelsea join in a song with local youngsters in Dundalk; VIP: Chelsea; Clinton waves to crowds

Copyright 2000 MGN Ltd.
The Mirror
December 13, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 4, 5

LENGTH: 1018 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON TRIBUTE: SOUVENIR ISSUE: IT WAS STANDING ROOM ONLY IN FAGAN'S PUB..THE TAOISEACH, PRESIDENT AND THE SENATOR. THE ONLY ONE MISSING WAS THE QUEEN OF ENGLAND

BYLINE: Ken Foxe And James Hardy

BODY:

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton dropped unannounced into Bertie Ahern's local last night - and ordered a glass of lager.

Mr Clinton stunned regulars and staff at the packed Fagan's bar in Drumcondra on the way to an engagement in Dundalk.

Punters clapped, cheered and shook hands with the President and his senator-elect wife Hillary as the Taoiseach looked on, unable to hide his delight.

One onlooker said: "We've got the Taoiseach, the President and the Senator.

"The only one missing is the good old Queen of England."

Bar owner Eamonn O'Malley said he had a phone call out of the blue yesterday morning asking if the President could visit.

He said: "I told them I'd be thrilled, absolutely delighted. I couldn't believe it."

The swift half happened during Mr Clinton's last official visit to Ireland before he steps down as President of the United States.

As Air Force One touched down in Dublin at 8.24am yesterday, Mr Clinton knew he was in for a rousing reception.

And he, Hillary and daughter Chelsea were not disappointed.

From Dublin Airport he flew by the presidential Marine One helicopter to Phoenix Park, where he landed by the Papal Cross, built to commemorate the visit of Pope John Paul 2 in 1979.

As always, his schedule was slightly delayed.

He enjoyed breakfast with President Mary McAleese before heading off to Government Buildings for a public address.

There Mr Clinton told the crowd: "I care a lot about this. I've had a special interest in the peace process.

"So I thought maybe if I came back I could help a little, and I hope I can."

As Mr Clinton spoke, the great and the good of Irish politics gathered just a mile away.

Former Taoisaigh John Bruton and Albert Reynolds were flanked by almost every TD and Senator in the land.

A rousing ovation began as Mr Clinton entered the new Guinness storehouse in St James' Gate.

There he was ushered up to the Gravity Bar, an elevated, glass-walled enclosure at the Guinness Storehouse visitor centre, to pay homage to the stout - and lay to rest rumours that he had snubbed the world's most famous pint on earlier visits.

And Mr Clinton, master of the common touch, did not disappoint, downing the hallowed pint with gusto, Guinness officials reported.

Then the handshakes began in earnest. Each and every TD and Senator who could make it had their turn.

Bill's famous arm-on-the-shoulder handshake was reserved for a chosen few - people such as Dick Spring and Gerry Adams, and the more attractive members of the female political set.

But skilled though he is, his wife Hillary may well be a greater mistress of this political art.

She looked radiant and her eyes lit up at every word as she stood beside the Taoiseach's partner Celia Larkin.

Even Liam Lawlor got his turn to meet the President, despite his imminent appearance at the Flood Tribunal.

After a brief chat Mr Lawlor left to make his way to Dublin Castle.

Upstairs, other businessmen and public figures were waiting.

Mr Clinton arrived to yet more deafening applause.

Taoiseach Bertie Ahern was first to speak, extending his thanks in the "greatest city in the world".

He added: "In the eight years of your presidency, Ireland has changed and changed very fast."

Mr Ahern said Mr Clinton's legacy was in his work for the peace process. He said: "And we'll never forget it in this country. Every time we needed you, you had time to make a call."

Mr Clinton replied: "I am delighted to be back here in Ireland."

He said he was infected with the spirit of the country and that was why he had helped.

An ivy plant in the Oval Office had been given to former President JF Kennedy many years before.

Mr Clinton joked: "Maybe I got the political equivalent of poison ivy."

"It just seemed to me the right thing to do. Hillary and Chelsea said yes. And I said a grateful yes."

He said he thought he had "lost his mind" at one stage for getting involved.

But Mr Clinton said that despite a few extra grey hairs he believed his country had in "some tiny way" repaid its debt to Ireland.

Already running late, Mr Clinton had just half-an-hour to tuck into oysters and Guinness in the Gravity bar overlooking the capital.

And then, like a will o' the wisp, he was gone again, his cavalcade making slow progress along Thomas Street towards the city centre.

A planned walkabout in the Liberties never materialised, and the most exercise the President managed was a trip to Blarney Woollen Mills at the famous Ha'penny Bridge.

As traffic backed up in central Dublin, Clinton's anxious security men fought to keep an enthusiastic crowd from mobbing him.

"Get back, get back on the sidewalk. Back on the sidewalk," one guard shouted.

But he was swiftly corrected by a good-natured horde of Dubliners exercising their traditional right to undermine authority.

"What the hell is a sidewalk?" said one. "It's a pavement, a pavement. We're only getting back on the pavement. And only if you ask us nicely." The guard duly obliged with a huge grin.

An Aran jumper later, Mr Clinton was off to Fagan's pub in Drumcondra for the epitome of the flying visit.

He ordered a glass of beer, took a sip and left no more than 90 seconds after arriving.

From there, it was on to his last engagement in Dublin, a dinner at the Ambassador's Residence in Phoenix Park.

But the trip may have left a lasting impact.

Political leaders were at one in the belief that this could prove positive for peace in Ireland.

Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams said: "It's a great day for this island.

"He has always been very even-handed and encouraging. The legacy that Bill Clinton left in the White House will not disappear."

John Hume said he hoped the visit could spur some momentum into the faltering peace process.

Former Taoiseach Albert Reynolds said if anybody had the skills to help, it was President Clinton.

He said: "He always delivers a powerful message."

Labour's Ruairi Quinn said Sinn Fein and the IRA should respond to the President's efforts.

GRAPHIC: EN ROUTE: The President's car sweeps through Dublin; GOOD CRAIC:; Hillary Clinton watches as her husband gives a high five to a barmaid at, Taoiseach Bertie Ahern's local, Fagan's pub, in Drumcondra; STOUT FELLOW:; Bill Clinton tucks into a pint of Guinness; DELIGHTED: Chelsea Clinton waves to fans

Copyright 2000 MGN Ltd.
The Mirror
December 13, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 3

LENGTH: 221 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON TRIBUTE: SOUVENIR ISSUE: HILLARY KISS FOR SINN FEIN LEADERS

BYLINE: James Hardy

BODY:

HILLARY Clinton greeted republican leaders Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness with a kiss in an amazing public display of affection yesterday.

The US First Lady beamed with pleasure as she pecked both Sinn Fein chiefs on the cheek during a 25 minute visit to Dublin's world-famous Guinness brewery.

The show of intimacy would have been unthinkable only a few years ago.

For the first three years of his presidency Bill Clinton would not be photographed in public even shaking hands with Mr Adams.

Yesterday Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness were the only people met with a kiss from the senator-elect.

Mr Clinton also greeted both men warmly - but his message throughout the day was deadly serious.

In a speech he said: "Nobody wants to go back to the Troubles. There are a few hills we still have to climb and we will figure out how to do that.

"The people want this to go on and the leaders have to find a way through the last three or four difficult issues. I think it can be done."

In remarks directly aimed at the Real IRA he said: "People can see the benefits of peace and my message to those parties who are not involved in the process is that they ought to join."

Mr Clinton will today meet British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Ulster's political leaders for detailed talks in Belfast.

GRAPHIC: KISS: Martin McGuinness; PECK: Gerry Adams kisses Hillary

Copyright 2000 MGN Ltd.
The Mirror
December 13, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 1

LENGTH: 75 words

**HEADLINE: CLINTON'S PEACE VISIT: ALE TO THE CHIEFS;
BILL & BERTIE POP IN FOR A QUICK PINT**

BYLINE: James Hardy

BODY:

PRESIDENT Clinton and Irish Premier Bertie Ahern stunned pub boozers last night when they popped in for a pint.

Clinton, along with wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea, joined regulars in Ahern's Dublin local.

The president - in Ireland on a peace mission - supped a lager while shaking hands and chatting with punters in Fagan's Bar.

Pub owner Eamonn O'Malley said: "Clinton shook hands with everybody in the bar and they cheered."

GRAPHIC: CHEERS: Clinton and Ahern stunned pub regulars

Copyright 2000 Southam Inc.
The Ottawa Citizen
December 13, 2000 Wednesday FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. A9

LENGTH: 577 words

HEADLINE: Clinton farewell tour hits Ireland: 'Stand up for peace,' president tells hosts

BYLINE: Bruce Wallace
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
DATELINE: DUNDALK, Ireland

BODY:

Quoting Irish poets and rock stars, Bill Clinton bid a sentimental farewell to the Irish Republic last night, imploring the thousands gathered in Dundalk's Market Square "to stand up for peace today, tomorrow and the rest of your lives."

His eloquent exhortation delivered in this economically revived town near the border with Northern Ireland capped a day of bows for the U.S. president, who made the search for a lasting Irish peace settlement a cornerstone of his foreign policy.

He may find a somewhat less rapturous reception today when he visits Belfast, where Unionists, mostly Protestant, remain suspicious of his obvious ease in the company of republican leaders, largely Catholic, such as Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams.

They will not have been soothed by the images yesterday of the friendly clutch and exchange of laughs at stage-side between Mr. Clinton and Mr. Adams, leader of the political wing of the Irish Republican Army.

But there was no questioning Mr. Clinton's popularity in this town which has reaped perhaps more benefits from the peace process than any other. Patiently waiting for over three hours in the chill night air, they cheered every wave from Mr. Clinton, wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea.

In turn, Mr. Clinton told them they were "proof of the fruits of the wisdom of peace."

As the closest border town to the turbulent Northern Ireland county of South Armagh, Dundalk suffered from its nasty reputation during the worst days of the Troubles as a sanctuary for terrorists who found it an easy hop to safety after a hit in Northern Ireland.

Next week, residents plan to lay a plaque to two men killed in a bombing 25 years ago at Kay's Bar, a few metres down the road from where Mr. Clinton spoke.

Since the Good Friday peace agreement was signed, U.S. investment has made Dundalk an information technology boomtown.

In his patented folksy charm, Mr. Clinton said of his long sojourn into the peace talks: "I have often wondered how I got involved in all this."

Speaking before Mr. Clinton, businesswoman Anne McGuinness recalled the days when "if you joined the ranks of the unemployed, it was almost impossible to see your way out.

"I don't think any of us realized how much we had been held back, how oppressive that atmosphere of violence was," she said.

It was Dundalk's extraordinary resurgence that Mr. Clinton chose to celebrate on this valedictory trip, and the town's residents turned out to thank him for it. "Some of the smartest businessmen in the world are confident it will last," he told the crowd.

"I ask you to protect this progress, cherish it and build on it."

But Dundalk is not entirely free of its past. Some of the men suspected of carrying out the 1998 Omagh bombing that killed 29 people also live there. The perception remains that the town is the cockpit of dissident republicanism.

It was suggested Mr. Clinton might certify dissident republican groups such as the Real IRA and Continuity IRA as terrorist organizations, making it more difficult for them to raise funds in the United States.

But he did not deliver. His anti-violence message were restricted to coded admonishments, such as warning that, "You cannot win by making your neighbour lose."

It was left to Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern to use tougher language, declaring to those still bent on violence that the Irish people "totally reject the tiny minority who seek to destroy peace."

GRAPHIC: Black & White Photo: The Associated Press ; U.S. President, Bill Clinton hoists a pint during a visit to the Guinness, headquarters in Dublin.

Copyright 2000 Southam Inc.
The Ottawa Citizen
December 13, 2000 Wednesday EARLY EDITION

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. A9

LENGTH: 596 words

HEADLINE: 'Stand up for peace': Clinton to Irish: President's warm welcome to Ireland may not be replicated today in Ulster

BYLINE: Bruce Wallace

SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen

DATELINE: DUNDALK, Ireland

BODY:

Quoting Irish poets and rock stars, Bill Clinton bid a sentimental farewell to the Irish Republic last night, imploring the thousands gathered in Dundalk's Market Square "to stand up for peace today, tomorrow and the rest of your lives."

His eloquent exhortation delivered in this economically revived town near the border with Northern Ireland capped a day of bows for the U.S. president, who made the search for a lasting Irish peace settlement a cornerstone of his foreign policy.

He may find a somewhat less rapturous reception today when he visits Belfast, where Unionists, mostly Protestant, remain suspicious of his obvious ease in the company of republican leaders, largely Catholic, such as Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams.

They will not have been soothed by the images yesterday of the friendly clutch and exchange of laughs at stage-side between Mr. Clinton and Mr. Adams, leader of the political wing of the Irish Republican Army.

But there was no questioning Mr. Clinton's popularity in the town of 30,000, which has reaped perhaps more benefits from the peace process than any other. Jammed into the square and patiently waiting for over three hours in the chill night air, they cheered every wave from Mr. Clinton, wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea.

In turn, Mr. Clinton told them they were "proof of the fruits of the wisdom of peace."

As the closest border town to the turbulent Northern Ireland county of South Armagh, Dundalk suffered from its nasty reputation during the worst days of the Troubles as a sanctuary for terrorists who found it an easy hop to safety after a hit in Northern Ireland.

It also saw some trouble of its own. Next week, residents plan to lay a plaque to two men killed in a bombing 25 years ago at Kay's Bar, a few metres down the road from where Mr. Clinton spoke.

Since the Good Friday peace agreement was signed, American investment in particular has poured into Dundalk, turning it into an information technology boomtown.

Speaking before Mr. Clinton, businesswoman Anne McGuinness recalled the days when "if you joined the ranks of the unemployed, it was almost impossible to see your way out.

"I don't think any of us realized how much we had been held back, how oppressive that atmosphere of violence was," she said.

It was Dundalk's extraordinary resurgence that Mr. Clinton chose to celebrate on this valedictory trip, and the town's residents turned out to thank him for it. "Some of the smartest businessmen in the world are confident it will last," he told the crowd.

"I ask you to protect this progress, cherish it and build on it."

But Dundalk is not entirely free of its past. Some of the men suspected of carrying out the 1998 Omagh bombing that killed 29 people also live there. The perception remains that the town is the cockpit of dissident republicanism.

It was suggested Mr. Clinton might certify dissident republican groups such as the Real IRA and Continuity IRA as terrorist organizations, making it more difficult for them to raise funds in the United States.

But he did not deliver. His anti-violence message were restricted to coded admonishments, such as warning that, "You cannot win by making your neighbour lose."

It was left to Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern to use tougher language, declaring to those still bent on violence that the Irish people "totally reject the tiny minority who seek to destroy peace."

In his patented folksy charm, Mr. Clinton said of his long sojourn into the peace talks: "I have often wondered how I got involved in all this."

GRAPHIC: Black & White Photo: The Associated Press ; U.S. President, Bill Clinton hoists a pint in the Gravity Bar at the Guinness, company's headquarters. Mr. Clinton had a warm greeting for Sinn, Fein leader Gerry Adams, a fact that may chill his reception when he, meets Unionist leaders in Belfast today.

**Copyright 2000 Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service
Knight Ridder/Tribune News Service
The Philadelphia Inquirer**

December 13, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

KR-ACC-NO: K3536

LENGTH: 995 words

HEADLINE: Clinton, in Ireland, tries a parting shot in peacemaker role

BYLINE: By Andrea Gerlin

BODY:

DUNDALK, Ireland _ Trying to buttress the troubled truce in Northern Ireland, President Clinton reminded thousands of cheering people in this reputed Irish Republican stronghold that peace brings prosperity.

Clinton was greeted by 20,000 people who braved chilly, raw weather to welcome the president on his third trip to Ireland. He told them the economic boom now taking place in Dundalk is "proof of the fruits and wisdom of peace." Ireland's economic turnaround has made it the fastest growing industrialized nation and put it ahead of the U.S. as the world's largest software exporter.

Recalling the day two years ago when thousands of Dundalk residents filled the same streets to protest a terrorist bombing in Omagh that killed 29 people, Clinton told the townspeople no one would win by making others lose _ especially at a time the ground-breaking Good Friday agreement appears imperiled.

"You stared violence in the face and said, no more," he said. "You stood up for peace then, and I ask you, stand up for peace today, tomorrow and the rest of your lives."

"We know violence suffocates opportunity. We know in the end, there can be no full justice without jobs. Fortunately, the Irish had the courage to grasp the chance for peace and the new beginning."

At the end of his speech, the Irish singer Brian Kennedy joined Clinton, his wife, Hillary, and daughter Chelsea on the platform for a rendition of "Danny Boy." Then the president stepped out in the crowd to shake hands and hug the throng of admirers, including a group of schoolgirls who nearly crashed a barrier while yelling, "We want Bill."

The atmosphere was festive amid tight security, with uniformed Irish Garda police and Secret Service agents interspersed throughout the crowd and atop buildings surrounding the town square.

Tommy McDonnell, owner of Tommy the Bikes Outdoor World off the square, was hoping that the Clintons would stop by to shop, but they arrived nearly two hours late and had already gone Christmas shopping _ mainly for Irish sweaters _ earlier in the day in Dublin. McDonnell, echoing Irish leaders, had only praise for Clinton and the role that he and the U.S. have played in helping to

revitalize Ireland during his two terms.

Referring to Clinton's Irish heritage, he said, "I certainly would vote for him if he were to run for president of Ireland."

Out in the square were more Clinton fans. Maureen Marmion, a Dundalk native, said that Clinton had done a lot for Ireland, north and south. She said she hoped that his visit here would improve the town's image as the home to republican extremists.

"We got bad publicity after the Omagh bombing," she said. "We're not all republicans living in Dundalk."

On the first leg of a three-day trip, Clinton publicly sidestepped the sensitive question of whether the U.S. would honor a request from the British and Irish governments to brand a splinter group called "the Real IRA" a terrorist group so that it would be unable to raise money in the U.S. The group has claimed responsibility for the Omagh bombing and several of its leaders live in Dundalk.

White House National Security Adviser Samuel R. Berger, traveling with the president, said that Clinton would not address the issue during the trip because the government must follow a legal procedure before designating any group as terrorists, who would be subject to greater scrutiny by law enforcement agencies. However, Berger said that legal process is "under active consideration."

He also dispelled speculation that a breakthrough was imminent in the impasse between pro-British Ulster Unionists and Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, whose leaders Clinton will meet Wednesday.

Speaking to reporters before a morning meeting with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, Clinton said he would try to do what he could to help in the talks because "I don't think reversal is an option."

Earlier in the day, Clinton met with Irish President Mary McAleese and Prime Minister Bertie Ahern in Dublin. Clinton and Ahern discussed demilitarization and police reform in Northern Ireland, two thorny issues that have left the Ulster Unionists and Sinn Fein at loggerheads, Berger said.

Clinton and Ahern went to a Guinness brewery in Dublin, where Clinton greeted Irish lawmakers and business leaders. The president shook hands with Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness of the Sinn Fein party, which is linked to the Irish Republican Army.

While introducing Clinton, Ahern reminded the audience of the turn in Ireland's economy.

Ireland, he said, has enjoyed seven straight years of growth, at the rate of 9 percent for the last three years. He attributed much of it to massive American investment. American companies such as Gateway, Microsoft, Hewlett-Packard, IBM and Intel are responsible for 27 percent of foreign investment in Ireland. Xerox came to Dundalk two years ago and created 1,000 jobs since then.

The trip was Clinton's third and last to Ireland during his presidency. He said he would be glad to remain involved in Ireland as a negotiator if the next administration asks him.

"If I can be a resource, I will," Clinton told reporters.

His most immediate opportunity to address the current impasse will come Wednesday. In the morning, he meets with leaders of the key political parties, including Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble and Sinn Fein leader Adams, at the Northern Ireland Assembly at Stormont.

He will give an address at the Odyssey Center in the afternoon and depart for England, where the first family will have dinner and spend the night with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his family at Chequers.

The president will have tea with the Queen on Thursday morning and give an address on global development at Warwick University in the afternoon before departing for Washington.

(c) 2000, The Philadelphia Inquirer.

Visit Philadelphia Online, the Inquirer's World Wide Web site, at <http://www.philly.com/>

December 13, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: HOME NEWS

LENGTH: 556 words

HEADLINE: FIRST LADY TELLS OF PEACE HOPE

BYLINE: Nick Sommerlad, PA News

BODY:

Elected New York Senator and First Lady Hillary Clinton today called on the people of Northern Ireland to seize the chance for peace.

She described the role she and the outgoing president had played in the peace process as a "small, small part" but one that brought them "great joy".

And she vowed she would remain an "advocate and friend" of Northern Ireland after she takes her seat in the US Senate.

She was speaking at a conference in Belfast on Women Raising their Voices for the New Northern Ireland.

She said: "Building peace anywhere is never easy and there are always people who are the self-appointed doom-sayers, who would rather throw up their hands than roll up their sleeves.

"There always come times when it is just easier to go back ... But none of us can afford to let that happen.

"All of our problems are of our own making and so our solutions are of our own making as well.

"This is one of those special moments when you have the chance to defy generations of hatred.

"And that is why I come once again to Belfast, filled with hope and certitude that this moment will be seized."

She said: "This trip is a particularly bitter-sweet time for my husband and myself.

"We have been delighted and honoured, challenged and perplexed by our work on your behalf.

"Nothing has given us greater joy than to be a small part of such a great historic change as you have brought about.

"Despite the obstacles that remain, the Good Friday Agreement is working and for the first time in 30 years politicians and people are sitting across tables working out the knotty problems that democracy bring."

She described working with the women of Ireland over the last five years as "one of the greatest privileges of my lifetime".

Mrs Clinton promised: "I will always be there as a friend and an advocate and a partner as you continue the hard, hard work of peace and reconciliation. There is not any more important work to be done."

Referring to activities of some members of the American delegation last night, she added: "One of the things I am looking forward to is letting down the mantel that goes with being First Lady and having a chance to attend the parties that start after I leave."

Sharing a stage with Cherie Booth QC and Daphne Trimble, both lawyers like herself, she commented: "That is one way some of us of a certain generation decided to have our own voices."

Ms Booth later told Mrs Clinton: "You have done so much throughout your time as First Lady to encourage women all over the world.

"And we all know your commitment to women here in Northern Ireland has been outstanding.

"There is sadness in the awareness that this is the last time we will greet you here as First Lady.

"But there is great joy to know that you have now achieved your own democratic legitimacy as you start your new role on the world stage as senator."

She added: "Today there really is a new Northern Ireland - it is not just a slogan.

"We are here at the start of a progressive and better era."

Women had a key role in laying the foundations of that peace she said and in the ongoing political institutions.

"Women still remain under-represented in Northern Ireland as indeed they do in the United Kingdom generally."

But she was confident that Northern Ireland's female politicians "will act as role models".

**Copyright 2000 The Press Association Limited
Press Association Newsfile**

December 13, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: HOME NEWS

LENGTH: 1093 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON'S MAGIC CASTS ITS FINAL SPELL

BYLINE: Alan Erwin, PA News

BODY:

The roars that greeted Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary on stage at the Odyssey Arena in Belfast today confirmed the US first couple's enduring popularity in Northern Ireland.

And as Stars and Stripes flags were unfurled the consummate politician even turned an isolated heckler's shouts to his advantage.

"Tell you what, I'll make you a deal. I'll listen to you if you let me finish," he replied to loud approval from the audience.

When the dissenter persisted, the president turned to the crowd and to loud cheers of approval promised to ignore the taunts if they did.

A snaking queue had gathered hours before Mr Clinton arrived at the venue.

The £91 million gleaming new home of the Belfast Giants ice hockey team was playing host to a true Colossus of the world stage, and the Northern Ireland public was anxious to be part of it.

Capacity in the arena had been increased to around 8,000, with extra seating installed on the boarded rink itself.

But perhaps the timber covers were an unnecessary move.

Given the warm, feel-good factor accompanying the president's visit it didn't seem unreasonable to assume the ice would have melted anyway. Even Stormont Assembly members joined in when a Mexican wave broke out as the excited crowd waited for the main attraction.

Finance Minister Mark Durkan said: "Rather a Mexican wave than a Mexican stand-off."

Outside, standing in a line, which stretched for several hundred yards, Maureen McShane was undeterred by the long wait.

"I would queue until tomorrow to see him," said the 38-year-old from the outskirts of south Belfast.

"He's done a lot for the peace process and he's very welcome here."

Ms McShane added that she was keen to get the opportunity to inspect the new Odyssey complex.

Caroline McDonald, 52, from Ballyclare, County Antrim spoke of it as an "historic" day for the province. She said: "The president didn't have to come here. It's the end of his (term in) office and it shows his continuing commitment to peace in Northern Ireland."

Although Mrs McDonald had her doubts about what Mr Clinton could achieve during his political discussions, she stressed that he could "create a desire among the public to do something."

For Sean Rafferty, principal of the Christian Brothers Secondary School on Belfast's Glen Road, taking his students to the Odyssey provided an opportunity to acknowledge America's economic impact on the next generation of Northern Ireland's workforce.

"Thirty years ago it was felt that all there was for the youth was emigration - the opportunity for employment wasn't there," he said.

"But American support in the peace process and investment changed all that. These are young people who can look forward to the prospect of good jobs with a future.

"A lot of that is down to the involvement of Bill Clinton, who has been a significant catalyst.

"These are 14 and 15-year-olds who, in 20 years time, can maybe look back and say that they were part of the beginning of something."

But among the teenagers waiting to get into the arena there was an element of cynicism.

Caroline Crawford, 18, an 'A' level politics student at Hunter House school in south Belfast, remained nonchalant about the whole event.

"I'm a fan of US politics, but not of Clinton as such," she said.

"I want to see him manipulate the crowd because it's all to do with personality and image."

Despite the lengthy queues the mood remained upbeat, prompted, no doubt by the bright sunshine which had replaced the grey early morning rain.

As the public stood outside the venue they were approached by a man handing out religious tracts emblazoned with the question 'why did he come?'

An evident reference to Jesus Christ rather than Bill Clinton, Robert O'Neill from Harryville Gospel Hall in Ballymena, County Antrim nevertheless couldn't resist exploiting the coincidence.

"The leaflets were specifically picked out because of the relevance to the president's visit," he said.

Cross-community school choirs from Belfast and Portadown, County Armagh, a drum ensemble and choral group had all earlier contributed to the festive feel.

For young Gavin Corrigan, a boy soprano with the Belfast School of Music Youth Choir, his excitement was tempered with nerves as he prepared to sing 'See the Baby Jesus' for the large crowd.

But the 12-year-old was determined not to be daunted, insisting: "I'd like to get Bill Clinton's autograph for my song sheet."

Then, of course, there was the effort of Belfast singer Brian Kennedy, who kept the largely youthful audience entertained with a string of his best known compositions.

Even the stage bore witness to the carefully choreographed theme of reconciliation. A backdrop declared: 'Belfast, Northern Ireland - the gateway to peace'.

Little did the public realise the level of planning that had gone into organising the Odyssey for the arrival of the US first family.

Work which continued through the night to set up the stage, sound system and media facilities meant

that by 10am virtually everything was in place for the mid afternoon event. One US official, based in Berlin but a veteran of all three Clinton trips to Northern Ireland, was sitting back waiting for the show to get underway.

"It's like a big roller coaster ride in the build-up and then woosh, it's over," he said.

He had just put reserve signs on 58 seats which were just to accommodate the White House press corps who had travelled.

In total, he estimated that some 900 media accreditation's had been issued for the two day Ireland visit.

Given the scale of Mr Clinton's trip to the landmark Odyssey sight, security was understandably tight.

Royal Ulster Constabulary officers and US Secret Service personnel ensured everyone was thoroughly checked on entry.

Prior guidance had warned that no baggage could be brought into the auditorium - not even handbags.

Referring to the presence of the White House minders a Northern Ireland Office official warned "There's no messing about with these guys."

"Everything's just black and white, so if you act up you're out."

But barring any dispute between the secret service and visitors breaching the strict access guidelines he couldn't foresee any difficulties.

"I suppose you've got to remember they have a responsibility for an individual," he added.

And while that individual may be marking time before his term in office comes to an end, given the excitement generated by his appearance today President Clinton's charisma remains unrivalled among modern statesmen.

Copyright 2000 Bergen Record Corp.

The Record (Bergen County, NJ)

[View Related Topics](#)

December 13, 2000, WEDNESDAY; ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. A23

LENGTH: 920 words

**HEADLINE: CLINTON FORESEES 'HILLS TO CLIMB IN NORTHERN IRELAND
URGES 2 SIDES NOT TO SHUN PEACE**

SOURCE: Wire services

BYLINE: SONYA ROSS, The Associated Press

DATELINE: DUNDALK, Ireland

BODY:

Seeking to hold together Northern Ireland's uneasy truce, President Clinton acknowledged Tuesday that there are "still a few hills to climb," and urged residents not to turn their backs on peace. "You cannot win by making your neighbor lose," he said.

Clinton opened his third and final visit to Ireland as president by fusing the political and the sentimental, telling a crowd numbering about 20,000 that the economic boom underway in Dundalk is "proof of the fruits and wisdom of peace."

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern pledged to resolve the differences that could jeopardize the fragile Good Friday peace accord.

"Peace is a living reality that few people would have thought possible. We firmly reject that tiny minority that seeks to destroy

it,"Ahern said."We will stay on course, no matter how long it takes."

At a time of unraveling Middle East peace efforts, Clinton is trying to shore up Northern Ireland's fragile truce between the Unionists, mostly Protestants, and the nationalists, mostly Catholic, to mark his place in history as a peacemaker.

Declaring "a new day in Dundalk and a new day in Ireland," Clinton stressed that none of the business investment, from giants such as Xerox Corp., now feeding Dundalk's prosperity would have happened had the Irish people failed to negotiate peace and allowed those who oppose it to prevail.

"We know violence suffocates opportunity," Clinton said. "Some fear the change won't last. But some of the smartest business people in the world are already betting that it will last.

"The past is history, not destiny," Clinton said. "Oh yes, there are still a few hills to climb. But you now know the value of peace."

The crowd, tightly packed and fanned across the town square in three directions, listened raptly to Clinton's speech. They stood in the cold for more than two hours awaiting his arrival from Dublin, entertaining themselves by dancing to tunes from Irish traditional bands.

When Clinton finally arrived late, after shopping and stopping at a pub on the outskirts of Dublin, they cheered wildly, many waving Old Glory and the orange, green, and white Irish flag. Irish singer Brian Kennedy serenaded him afterward with a rendition of "Danny Boy."

Earlier, Clinton told reporters in Dublin that he was willing to be "a resource" should his successor take up Northern Ireland as a foreign-policy priority.

"One of the things I will most cherish is that I had a chance to put America on the side of peace, and dignity, and equality and opportunity for all people in both communities in Northern Ireland," Clinton said.

"Even though it gave me a few more gray hairs, I'm still grateful that I did."

Ahern said Clinton's very presence in Ireland on Tuesday was helping the parties "to focus on, still, what are difficulties and to try to narrow down those difficulties."

They went together to a Guinness brewery in Dublin, where Clinton greeted Irish lawmakers and business leaders. The president shook hands with Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness of the Sinn Fein party, which is linked to the Irish Republican Army.

The Good Friday accords, approved in April 1998, proposed a joint Catholic-Protestant government for Northern Ireland. It took effect last December but is being threatened by claims that the IRA has failed to put away its weapons.

Last week, the IRA said it would move toward further disarmament only if Britain agreed to toughen its legislation reforming the overwhelmingly Protestant police force.

Dundalk, a town just south of the Northern Ireland border, is an IRA stronghold. Clinton's trip there was meant to emphasize the burgeoning U.S. investment that is helping the town recover from its losses during the troubles, as locals call the 30 years of political and sectarian violence that have left more than 3,600 people dead.

Dundalk has been a recruiting town for an IRA dissident group dubbed the Real IRA. The group claimed responsibility for a 1998 car bombing that killed 29 people in the town of Omagh, the worst terrorist strike in Northern Ireland's history.

The president took pains to avoid injecting himself directly in remaining disputes. For example, Clinton did not address the Real IRA issue during his visit.

"I think the president hopes that his presence here, his private conversations and his public dialogues with the people here, will remind them what's at stake," national security adviser Sandy Berger said.

Clinton was accompanied on the trip by his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, the senator-elect from New York, and their daughter, Chelsea.

In remarks to about 40 female Irish politicians at a women-only reception, Hillary Clinton pledged to raise the profile of women worldwide when she takes office Jan. 3. "I hope to create opportunities for women's voices to be heard," she said.

Clinton conferred Tuesday morning with Irish President Mary McAleese at her home in Dublin's 1,750-acre Phoenix Park.

Before traveling to Dundalk, the Clintons went shopping, drawing out curious onlookers in a driving rain. Dublin housewife Angela Smith greeted the president. "We said 'Happy Christmas and we wished him good luck with the peace,'" she said.

The president sampled beer at a pub on the outskirts of the city and shook hands with the crowd.

The president's three-day trip also included stops in London and in Belfast.

Copyright 2000, Telegraph-Herald
Telegraph Herald (Dubuque, IA)
December 13, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: Pg. b8

LENGTH: 723 words

HEADLINE: U.S. will not deport 9 IRA figures; Peace gesture?: Administration tries to give added boost to Clinton's visit

BYLINE: ASSOCIATED PRESS

DATELINE: CEDAR RAPIDS (AP)

BODY:

WASHINGTON (AP) - Trying to prop up the shaky Northern Ireland peace process in advance of President Clinton's trip there, the administration dropped efforts Monday to deport nine men whose convictions for Irish Republican Army paramilitary actions should have barred them from ever entering the United States.

"While in no way approving or condoning their past criminal acts," Clinton said, "I believe that removing the threat of deportation for these individuals will contribute to the peace process in Northern Ireland."

Air Force One took off Monday evening from Andrews Air Force Base in suburban Maryland carrying Clinton and an entourage that included first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, the senator-elect from New York, and their daughter, Chelsea.

Hours before Clinton left for his third visit to Ireland and Northern Ireland, Attorney General Janet Reno announced the decision. She acted at the request of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and

national security advisor Sandy Berger to "promote the process of reconciliation ... in Northern Ireland."

Irish Foreign Minister Brian Cowen praised the move as a step to "help those involved to lead more normal lives in the country they have lived in for a long time now."

Reno suspended deportation proceedings against six men and announced that the Immigration and Naturalization Service also would forego deportation proceedings against three others.

All nine had finished serving sentences ranging from 3 to 14 years, in Britain for crimes including murder and attempted murder, bombing and weapons offenses, before they came to the United States. But they illegally concealed those convictions to gain entry to this country, according to a federal law enforcement official who requested anonymity.

"The British and Irish governments have been consulted, and this action parallels their efforts to reintegrate former paramilitary prisoners into society," Reno said. All prisoners in Northern Ireland with similar convictions were released from prison as of July 30, according to a senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Clinton was traveling Monday night for a three-day visit to Ireland, Northern Ireland and Britain to get a firsthand update on the peace accord he helped negotiate, a trip that will include an audience with Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday.

The senior administration official said there had been no specific requests from the IRA or the IRA-associated Sinn Fein party on behalf of the nine men nor had there been any promises of a specific response in Northern Ireland. However, he acknowledged that the action was aimed at helping persuade skeptics on the Catholic side to keep with the peace process.

This official said the nine posed no threat to the United States. All nine have work permits. Several have married American women and have children who are U.S. citizens. They live in Massachusetts, Missouri, New Jersey and New York. Families, friends and some members of Congress have mounted appeals on their behalf.

Reno gave the nine "deferred action" status which allows them to live and work here indefinitely, but which can be revoked any time by the attorney general and does not give them any claim on permanent legal residence.

The six in deportation proceedings suspended in 1997 at Albright's request, were: Brian Pearson, Gabriel Megahey, Noel Gaynor, Gerald McDade, Robert McErlean and Matthew Morrison. The three against whom the INS is dropping deportation proceedings are: Don Mulholland, Kevin Crossan and a third man whose name was withheld under the Privacy Act because he is currently a permanent legal resident.

Only one, Megahey, was convicted of crimes in the United States, administration officials said. He served five years for interstate transportation and exportation of explosives and firearms and attempting to buy surface-to-air missiles for the IRA from an FBI undercover agent in New York.

Two of the nine, Gaynor and Morrison, have generated a lot of support from Americans. Gaynor, 46, was convicted of murdering a policeman in 1973. He and his American wife live in Bloomfield, N.J. Morrison, 45, has lived in St. Louis with his American wife since 1985. He was convicted of attempted murder in 1976 after an IRA attack on a British Army barracks.

Copyright 2000 Times Newspapers Limited
The Times (London)
December 13, 2000, Wednesday

SECTION: Home news

LENGTH: 748 words

HEADLINE: Clinton urges Ulster to keep the faith

BYLINE: Martin Fletcher in Dundalk

BODY:

Amid extraordinary scenes in the border town of Dundalk last night, President Clinton wrapped up his third and final visit to Ireland with a passionate appeal to build a lasting peace that would be an inspiration to the world.

Before a vast, cheering, flag-waving throng that stretched as far as the eye could see Mr Clinton extolled the Northern Ireland peace process that he helped to broker and declared: "I come here near the end of my eight years of service as President of the United States to ask you to protect this progress, to cherish it and build on it."

In a voice choking with emotion he said Ireland had a worldwide reputation for helping out in troublespots but added: "I can tell you nothing - nothing - will compare to the gift Ireland gives the world if you make peace here permanent. You can give people all over the world desperately needed hope and proof that peace can prevail, that the past is history, not destiny."

After a rapturous send-off that included fireworks and a rendering of Danny Boy that had Hillary Clinton wiping away tears, Mr Clinton flew to Belfast where he will today hold talks with Ulster's political leaders in an effort to break the peace deadlock.

He will be joined by Tony Blair, the Prime Minister, and George Mitchell, the former US Senate leader who steered the Stormont peace talks to a successful conclusion. Sources said that a breakthrough was still possible.

Any deal would involve further demilitarisation by the British and fresh IRA engagement with General John de Chastelain's disarmament commission. "I thought maybe if I came back I could help a little, and I hope I can," Mr Clinton said earlier in the day. Dundalk is best known as the stronghold of the Real IRA, the renegade organisation responsible for the Omagh bomb of August 1998, but last night it was decked out in stars and stripes as tens of thousands turned out to give the President a hero's welcome.

Mr Clinton recalled that the last time Dundalk witnessed a gathering fractionally as big was in the immediate aftermath of the Omagh bomb when the townsfolk demonstrated against the Real IRA and its leader, Michael Mc-Kevitt, the former IRA quartermaster general who lives just outside the town.

"Young people came not wanting to lose their dreams. Old people came because they wanted to live in peace before they rested in peace. They looked violence in the face and said 'no more'," Mr Clinton said. "I ask you, 'stand up for peace today, tomorrow and for the rest of your lives'," he told the crowd. The rally ended the last day Mr Clinton will spend in Ireland as President, and the emotion showed. He ended by declaring in a cracking voice: "As I prepare to leave my office a large part of my heart will always be in Ireland for all the days of my life."

He then plunged into the crowd with Hillary Clinton and his daughter, Chelsea, who drew cheers almost as loud as those for her father.

Earlier Mr Clinton met Mary McAleese, the Irish President, and Bertie Ahern, the Taoiseach, in the very room where in 1998 he first apologised to the American people for the Monica Lewinsky affair. He drank a pint in a Dublin pub, went shopping with his wife and daughter, and addressed several hundred dignitaries at the Guinness brewery. They included Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, who were warmly embraced by the President and First Lady.

Yesterday's handshake between Mr Clinton and Mr Adams was the first time the men had exchanged pleasantries under the public gaze. Mr Clinton had privately shaken hands with the Sinn Fein president during his visit in December 1995. He met Mr Adams at a bakery on the Falls Road in an encounter described as "semi-spontaneous" by the White House. A passer-by was the only person to capture the moment on film.

Yesterday Mr Ahern brought tears to Mr Clinton's eyes by saying the Good Friday agreement "should rightly be regarded as part of your legacy as peacemaker, and we'll never forget it in this country".

Mr Clinton said he had "often wondered how I got involved in all of this". Half America's political experts "thought I had lost my mind".

But, he said, "every effort has been an honour. I believe America has in some small way repaid this nation for the massive gift of the people you have given us over the years, going back to our beginnings.

Mr Clinton said he would happily remain involved in Irish affairs if his successor asked him.

CLIPS

FOR

DECEMBER 14, 2000

Clinton pushes peace efforts

Pledges to help 'root out' Irish terrorists

By Ellen Hale
USA TODAY

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — President Clinton promised Wednesday to join forces with Britain and Ireland to "root out" terrorist groups that undermine the peace process in Northern Ireland.

"Those who reject peace should know there is no place to hide," he told an audience of 10,000 here. Clinton also called on leaders here to resolve the controversies over policing and decommissioning that have plagued the Good Friday peace accord of 1998.

The accord aimed to end 30 years of sectarian bloodletting in Northern Ireland known as "The Troubles" — the dispute between those who want this province to remain British and those who want to join with the Irish Republic to the south.

In denouncing the dissident paramilitary groups, Clinton set the stage for preventing them from fundraising in the USA — a move the British and Irish governments have advocated.

While he did not name any groups, Clinton was referring primarily to the Real IRA, the breakaway terrorist group responsible for a bombing in 1998 that killed 29 in Omagh. Clinton visited bombing victims and their families in 1998. Saying a "fresh start" is required, the president also demanded that leaders implement recommendations of a report on policing. He said Northern Ireland needs a security force that will "involve everyone equally." Catholics have criticized the Royal Ulster Constabulary for being too pro-Protestant.

Clinton also told Sinn Fein, the political affiliate of the Irish Republican Army, to renew dis-



By Ron Edmonds, AP

Meeting the people: President Clinton wades into the crowd after his speech at the Odyssey Arena in Belfast, where he told the audience, "Unlike hockey, peace is not a spectator sport."

cussions on decommissioning the IRA's weapons, a crucial requirement of the peace agreement. It is imperative, he said, to put "all arms fully, finally and forever beyond use."

"Unlike hockey, peace is not a spectator sport. No one can afford to sit on the sidelines," Clinton said in reference to the Odyssey Arena, where he was speaking. The waterfront stadium is home to the new Belfast Giants hockey team.

On the second day of his visit, Clinton talked with party leaders in an effort to re-energize the peace accord that he helped broker. He met with the heads of pro-Irish Catholic and pro-British Protestant parties at Stormont, the parliament building that is home to the Northern Ireland Assembly. The power-sharing body was established in 1998. Clinton then met separately with British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Clinton also met with Sinn Fein leaders. Protestant Unionists have refused to allow Sinn Fein to participate in meetings until the IRA agrees to discuss ways to put their weapons beyond use. Sinn Fein, meanwhile, has refused to discuss



By Paul Richards, Agence France-Presse

The wave: Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, left, and deputy leader Martin McGuinness prepare for President Clinton's speech.

decommissioning the IRA's arms until the British government takes steps toward reducing its military presence in Northern Ireland, in addition to reforming the police force.

Some observers say that a move by Blair to further reduce the British military presence in Northern Ireland might edge the negotiations closer toward compromise.

However, there is no question that the Good Friday pact has changed Northern Ireland and its capital, Belfast. The pre-

viously bombed-out downtown is a vital shopping and business center. Where shops once posted security agents at their doors and searched shoppers' handbags, people walk freely into stores.

Buses are no longer swept for bombs before they move through the streets, and cars are allowed to park in most areas. Windows blown out by bombs have been replaced and destroyed buildings repaired.

For the first 15 years that he drove a taxi, Roy Donaghey was

not allowed to drive down many of the roads in the heart of Belfast for security reasons. Now Donaghey, a Protestant, drives freely throughout the city, even in heavily Catholic areas he once avoided. "There is no question Belfast is a better place to live now," he says.

The city also has benefited from the economic boom that has washed over all of Ireland. Unemployment here has dropped from 17% to 5%.

Construction has taken off, particularly along the waterfront, where condominiums — in areas where people previously would not live — sell for as much as \$400,000. The Hilton Hotel where Clinton stayed is 2 years old.

Clinton was greeted at Stormont by politicians, soccer players and even Irish-American folk dancer Michael Flatley.

The president also was cornered for several minutes by Ian Paisley and members of the Democratic Unionist Party. Opponents of the peace accord, they are angry because they had not been included in the formal talks. "The froth on the top of the pint is all we are getting," Paisley said.

Meanwhile, at the Belfast opera house, which was bombed twice at the height of The Troubles, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton made a strong call for pursuing peace. She told the predominantly female audience of several hundred that their "small acts of daily courage" are the basis for peace.

"There is always a back-to-Troubles committee," she said in reference to those who oppose the peace process.

She also admitted that this final visit to Ireland was a "heartfelt and bittersweet time" for her husband and herself. The current visit to Ireland is the third for the president during his tenure.

Clinton flew to England late Wednesday to spend the night at Chequers, the prime minister's country estate.

Before leaving today for the USA, Clinton was to meet with Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace and speak at Warwick University near Coventry.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2000

ELAND

Clinton sees hopes for real peace fade

Shows a continued fight against terror

Combined dispatches

ELFAST — President Clinton's farewell ended yesterday the path to peace in Northern Ireland as rocky as ever.

Despite drawing a road map for British-ruled province to end decades of sectarian strife, Mr. Clinton wound up the third visit to land of his presidency with little more than optimistic words and how to step up the fight against terrorism.

It was not the ending he had hoped for the main part of possibly his last official foreign trip as president.

Mr. Clinton began his trip on an optimistic note by warmly embracing Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams as he arrived in Dublin yesterday. Unlike five years earlier, when the two hid from photographers, they greeted each other this time in front of cameras.

Sen.-elect Hillary Rodham Clinton, meanwhile accepted a kiss from Martin McGuinness, the former chief of staff of the Provisional IRA who is now education minister in a Catholic-Protestant government.

But by the time he ended his Ireland visit yesterday, Mr. Clinton slammed into a brick wall with hard-line Protestant politicians in Belfast claiming the United States fairly favored the IRA's Roman Catholic minority.

Despite the setbacks, Mr. Clinton plowed on with talks with the

main political leaders of the British-ruled province of 1.6 million people.

Mr. Clinton, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and former Sen. George Mitchell emerged from nearly three hours of negotiations with only one clear decision:

Britain, Ireland and the United States would step up their fight against terrorism that might threaten Northern Ireland's peace.

"Dissident extremists have nowhere left to hide," Mr. Clinton declared in a speech.

The 1998 Good Friday peace accord negotiated by Mr. Mitchell is foundering over Protestant demands for greater commitment by the IRA to disarm and Catholic demands for reform of Northern Ireland's Protestant-majority police force.

The Irish Republican Army (IRA) and other mainstream guerrilla groups are observing ceasefires, but dissidents on both sides of the sectarian divide have been responsible for sporadic violence. Seventeen persons have been killed this year.

"There must be security normalization, and arms must be put beyond use," Mr. Clinton said, bracketing Catholic demands that Britain should reduce its military presence with the demands of Protestants for the IRA to disarm.

"Today was not about breakthroughs," White House spokesman P.J. Crowley told re-



First ladies Hillary Rodham Clinton and Cherie Blair, wife of Prime Minister Tony Blair, meet at a "Vital Voices" women's group in Belfast.

porters.

After a herolike reception in the neighboring Irish Republic Tuesday, Mr. Clinton had barely arrived in Belfast before the mood changed sharply for the worse.

Dublin was Mr. Clinton's first stop on a three-day visit that also includes London, where he will meet Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace before he returns to Washington today.

At his first Belfast function, the president ran into hard-line Protestant anger at what they see as a U.S. tilt toward Catholic IRA allies in the province.

During a meeting with Northern Ireland parliamentarians, Cedric Wilson gave Mr. Clinton a letter describing the Good Friday peace pact as "an appeasement mechanism to meet the demands of terrorism and in particular the terrorism of the IRA."

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2000 / 1

Clinton Tells Northern Ireland to Resolve Issues

■ **Diplomacy:** In Belfast, the president calls on feuding sides to do their part to help a 1998 peace pact take hold.

By MARJORIE MILLER
and ROBERT A. ROSENBLATT
TIMES STAFF WRITERS

BELFAST, Northern Ireland—In his last play as a peacemaker for Northern Ireland, President Clinton on Wednesday urged the province's feuding Protestant and Roman Catholic political parties to break their deadlock and move in step to resolve the outstanding issues of disarmament, policing and demilitarization.

After a day of meetings with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and the pro-peace parties in the Northern Ireland Assembly, Clinton told a rally of about 8,000 residents in Belfast, the provincial capital, that the Irish Republican Army must disarm "fully, finally and forever."

On the other side, he said, the British government and pro-British Protestant parties must follow through on promised reforms to Northern Ireland's overwhelmingly Protestant police force and must reduce the British military presence in the province.

"For the vision of the Good Friday agreement to be fully realized, all sides must be fully engaged with each other, understanding that they must move forward together or not at all," Clinton said.

Although Clinton prodded the leaders in the private meetings and retained his optimism about the prospects for peace, there was no indication that the parties will cooperate with a quick breakthrough. The Good Friday accord in 1998 provided for political power-sharing between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland, along with guarantees of equal rights for the Cath-



Agence France-Presse

President Clinton before his address at Odyssey Arena in Belfast.

lic minority.

But the bitter memories of the Troubles, a 30-year span during which more than 3,500 people died in bombings, shootings and other violence, have made the creation of a lasting peace a process of fits and starts.

Clinton and the parties in the Northern Ireland Assembly, however, have a significant achievement to their credit. Rather than resorting to violence, people bitterly divided by sectarian differences are talking to one another in a political setting.

Or in this case, in a sparkling new, \$135-million hockey center appropriately named the Odyssey Arena. Janice Gault, a spokeswoman for the arena, said it couldn't have been built without the peace process in Northern Ireland.

"This is a nonsectarian building. This is a neutral sport in a neutral area of the city along the river," she said. "I think people are bored of violence. They get used to normal life and don't want anything else."

Life was as normal as it gets in Belfast at the Odyssey center, with Protestant and Catholic students decked out in uniforms of

the province's largely segregated schools. The joyous students led a human wave that drew in even Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, the leaders of Sinn Féin, the IRA's political wing.

Against a backdrop of U2 and Van Morrison music, the support for the peace process was expressed in foot-stomping cheers.

But among the leaders on the speakers platform, there were no illusions about the difficulty of making further progress.

"Controversies and disputes are sapping energy, goodwill and trust," said Seamus Mallon, the Catholic deputy first minister of Northern Ireland. "We cannot go on like this. It is time to stop and think—to measure our actions and our inaction against the imperatives of peace."

All of the progress that has been made is at risk because of an outbreak of sectarian killings last week, he added. "Corrosive violence and the threat of violence persists," he said.

Although the IRA and main Protestant paramilitary groups are observing cease-fires, dissidents on both sides are thought to be responsible for the sporadic violence.

David Trimble, Northern Ireland's Protestant first minister, said he would not "let the ship of peace sink on the rocks of old habits and hard grudges."

He insisted that IRA disarmament remains a top priority. "Again and again we repeat to those who use violence, 'You are the past, your day is over.'"

Clinton said the U.S. will intensify its cooperation with the British and Irish governments in counter-terrorism efforts. The crowd applauded when the president said the three nations will join to "combat groups seeking to undermine the Good Friday accords through violence."

Experts from the countries will meet soon, "and the United States will continue to work in a systematic way to do whatever we can to help to root out terrorism and to make this peace agreement take hold," he said.

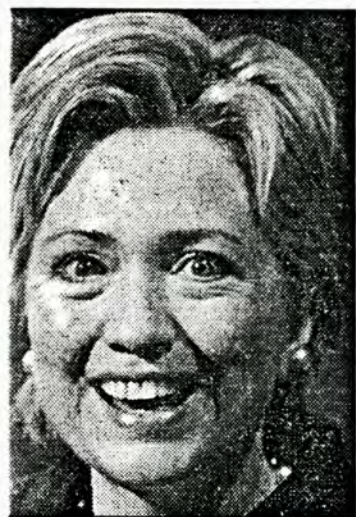
The British and Irish governments have asked that Clinton put the dissident republican group opposed to the peace process, the Real IRA, on the U.S. list of terrorist organizations, thereby banning it from raising money and support in the United States.

Some political leaders here had hoped that Clinton would announce such a move during this trip, but he stopped short. His spokesman, P. J. Crowley, said determining whether the Real IRA is a terrorist organization is a "legal process" under consideration by the State Department. The study might not be completed before the end of Clinton's term.

Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan of Northern Ireland's Royal Ulster Constabulary said that he and his Irish counterparts had made the recommendation to their respective prime ministers.

Aware that such a move might bring the dissidents additional notoriety, Flanagan said it would, nonetheless, "be very positive to send a signal and to prevent any funding by misguided people in the United States."

Prez takes heat from N. Ireland Protestants



HAND FOR HILL: Hillary Rodham Clinton returns the greetings of well-wishers before speaking at a Belfast conference yesterday.

Reuters

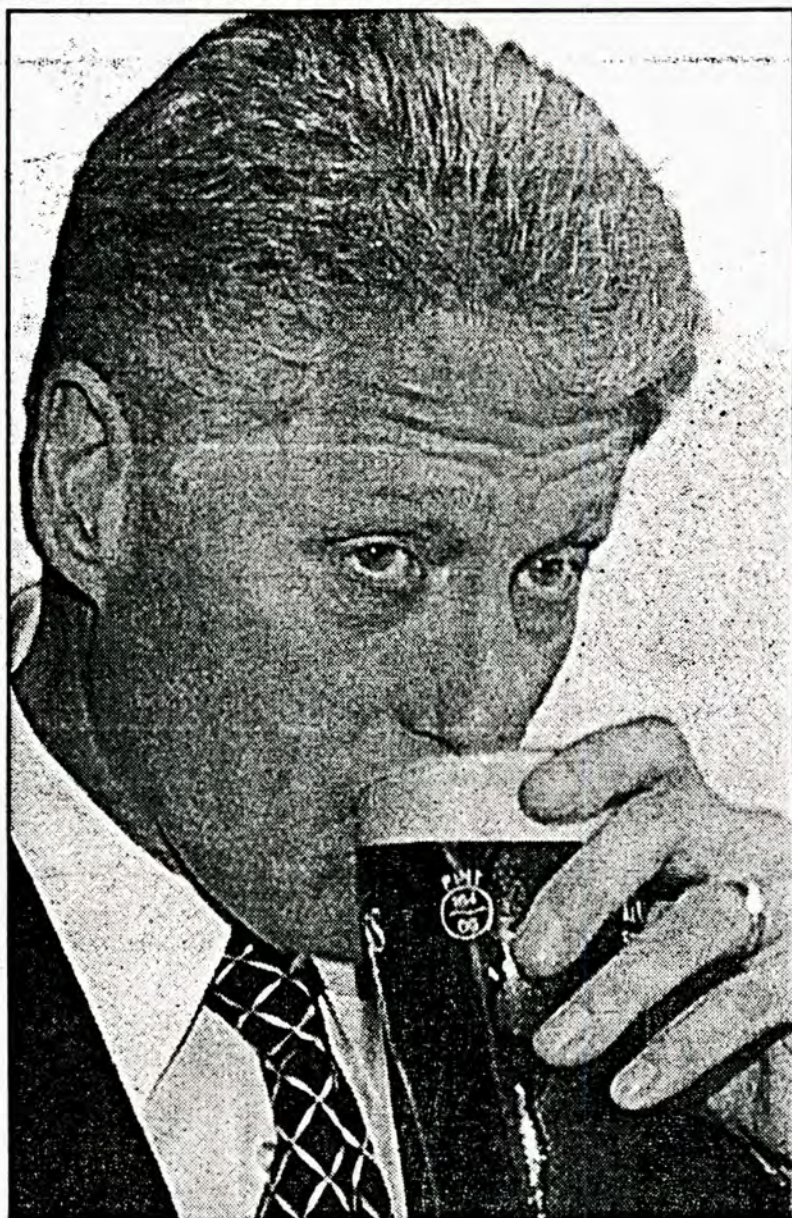
By LEONARD GREENE

Already reeling from Al Gore's apparent loss, President Clinton hit a snag on the last leg of his Irish peace pilgrimage when irate hard-line Protestants accused him of endorsing terrorism.

Clinton, who drank beer and shopped after a hero's welcome in Dublin the day before, ran into angry resistance in neighboring Northern Ireland.

Protestant politicians in Belfast, who are trying to share the government with Catholics, told Clinton that the Good Friday peace accord had come at too high a price — that the United States unfairly favored the Irish Republican Army's Roman Catholic minority.

During the president's meeting with Northern Ireland politicians, lawmaker Cedric Wilson gave Clinton a letter that described the historic, now-2-year-old peace



WHEN IN DUBLIN . . . do as the Irish do, so President Clinton takes the head off a pint of Guinness at the brewery's headquarters during the First Family's visit to Ireland this week.

Reuters

pact as "an appeasement mechanism to meet the demands of terrorism and in particular the terrorism of the IRA."

Clinton listened for 10 minutes

as Wilson and his parliament colleagues complained to him about early paroles for more than 200 IRA prisoners, and a guaranteed role in the Northern Ireland administration for the Sinn Féin party, the political arm of the IRA.

Both developments are stipulations of the Good Friday pact.

"I will take this on board," Clinton told the group.

The lecture was hardly the end Clinton was looking for on what could be his last foreign trip as president. The peace for which he is largely credited is already shaky over the pace of disarmament and the commitment to police reforms.

Seventeen people have already been killed in violence this year.

"Dissident extremists have nowhere left to hide," Clinton said in a keynote speech. "There must be security normalization and arm must be put beyond use."

In Belfast Hillary Rodham Clinton, who accompanied the president, urged Northern Ireland women to play a role in achieving peace.

"We cannot go back to the time when every wife had to worry and said the same prayers to the same God that her husband would not get caught up in 'the Troubles,'" she said.

President Clinton, who is also traveling with daughter Chelsea, is to meet with Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace in London today.

Clinton, in Ulster, Confronts Warring Passions Head-On

By MARC LACEY

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, Dec. 13 — President Clinton received a stark reminder of the heated passions that remain in Northern Ireland today as he visited the Northern Assembly and found himself caught in a spirited debate with a small group of hard-line lawmakers who oppose a peace accord that he helped forge.

Mr. Clinton's tense conversations took place as he mingled with legislators whose positions were created under the Good Friday agreement of 1998, which brought power-sharing government — and relative peace — to the region.

Besides debating points with two Democratic Unionists, Nigel Dodds and Ian Paisley Jr., Mr. Clinton also strongly challenged an assertion by another Protestant leader, Cedric Belfrage, that the United States was backing known terrorists while promoting peace.

Mr. Wilson said the president reacted at him angrily and disputed the accusation that he had been soft on terrorism. "No hugs or kisses," Mr. Wilson said later in a television interview. "Quite a stormy end to the meeting."

Their exchange came after Mr. Clinton presented the president with a letter that described the peace accord as "an appeasement mechanism to meet the demands of terrorism and in particular the terrorism of the Irish Republican Army."

But Mr. Clinton's visit today did include at least one moment when Northern Ireland's politicians came together — doing the wave.

As the president kept a 6,000-strong crowd waiting at the Odyssey arena in Belfast, the public address system blasted out a tune by Belfast-born Van Morrison, "Brown-Eyed Girl." And as the wave began working its way around the indoor stadium, Northern Ireland's best-known tunes — as well as some of its best — joined in.

Even Gerry Adams of the Sinn Féin party, which is linked to the Irish Republican Army, did his best to keep the wave going as he stood in an otherwise empty part of the stands with a big grin and his arms raised high.

At the arena and at every other stop today, Mr. Clinton remained the eternal optimist, repeating the same message — that Northern Ireland has come too far to revert to its old violent ways.

"We've still got problems and challenges," the president told 8,000 cheering people who packed into a sports arena to hear his pitch for



President Clinton, right, at the Belfast Parliament with, left to right, Prime Minister Tony Blair, Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Mandelson, First Minister David Trimble and Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon.

peace. Referring to critics of the faltering peace accord, the president added, "In spite of the overwhelming support for the Good Friday agreement and the evident progress already brought, opponents of peace still try to exploit the implementation controversies, to rub salt in old wounds and serve their own ends."

Without offering any new proposals, the president delved into some of the great divides that remain among the parties. He said he was encouraged by the Irish Republican Army's statement last week agreeing, with conditions, to lay down its arms. But the president said he wanted to see some action, too. Mr. Clinton also called for police reform — another hot-button issue — and encouraged the British government to continue with demilitarization.

Mr. Clinton failed to deliver one announcement that the British and Irish governments had sought: an official designation of the Real IRA, a dissident group responsible for a bombing that killed 29 people, as a terrorist organization. Aides said that the State Department was continuing to investigate the organization and that any decision on the Real IRA would most likely not come in the remaining weeks of Mr. Clinton's presidency. The president

did say that the United States would work more closely with Ireland and Britain to coordinate counterterrorism efforts.

On the second day of his trip to the region, Mr. Clinton held several hours of closed-door meetings on the future of the peace effort with David Trimble, the Protestant first minister in the new Northern Ireland government, Seamus Mallon, the government's senior Roman Catholic, and Mr. Adams of Sinn Féin. He also met the British prime minister, Tony Blair.

The leaders said they emerged from the sessions committed to preserving the peace.

"I do not intend to let the ship of peace sink on the rocks of old habits and hard grudges," Mr. Trimble said.

Mr. Mallon cited the first sectarian killings since the Good Friday accord — a Protestant from Belfast and a Catholic from Dungiven — and urged his country to endure no more such violence. "We must build our new, shining city on the hill," he said. "We must not limp along in uncertainty, in a world of blame allocation and broken commitments."

Mr. Clinton, who later headed to a dinner with Mr. Blair tonight at the prime minister's country residence

in Chequers, urged the people not to forget the way things had been for so long, not too long ago.

"How many children are alive today in Northern Ireland because deaths from sectarian violence are now a small fraction of what they were before the Good Friday Accords?" he asked. "How many days of normality have you gained because honest people can go to a pub or a school or a church without the burden of a search or the threat of a bomb?"

Privately, the president met with 15 people, Protestants and Catholics alike, who had lost loved ones and even limbs in "the troubles," as the three decades of violent conflict here is euphemistically called.

"You have spent so many years mourning your losses," he said later. "I hope you will now celebrate with pride and defend with passion the progress you have made."

During his speech, the president was interrupted once by a heckler who shouted out as the president made the case for peace. But Mr. Clinton handled the disruption deftly, declaring to the young man: "I'll make you a deal: I'll listen to you if you let me finish." When the man continued, Mr. Clinton said, "I think he rejected the deal."

The New York Times

Irish See a Good Friend In Senator-Elect Clinton

By WARREN HOGE

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, Dec. 13 — President and Mrs. Clinton have had a record of paying particular attention to Ireland and Northern Ireland, and it has brought both of them rapturous receptions on their visits to the island.

This time the welcome for the couple has been no less embracing, but speakers have embellished their praise of the chief executive's past contributions to include special mention of the new status of the first lady that makes her the Clinton with the political future that Ireland and Ulster keenly anticipate.

Even in Mrs. Clinton's solo appearances, she has been introduced only as the first lady — not also as the senator-elect from New York — and her staff members stress that she does not want to detract from the victory lap aspect of the last visit Mr. Clinton will be making here as president.

Mr. Clinton enjoys extraordinary popularity north and south of the border for his active participation in the Northern Ireland peace settlement, and the response to his visit, the third he has made during his years in office, has been celebratory.

But Hillary Rodham Clinton does not have to bring up her new job and how it might play to the advantage of the Irish; her presenters do it for her. "Hillary Clinton is a friend we know we will have in the U.S. Senate," said Prime Minister Bertie Ahern in his public greeting to the Clintons in Dublin on Tuesday. He added, "Give 'em hell."

In Belfast today, Mary Black, the head of the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust, told the women who crowded the Grand Opera House to hear Mrs. Clinton that women in Ulster were "overjoyed" at her election. The hundreds of community activists and politicians thronging the orchestra and balconies demonstrated her point with cheers, shouts and prolonged applause.

The Grand Opera House is a red and gold music hall confection more accustomed to family revues like its current attraction, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," than to grand opera. Yet even this benign activity in Ulster life did not spare it, and it was bombed and shut down twice during the three decades of sectarian conflict known as "the troubles."

Mrs. Clinton recalled that period solemnly and said that having been "a small part in such a great historic change" was a high point of the White House years for her. This was

her fifth visit to the province, and she implied it would not be her last. "I will always be there as a friend and an advocate and a partner as you continue the hard, hard work of peace and reconciliation," she promised.

But she said her real purpose this time in Belfast was to acknowledge the role women had played in securing political stability here and to urge them to continue and to energize other women elsewhere.

Speaking in front of an illuminated legend proclaiming "Women raising their voices for a new Northern Ireland," she told the gathering of how a simple event that she had taken part in here two years ago — the opening of a playground in a conflicted part of Belfast for use by both Catholic and Protestant children — had resonated in far-off places.

She said that on a visit to Rwanda,

Ulster women are overjoyed, the first lady is told.

she asked local women who had lived through massacres and machete attacks what she could do to help them. "They said, 'Build a playground.' They had read about the playground in Belfast," she said.

"While the president and the prime minister are up at the legislature working on the big acts today," she said, "I come here to celebrate daily small acts of courage."

Mrs. Clinton said she hoped to be in touch in the future, welcoming groups to Washington, though, she added, in different circumstances. "We won't be hosting them in the White House next year," she said. "But we'll find a venue somewhere."

In Dublin, Mrs. Clinton said at a reception with 40 women from Irish political life at the American ambassador's residence that she wanted to "create opportunities for women's voices to be heard" around the world after her husband leaves the White House and she takes up her Senate position.

"Women in public life — in appointed positions and in elected positions — have a great many lessons to exchange with one another," she told the Irish lawmakers. "I've observed that. Now I'm about to live that."

DECEMBER 14, 2000

Copyright 2000 Agence France Presse
Agence France Presse
December 14, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: International news

LENGTH: 350 words

HEADLINE: Britain's Blair congratulates Bush

DATELINE: LONDON, Dec 14

BODY:

Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair congratulated US President-elect George W. Bush on Thursday morning saying he looked forward to further strengthening the "special friendship" between the two countries.

"My warmest congratulations on your victory in the presidential election. It was a long and agonising wait for you," Blair said in a message sent to Bush after Democrat candidate, Al Gore, late Wednesday conceded the protracted election contest.

"I'm very glad it is finally settled. I know that together we will strengthen still further the special friendship between Britain and the United States.

et/sa/ns

Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair congratulated US President-elect George W. Bush on Thursday morning saying he looked forward to further strengthening the "special friendship" between the two countries.

"My warmest congratulations on your victory in the presidential election. It was a long and agonising wait for you," Blair said in a message sent to Bush after Democrat candidate, Al Gore, late Wednesday conceded the protracted election contest.

"I'm very glad it is finally settled. I know that together we will strengthen still further the special friendship between Britain and the United States," Blair said.

"Our nations enjoy not just common interest but shared values and I very much look forward to working with you as partners for security, prosperity and freedom throughout the world.

"(My wife) Cherie joins me in wishing you and Laura (Bush's wife) all possible strength and success throughout your time as president and first lady of the United States," the British prime minister added.

Blair had built a very warm relationship with outgoing US president Bill Clinton who, with his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea, stayed at the British prime minister's country residence, Chequers, on Wednesday night, during a three day visit to the United Kingdom and Ireland.

Clinton was expected to react to his Vice President Gore's defeat Thursday morning, when he is to address students at Warwick University in central England.

Copyright 2000 Associated Press
AP Worldstream
December 14, 2000; Thursday

SECTION: International news

LENGTH: 1122 words

HEADLINE: Changes dateline from AYLESBURY, England Clinton meets queen, comments on U.S. election

BYLINE: DEB RIECHMANN

DATELINE: COVENTRY, England

BODY:

U.S. President Bill Clinton urged the world's nations to unite in a global assault on poverty, warning that they risk undercutting their own prosperity and security _ if they fail to help the desperately poor.

"Global poverty is a powder keg ignitable by our indifference," he said.

Before an audience of students, academics and others at Warwick University, the president argued that the most prosperous countries have lapsed in their obligation to help nations that are raked by the maladies of poverty: Disease, malnutrition, illiteracy and a general loss of human potential.

He said one of his most fervent wishes as he leaves office is that the global community agree to take up this cause.

"Globalization need not benefit only the advanced nations," Clinton said. "Indeed, in developing countries too, it brings the promise but not the guarantee of a better future."

Clinton offered suggestions for waging this worldwide assault: providing debt relief for poor countries; improving health systems so countries can better fight AIDS and other infectious diseases; closing the "digital divide" and ensuring that the world's children receive quality education, have access to nutrition programs at school and are no longer subject to abusive child labor practices.

"We have seen how abject poverty accelerates turmoil and conflict," Clinton said. "How it creates recruits for terrorists and those who incite ethnic and religious hatred. How it fuels the violent rejection of the open economic and social order upon which our future depends. ... The more we help the rest of the world, the better it will be for us."

He said countries cannot claim ignorance of the problems because there is too much information available over the Internet for that.

"We know very well today how children live and die in the poorest countries and how little it would take to improve their lives," Clinton said. "We can choose not to act, but we can no longer choose not to know."

The speech concluded Clinton's three-day journey to Ireland, Northern Ireland and Great Britain, where he offered encouragement to the parties that are struggling to implement the 2-year-old Northern Ireland peace accord. He was returning to Washington later Thursday.

Implementation of the so-called Good Friday agreement has stalled over its call for police reform and disarming terrorist groups. During Clinton's visit to Northern Ireland, the United States, Britain and Ireland agreed to do more to fight terrorists trying to thwart the joint Catholic-Protestant government in the north.

But Clinton steered clear of the topic Thursday, reaching instead for more general world themes.

Before going to Warwick, the president still sleepy from watching late-breaking political developments at home unfold on TV paid a social call on Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace. He and first lady Hillary Clinton had coffee, tea and cookies in the Queen's audience room in Buckingham Palace while daughter Chelsea took a tour of its state rooms.

U.S. President Bill Clinton bade farewell to Europe Thursday with a call for the world's nations to launch a sincere, unified effort to uplift the desperately poor. "We have both the ability and the responsibility to make a great deal of difference," he said.

Clinton characterized his visit to Britain, the final leg of a three-day European swing, as his final one as president. He first made the rounds through Ireland and Northern Ireland to offer support for the flagging peace process there. While he spent the previous two days stressing the importance of maintaining peace in Northern Ireland, Clinton reached Thursday for broader themes.

"We have seen how abject poverty accelerates turmoil and conflict," Clinton said. "How it creates recruits for terrorists and those who incite ethnic and religious hatred. How it fuels the violent rejection of the open economic and social order upon which our future depends. ... The more we help the rest of the world, the better it will be for us."

In his absence, the U.S. Supreme Court ended the protracted legal fight over the presidential election. Sitting up late at the country home of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Clinton watched on television as his vice president Al Gore conceded to President-elect George W. Bush.

The president then pledged his support to his successor Thursday. Wasting no time, he contacted Bush by telephone and arranged a meeting next week.

"I wish President-elect Bush well," Clinton said. "Like him, I came to Washington as a governor, eager to work with both Republicans and Democrats. And when we reached across party lines to forge a vital center, America was stronger at home and abroad."

The president also cheered Russia's pardon of American businessman Edmond Pope, who was convicted of espionage and sentenced to 20 years in prison. The United States wanted a humanitarian release for Pope, who suffers from a rare form of bone cancer, and Russia obliged.

"Mr. Pope's ordeal was unjustified," Clinton said. "It is important that humanitarian concerns prevailed in the end."

Before an audience of 1,200 at the University of Warwick, the president argued that the most prosperous countries should work harder to eliminate poverty and its aftereffects: disease, malnutrition, illiteracy and loss of human potential. One of his most fervent wishes as he leaves office is that the global community would agree to take up this cause, he said.

"Globalization need not benefit only the advanced nations," Clinton said. "Indeed, in developing countries too, it brings the promise but not the guarantee of a better future."

He also bemoaned the fact that by 2010, there would be Internet access for 72 percent of the people living in the top eight economies in the Asian Pacific region, but only 4 percent of those living in the bottom 11 economies.

"If that happens, the global economy really will resemble a worldwide web, a bunch of interlocking strands with huge holes in between," Clinton said.

Clinton said poverty could be fought worldwide by providing debt relief for poor countries; improving health systems so countries can better fight AIDS and other infectious diseases; closing the "digital divide"; and ensuring that the world's children receive quality education, have access to nutrition programs at school and are no longer subject to abusive child labor practices.

The White House said Clinton's speech was one in a series he will make as he exits the White House. But they refused to call it his final foreign policy speech, noting that he maintains an interest in going to North Korea before leaving office Jan. 20.

Copyright 2000 Century Newspapers Limited
Belfast News Letter
December 14, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 113 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON VISIT: SECURING THE SNACKS

BODY:

NORTHERN Ireland witnessed one of its biggest security operations ever yesterday as President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary rolled into town.

And proof that it is hungry work was provided when two of the couple's minders stopped off at a Dunkin Donuts store in Belfast for some refuelling.

The duo had just finished seeing the First Lady safely into the Opera House for the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust conference when, in true Homer Simpson style, they went across the road to sort out the vital business of choosing the day's doughnuts.

Every variety imaginable was selected before the men departed with 20 doughnuts to boost their energy levels.

Copyright 2000 Century Newspapers Limited
Belfast News Letter
December 14, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 243 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON VISIT: SPECIAL WELCOME FOR CLOSE FRIEND

BODY:

THE most powerful woman in America yesterday shared a platform with a personal friend, an Ulsterwoman who has been a champion of those without a voice in Northern Ireland for more than 20 years.

Acclaimed voluntary sector worker Inez McCormack, chairperson of Vital Voices, and Hillary Clinton have become close friends over the past five years through their involvement in promoting women's issues and peace in the Province.

And their mutual admiration was apparent in moving tributes to one another at yesterday's conference at Belfast's Grand Opera House.

Mrs Clinton said her friend had given a voice to the voiceless and worked tirelessly on behalf of ordinary folk.

Mrs McCormack said the First Lady had been an inspiration to women here and had boosted the chances of peace in a multitude of ways.

She said: "Here we are at a difficult point, when peace is not yet fully secured, and, sadly, murder still walks our streets, and she (Mrs Clinton) has come to us, to give us her assistance, now when we need it."

The other speakers were: Cherie Blair; Mary Black, chair of NIVT; Chris Gibson, chair of the Civic Forum, and Kathrine Fearon, from the Women's Information Group.

Cherie Blair reiterated the First Lady's comments about the pivotal role women here had played in preparing for peace and urged the audience to encourage women everywhere to seize the opportunity to improve their own lot whenever they could.

Copyright 2000 Century Newspapers Limited
Belfast News Letter
December 14, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 434 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON VISIT: CITY SHOPPERS CATCH A WAVE FROM FIRST LADY

BYLINE: Ross Mckee

BODY:

HUNDREDS of people turned up outside the Grand Opera House to catch a glimpse of First Lady Hillary Clinton following her appearance at the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (NIVT) conference.

Few had witnessed the New York senator waving regally from the back of a sleek, black limousine when she arrived at the Glengall Street building just after 11am.

But when she departed two hours later, lunchtime shoppers saw her produce a repeat performance as her car sped away behind a cavalcade of police motorcycles.

Lurgan civil servant Stuart Gordon was among those who took the opportunity to see the President's wife during his break.

But he was disappointed she had not found time for a drink in the nearby Crown Bar.

"She is a beautiful woman and it is just a pity she did not go for a walkabout and have a pint in the

Crown," he said.

"Nobody has seen her daughter Chelsea and of course I would have liked to see her as well.

"This is the last visit she is making here as First Lady and it is really good that neither Hillary nor Bill have forgotten about us."

William Hickey had travelled from Co Tipperary to capture the atmosphere of the Presidential visit on his home video camera.

He said Mrs Clinton would be a new addition to the political figures already contained in his collection.

"I am very interested in the history of Ireland and this is a very historic occasion," he said.

"I did not see them when they were in the Republic, but I decided to come up here for the day.

"I am retired now, but I do this as a sideline. I have also captured the likes of Ian Paisley and Gerry Adams on camera at conferences up here."

Music teacher Isobel Russell, of St Gabriel's College on the Crumlin Road, was at the Opera House to supervise her pupils, who sang at the NIVT event.

She said the children's dreams of meeting Mrs Clinton had been dashed at the last minute.

"She was running out of time and could not meet them in the end," she said.

"They were absolutely ecstatic when they were told that they were going to get their photo taken with her, but a bit disappointed when it did not work out.

"It was fantastic seeing her inside the conference, she is so down to earth. The prime aim would be to see her back here as President in the future."

Lagan College pupils Jenny Morrow and Stephanie Clarke also attended the conference and were impressed by the First Lady's charisma.

"It was weird to see her up close, she is glamorous but also ordinary. You could relate to what she was saying. She is very influential," said Jenny.

Copyright 2000 Century Newspapers Limited
Belfast News Letter
December 14, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 5

LENGTH: 297 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON VISIT: HELPING TO REBUILD THE SHATTERED LIVES

BODY:

WHEN Hillary Clinton spoke of the courage and determination of victims of the Troubles, there was one man in the mostly female audience to whom she could have been speaking personally.

He was long-suffering but courageous Alan McBride, who has seen at first hand how terrorism tears lives apart, and who now craves peace with an understandable passion.

The 36-year-old lost his wife Sharon in the horrific Shankill bombing in 1993. He was left to bring up his two-year-old daughter Zoe alone.

The First Lady spoke of how victims here had always picked themselves up and never surrendered to the terrorists. There is no better example of such courage than that displayed by Alan McBride.

He poured his own grief and loss into a new job with Wave, which offers support and help to the bereaved, and which has received substantial grants from the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust, which organised yesterday's conference.

Seven years on, he is still helping others whose lives have been torn apart as his was.

Despite his immense personal loss, he is a vehement supporter of the Good Friday Agreement, believing, as Hillary Clinton said, that peace cannot be won without sacrifices and pain.

He said yesterday: "I find my work with Wave so worthwhile. I've been through it, I've suffered, I know the trauma that these people go through.

"But I'm an optimist, I have to look forward for Zoe's sake, I couldn't afford to dwell on things for her sake, or those who killed my wife would have killed me too.

"But we're on the right road with the peace process, it's stable. How can we not still have problems when our troubles go back 300-400 years? But we're still moving forward.

"And we have to keep going forward, however slowly, to get it right."

Copyright 2000 Century Newspapers Limited

Belfast News Letter

December 14, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 4, 5

LENGTH: 594 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON VISIT: TIME TO DEFY GENERATIONS OF HATRED, HILLARY TELLS CONFERENCE

BYLINE: Jeanette Oldham

BODY:

NEW York Senator Hillary Clinton shared the limelight on her husband's final Presidential visit to Northern Ireland yesterday when she gave a rousing speech in support of peace.

The First Lady was speaking to a conference on Women Raising their Voices for the New Northern Ireland at Belfast's Grand Opera House.

The event was organised by the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust (NIVT) to mark its 21st anniversary and Mrs Clinton shared the platform with, amongst others, Cherie Blair, and her personal friend, Vital Voices chairperson Inez McCormack.

But she was no stranger to many of the women in the audience, who last saw her deliver a similar keynote speech about peace and the role of women at the Vital Voices women's conference at Belfast's Waterfront Hall in 1998.

She took her time over her speech, the content of which was powerful and moving, and she appeared relaxed and touched by the tributes paid to her by the Prime Minister's wife, Inez McCormack and others.

She described the venue as fitting because she said to some extent its history mirrored that of Belfast.

"The Grand Opera House was twice bombed, and twice had to close its doors," she said.

"But it re-opened immediately. And so the people of this city have known never to give in to violence from any source at any time."

Mrs Clinton reminisced fondly about her previous trips to the Province in her role as First Lady, in particular of how she and her husband switched on the Christmas lights outside Belfast City Hall five years ago.

"Two young people stood with us," she said. "Mark and Kathy, a boy and a girl, a Protestant and a Catholic, both with one dream, a dream for peace.

"Kathy wrote to my husband when she was 12, saying she wanted permanent peace here, Protestants and Catholics working hand in hand, that it was the person inside that counts, that when she had children of her own, that there would still be peace in Belfast.

"In the five years since then so much has been done towards realising Kathy's hopes for herself and her children."

But the bulk of her speech focused on the need to overcome the present difficulties facing the peace process.

"Building peace anywhere is never easy and there are always people who are the self-appointed doom-sayers, who would rather throw up their hands than roll up their sleeves.

"There always comes times when it is just easier to go back ... But none of us can afford to let that happen.

"All of our problems are of our own making and so our solutions are of our own making as well. This is one of those special moments when you have the chance to defy generations of hatred.

"And that is why I come once again to Belfast, filled with hope and certitude that this moment will be seized."

Her ties with - and affection for - people here were reflected in her many tributes to the courage and determination of all who had suffered at the hands of terrorists.

And she made it clear that she would not forget the Province, its people, or its problems, during her senatorship.

These sentiments were echoed by Congressman Peter King, who later told reporters he had no doubts that Mrs Clinton would continue to champion the Ulster cause in her new political role.

The First Lady received a standing ovation and, before leaving to join up with her husband and daughter Chelsea, who was understood to have spent the morning in her hotel, she was presented with a bouquet of flowers and hand-made jewellery from local jewellers Steenson's by two young people.

GRAPHIC: EMBRACE: Hillary Clinton and Cherie Blair; FROM THE HEART: First Lady Hillary Clinton addressing the NIVT conference, and, left, with Daphne Trimble, wife of First Minister David Trimble; Main picture: Brian Little

Copyright 2000 Century Newspapers Limited
Belfast News Letter
December 14, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 2, 3

LENGTH: 1092 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON VISIT: CLINTON RAISES THE HECKLES

BODY:

THE roars that greeted Bill Clinton and his wife, Hillary, on stage at the Odyssey Arena in Belfast yesterday confirmed the US first couple's enduring popularity in Northern Ireland.

As Stars and Stripes flags were unfurled, the consummate politician even turned an isolated heckler's shouts to his advantage.

"Tell you what, I'll make you a deal. I'll listen to you if you let me finish," he replied to loud approval from the audience.

When the dissenter persisted, the president turned to the crowd and said: "It looks like he's rejected the deal."

Then, to loud cheers of approval, he promised to ignore the taunts if they did.

It is doubtful if Mr Clinton heard exactly what the heckler had to say because he was seated towards the back of the hall.

It is understood he was asking the President to apologise for American foreign policy in the Middle East.

A snaking queue had gathered hours before Mr Clinton arrived at the venue.

The pounds 91 million gleaming new home of the Belfast Giants ice hockey team was playing host to a true colossus of the world stage and the Northern Ireland public was anxious to be part of it.

Capacity in the arena had been increased to around 8,000, with extra seating installed on the boarded rink but, perhaps, the timber covers were an unnecessary move.

Given the warm, feel-good factor accompanying the President's visit it didn't seem unreasonable to assume that the ice would have melted anyway.

Even Assembly members joined in when a Mexican wave broke out as the excited crowd waited for the main attraction.

Finance Minister Mark Durkan said: "Rather a Mexican wave than a Mexican stand-off."

Outside, standing in a line which stretched for several hundred yards, Maureen McShane was undeterred by the long wait.

"I would queue until tomorrow to see him," said the 38-year-old from the outskirts of south Belfast.

"He's done a lot for the peace process and he's very welcome here."

Caroline McDonald, 52, from Ballyclare, Co Antrim spoke of it as an historic day.

She said: "The president didn't have to come here. It's the end of his (term in) office and it shows his continuing commitment to peace in Northern Ireland."

Although Mrs McDonald had her doubts about what Mr Clinton could achieve during his discussions, she said that he could "create a desire among the public to do something".

For Sean Rafferty, principal of the Christian Brothers Secondary School on Belfast's Glen Road, taking his students to the Odyssey provided an opportunity to acknowledge America's economic impact on the next generation of Northern Ireland's workforce.

"Thirty years ago, it was felt that all there was for the youth was emigration - the opportunity for employment wasn't there," he said.

"But American support in the peace process and investment changed all that. These are young people who can look forward to the prospect of good jobs with a future.

"A lot of that is down to the involvement of Bill Clinton who has been a significant catalyst.

"These are 14- and 15-year-olds who, in 20 years' time, can maybe look back and say that they were part of the beginning of something."

Among the teenagers waiting to get into the arena there was an element of cynicism.

Caroline Crawford, 18, an A-level politics student at Hunter House school in south Belfast, remained nonchalant about the whole event.

"I'm a fan of US politics but not of Clinton as such," she said.

"I want to see him manipulate the crowd because it's all to do with personality and image."

Despite the lengthy queues, the mood remained upbeat, prompted by the bright sunshine which had replaced the grey, early-morning rain.

As the public stood outside the venue, they were approached by a man handing out religious tracts emblazoned with the question: 'Why did he come?'

An evident reference to Jesus Christ rather than Bill Clinton but Robert O'Neill from Harryville Gospel Hall in Ballymena couldn't resist exploiting the coincidence.

"The leaflets were specifically picked out because of the relevance to the President's visit," he said.

The pounds 91 million gleaming new home of the Belfast Giants ice hockey team was playing host to a true colossus of the world stage and the Northern Ireland public was anxious to be part of it.

Capacity in the arena had been increased to around 8,000, with extra seating installed on the boarded rink but, perhaps, the timber covers were an unnecessary move.

Given the warm, feel-good factor accompanying the President's visit it didn't seem unreasonable to assume that the ice would have melted anyway.

Even Assembly members joined in when a Mexican wave broke out as the excited crowd waited for the main attraction.

Finance Minister Mark Durkan said: "Rather a Mexican wave than a Mexican stand-off."

Outside, standing in a line which stretched for several hundred yards, Maureen McShane was undeterred by the long wait.

"I would queue until tomorrow to see him," said the 38-year-old from the outskirts of south Belfast.

"He's done a lot for the peace process and he's very welcome here."

Caroline McDonald, 52, from Ballyclare, Co Antrim spoke of it as an historic day.

She said: "The president didn't have to come here. It's the end of his (term in) office and it shows his continuing commitment to peace in Northern Ireland."

Although Mrs McDonald had her doubts about what Mr Clinton could achieve during his discussions, she said that he could "create a desire among the public to do something".

For Sean Rafferty, principal of the Christian Brothers Secondary School on Belfast's Glen Road, taking his students to the Odyssey provided an opportunity to acknowledge America's economic impact on the next generation of Northern Ireland's workforce.

"Thirty years ago, it was felt that all there was for the youth was emigration - the opportunity for employment wasn't there," he said.

"But American support in the peace process and investment changed all that. These are young people who can look forward to the prospect of good jobs with a future.

"A lot of that is down to the involvement of Bill Clinton who has been a significant catalyst.

"These are 14- and 15-year-olds who, in 20 years' time, can maybe look back and say that they were part of the beginning of something."

Among the teenagers waiting to get into the arena there was an element of cynicism.

Caroline Crawford, 18, an A-level politics student at Hunter House school in south Belfast, remained nonchalant about the whole event.

"I'm a fan of US politics but not of Clinton as such," she said.

"I want to see him manipulate the crowd because it's all to do with personality and image."

Despite the lengthy queues, the mood remained upbeat, prompted by the bright sunshine which had replaced the grey, early-morning rain.

As the public stood outside the venue, they were approached by a man handing out religious tracts emblazoned with the question: 'Why did he come?'

An evident reference to Jesus Christ rather than Bill Clinton but Robert O'Neill from Harryville Gospel Hall in Ballymena couldn't resist exploiting the coincidence.

"The leaflets were specifically picked out because of the relevance to the President's visit," he said.

Cross-community school choirs from Belfast and Portadown, a drum ensemble and choral group had all earlier contributed to the festive feel.

For Gavin Corrigan, a boy soprano with the Belfast School of Music Youth Choir, his excitement was tempered with nerves as he prepared to sing See the Baby Jesus for the large crowd.

The 12-year-old was determined not to be daunted, insisting: "I'd like to get Bill Clinton's autograph for my song sheet."

Then, of course, there was the effort of Belfast singer Brian Kennedy who kept the largely youthful audience entertained with a string of his best-known compositions.

Even the stage bore witness to the carefully choreographed theme of reconciliation. A backdrop declared: "Belfast, Northern Ireland - the gateway to peace."

Little did the public realise the level of planning that had gone into organising the Odyssey for the arrival of the US first family.

Work which continued through the night to set up the stage, sound system and media facilities meant that, by 10am, virtually everything was in place for the mid-afternoon event.

One US official, based in Berlin and a veteran of all three Clinton trips to Northern Ireland, was sitting back waiting for the show to get under way.

"It's like a big roller-coaster ride in the build-up and then woosh, it's over," he said.

He had just put reserve signs on 58 seats which were to accommodate members of the White House Press corps.

He estimated that some 900 media accreditations had been issued for the two-day Ireland visit.

RUC officers and US Secret Service personnel checked everyone on entry to the arena.

Prior guidance had warned that no baggage could be brought into the auditorium - not even handbags.

Referring to the presence of the White House minders, a NIO official warned "There's no messing about with these guys.

"Everything's just black and white - so, if you act up, you're out."

But, barring any dispute between the Secret Service and visitors breaching the strict access guidelines, he couldn't foresee any difficulties.

"I suppose you've got to remember they have a responsibility for an individual," he added.

While that individual may be marking time before his term in office ends, given the excitement generated by his appearance yesterday, Bill Clinton's charisma remains unrivalled among modern statesmen.

GRAPHIC: ONLOOKERS: Cherie Blair, Daphne Trimble, Hillary Clinton and John and Pat Hume at the Odyssey; END OF THE ROAD: Tony Blair and Seamus Mallon lead the applause for Bill Clinton after his speech in the Belfast Odyssey; Arena; FACES IN THE AUDIENCE: politicians David Ervine and Cedric Wilson and, above, Sir Ronnie Flanagan

Copyright 2000 Chicago Tribune Company

Chicago Tribune

View Related Topics

December 14, 2000 Thursday, CHICAGO SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: News; Pg. 3; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 697 words \

**HEADLINE: BURY HATCHET, CLINTON TELLS ULSTER;
BRITAIN, IRELAND TO HELP COMBAT TERROR, HE SAYS**

BYLINE: By Ray Moseley, Tribune Foreign Correspondent. Tribune news services contributed to this report.

DATELINE: BELFAST

BODY:

President Clinton challenged Northern Ireland politicians on Wednesday to resolve disputes threatening the peace process and announced that the U.S., Britain and Ireland would step up cooperation in fighting political groups that refuse to renounce violence.

The president, who is on his third visit to Northern Ireland, won an enthusiastic reception from most of the 8,000 people who filled Belfast's new, \$130 million Odyssey civic center. But a lone heckler provided a reminder of the political divisions that underlie the province's slow march toward a permanent peace.

The speech was the highlight of a day that also included a private meeting with victims of Northern Ireland's 30 years of violence and talks with leaders of the province's three main political parties representing Roman Catholics and Protestants.

During the talks he held a spirited debate with lawmakers who oppose the peace agreement he helped to fashion.

In addition, Protestant lawmaker Cedric Wilson said he told Clinton that the United States had failed to stand up against "terrorists on the street and gunmen in the government." Wilson was referring to the early parades for more than 200 Irish Republican Army prisoners and the guaranteed role in the Northern Ireland administration for Sinn Fein--both stipulations of the Good Friday peace agreement.

"The president could use the force of the United States and his office to say to these people that the days of terror are finished," Wilson said.

Clinton later retorted, "No, we're not soft" on terrorism.

At the end of the day Clinton, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and their daughter, Chelsea, flew to mainland Britain for an overnight visit with Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife, Cherie, at Chequers, the prime minister's country residence west of London.

They will meet Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace on Thursday morning, then go to Coventry, where Clinton will address students of Warwick University before returning to Washington at the end of a three-day visit that began in the Irish Republic on Tuesday.

In his speech, Clinton referred to the unfinished peace process and said, "We have still got problems and headaches."

Opponents of peace, he said, are still trying to exploit controversies that have arisen over implementation of the Good Friday peace agreement.

"I say to the exponents of violence, their way is finished," the president said. "Those who reject peace should know there is no place to hide."

He stopped short of demanding the banning of the Real IRA, the dissident group responsible for the 1997 car bombing in Omagh that took 29 lives. But he said that experts from the U.S., British and Irish governments would meet soon to discuss how to combat such groups.

Northern Ireland Protestants have demanded that the Real IRA be banned in the U.S. to prevent it from raising funds legally. Samuel "Sandy" Berger, the president's national security adviser, said there was a specific legal process before this could be achieved.

But he noted the State Department already has recognized the Real IRA as a terrorist organization. "This cooperative effort will deal with any terrorist group that seeks to use violence to achieve its ends," he said.

The Northern Ireland peace process is under threat because of disagreements over the Irish Republican Army's failure to begin handing in weapons, reform of the police service, demands by Sinn Fein for the dismantling of British security installations along the border with Ireland, and First

Minister David Trimble's refusal to allow Sinn Fein to participate in North-South ministerial talks between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

Clinton addressed some of these issues head-on. He said an independent commission report on police reform must be implemented, the security situation must be normalized and arms must be put beyond use.

"Somehow these processes must take place together," he said. "There has to be a belief you can only go forward together."

Clinton challenged ordinary people in Northern Ireland to become engaged in the peace process by showing their political leaders they do not accept a return to violence.

GRAPHIC: PHOTOPHOTO: Making his third visit to Northern Ireland, President Clinton greets a child Wednesday after his speech to 8,000 in a new Belfast civic center. Reuters photo by Dan Chung.

Copyright 2000 Chicago Tribune Company

Chicago Tribune

[View Related Topics](#)

December 14, 2000 Thursday, CHICAGO SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: News; Pg. 26; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 1092 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON'S LEGACY AFTER 8 YEARS IN OFFICE: PEACE, PROSPERITY AND IMPEACHMENT

BYLINE: By William Neikirk, Washington Bureau.

DATELINE: WASHINGTON

BODY:

Bill Clinton's legacy as president has been burnished by peace and prosperity, tarnished by impeachment, and now diminished by the failure of Vice President Al Gore to succeed him.

Admired by friend and foe for his political skills, Clinton survived eight bruising years of scandal and partisan clashes with congressional Republicans while presiding over one of the best economies in U.S. history.

Yet the legacy he so carefully tried to nurture could not survive an election in which he was largely kept on the sidelines by a Democratic nominee who considered him a liability--and at times seemed to back away from the administration's record.

This tactic proved frustrating to Clinton, if for no other reason than that one of the definitions of a successful legacy is to have it confirmed and continued by voters. Now with Gore's loss, the GOP will control the presidency and both houses of Congress--exactly the reverse of when Clinton and Gore took office in 1993.

This is a bitter result for a president who saw a more productive, information-driven economy blossom in his administration and make millions of Americans wealthier. The twist for Clinton is that such good times failed to extend his legacy. With people largely content with prosperity, Gore did not capitalize on such good times, political analysts said.

The only consolation for the president is that his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, won election to the Senate from New York and could be a party powerhouse over the next several years. If her husband's ideals are to be kept alive, she would likely be the one to do it.

A self-styled New Democrat, Clinton took the party toward the middle when he was elected in 1992 in the midst of an economic slowdown. He pushed deficit reduction, tougher measures to control crime (including hiring up to 100,000 police officers), free trade agreements and welfare reform--all of which were adopted. Yet his signature health-care reform legislation, developed by his wife, went down to spectacular defeat.

Clinton brought to Washington a new style of governing, the so-called permanent campaign, in which partisan charge is met with partisan countercharge and legislative battles are often fought like political races. Sometimes this worked to win passage of legislation, but sometimes it created hard feelings

and a lack of compromise.

"It's a destructive cycle that has been unleashed in American politics," said Rep. Mark Sanford (R-S.C.), and it appears to be here to stay in a world of 24-hour news cycles, he said.

In foreign policy, Clinton's legacy was mixed and largely reactive to some. After moving slowly to stop ethnic slaughter in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he stuck with the NATO bombing of Serbia in 1999 that brought a shaky peace agreement and ultimately the downfall of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, who is deemed largely responsible for the upheaval in the Balkans. He brought Middle Eastern leaders to the brink of peace, only to see it explode in his face.

Clinton agreed to expand NATO. He abandoned campaign slogans and engaged China's dictators, though tensions between Beijing and Taiwan nearly broke out in hostilities at one point. He pulled forces out of Somalia after warlords killed American troops. He bombed Iraq after uncovering a plot to kill former President George Bush.

But his affair with a White House intern, Monica Lewinsky, did more damage to Clinton's historical reputation than any hostile Republican leader or foreign leader could.

Rep. Ray LaHood (R-Ill.) generally praised Clinton's record on economics and foreign policy, especially for risking his political capital by seeking to make peace in the Middle East and Northern Ireland. Despite all that, he added, Clinton will be forever stamped by his 1998 impeachment by the House.

"That's the scarlet letter he will carry with him in history," the congressman said. "It's such a tragedy. He's one of the most talented, brilliant, skillful politicians ever to serve in the White House, and yet all that is blurred by the 'I' word."

Clinton's finger-waving denial when the Lewinsky scandal was first disclosed is one sound bite for which he will be remembered.

Yet Sen. Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) said that despite the damage to Clinton's legacy, a group of largely Republican chief executive officers told the senator at a luncheon recently that they had no doubt that Clinton would have been re-elected if he had been on the ballot this year.

For all his character flaws, said Georgetown University presidential scholar Stephen Wayne, "He survived, and he survived with a higher approval rating."

This resilience helped Clinton and the first lady through a series of investigations pursued by Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr and his successor, Robert Ray. The probes included the Whitewater land development case in Arkansas, the White House travel office firings and the White House's unauthorized obtaining of FBI files of former Republican officials.

The Clintons escaped prosecution in those cases, although Ray has impaneled a grand jury to consider criminal charges against the president in the Lewinsky case.

Clinton proved to be the most prodigious presidential fundraiser of all time in his eight years of office. This led to another scandal in 1996 when the president brought contributors to White House coffees and made the Lincoln Bedroom available for overnight stays. The Democratic Party also returned illegal contributions from foreign sources.

Despite a congressional probe and calls for an independent counsel, the president survived the storm, as Atty. Gen. Janet Reno refused to request a special prosecutor.

Failure of Clinton's health-care plan led to a Republican takeover of Congress in 1994, with new House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) painting himself as a parliamentary-style leader of American democracy. But Gingrich's conservative revolution began to lose its fizz after the 1995 partial government shutdown over spending priorities. Clinton staged a comeback.

The GOP lost seats in 1996 and again in 1998 in the middle of the impeachment crisis. Gingrich, Clinton's old nemesis, resigned, and the Senate refused to remove the president from office.

When Clinton steps on a political stage, said Sanford, one of the most conservative House Republicans, "It's the equivalent of Michael Jordan walking on the basketball court. He's got the whole package."

But these political skills don't translate into success for others, as Gore painfully knows.

THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT.

Copyright 2000 Coventry Newspapers Limited
Coventry Evening Telegraph
December 14, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 2/3

LENGTH: 1074 words

HEADLINE: CITY GREET'S WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL MAN

BYLINE: Hayley Cuthbertson

BODY:

'Compliment' as one leader salutes our own

BILL CLINTON was today paying Coventry "a huge compliment" as the first US president ever to visit the city, said our Lord Mayor, Sheila Collins.

The city was chosen as the platform for the outgoing president to deliver an address on globalisation and the challenges facing the world over the next decade.

It is the last overseas engagement carried out by Mr Clinton, who steps down from his role as the most powerful politician in the world, on January 20.

He was being accompanied to Warwick University by his wife, newly-elected senator Hillary Clinton, and their daughter Chelsea.

Prime Minister Tony Blair, who hosted the Clintons at Chequers last night, was arriving at the campus in a separate helicopter, along with wife Cherie Booth.

Cllr Collins, one of the dignitaries present, said she was "thrilled" by the visit, which confirmed the city's worldwide reputation.

She said: "President Clinton's visit to the University of Warwick acknowledges the city as home to leaders in the development of global technologies for the future, and pays us all a huge compliment.

"Coventry is at the heart of pioneering work of major importance to the future of us all.

"It is a city that is home to understanding, inspiration and invention, and I am so proud to be able to represent the people of Coventry today when, once again, the world spotlight will be on us."

About 1,000 people - guests of Downing Street, the White House and Warwick University - were this morning gathering in Butterworth Hall in the Arts Centre to hear Mr Clinton deliver his historic address.

Some 200 students queued at the campus's Senate House yesterday afternoon as remaining tickets were up for grabs on a first come, first served basis.

Scientist is among the VIP guests

ONE of the most famous scientists in Britain, Prof Stephen Hawking, was a guest at the visit of President Clinton today.

The wheelchair-bound professor and author brought a nurse and an assistant into the front-row seat.

His best-selling book, a Brief History of Time, stayed in the best-seller list for months and popularised astro physics.

There were two rows of VIP guests and the president of Warwickshire University Student Union Caitlin McKenzie sat next to Bill Clinton's daughter Chelsea Clinton.

Other VIPs included former Warwick University graduate and Radio One DJ Simon Mayo.

The university's head of Warwick Manufacturing Group, Prof Kumar Bhattacharyya, attended along with economics professor Keith Cowling who has given advice to Chancellor Gordon Brown. Bob Ainsworth, MP for Coventry North -east, and Andy King MP for Rugby and Kenilworth were also present.

Other guests included Coventry's Lord Mayor Sheila Collins, former Peugeot managing director Richard Parham, and John Browning, managing director of Jaguar Cars.

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott joined the Clintons, with Cherie Blair and agriculture minister Nick Brown and American ambassador Philip Lader. Feminist writer Germaine Greer, and mathematics professor Ian Stewart were also present.

The chancellor of the university, Sir Shridath Ramphal, professor Lord Skidelsky and the vice chancellor's wife Lady Follett joined them.

Bill's London walkabout

PRESIDENT Clinton turned on the charm as he went walkabout in London's Hyde Park today.

He shook hands with crowds of well-wishers after appearing to by-pass the original plan, that he should travel by car from the park to an audience with the Queen at Buckingham Palace.

After stepping off a United States military helicopter, the president waved to photographers and stepped into a waiting limousine.

But a few minutes later he got out again and, with his wife Hillary and their daughter Chelsea, strolled through the park in the bright morning sunshine.

The trio then walked about 500 yards from where the helicopter landed to the park's Serpentine Road, where a large crowd had gathered.

Litter sweep adds sheen to security check

PREPARATIONS at the university began early as staff prepared the campus to receive the president who is on his last official overseas engagement.

Windows were polished, roads were swept and litter was picked. And while the university ticked over almost as normal in the morning, taxi drivers sat at the rank, shops sold goodies and a children's pantomime performance continued, there was always one eye on the impending arrival.

Teenage gardener, Andrew Holmes, was patrolling the central campus collecting any rubbish lying around.

The 17-year-old apprentice has been working at the university for three months and remained unmoved by the commotion surrounding the visit.

"I'm usually just a gardener," said the Coventry City FC supporter. "But I've been out since 8am today going round just picking up litter.

"I'll probably finish at about noon and go down to the mess hall and stay in there."

West Midlands police officers in blue boiler suits surveyed the grounds, leading around sniffer dogs to smell out trouble.

University security was also on high alert.

One guard said: "It's been quite hectic this morning. But it's a great day for the university. I've worked here six years and this is the biggest day I can remember.

"I'm very excited about the whole thing and if I wasn't working I'd have loved to have listened to the president's speech."

'You must support Bush'

US PRESIDENT Bill Clinton today urged the American people to put the "rancour" of the election battle behind them and support president-elect George W Bush.

President Clinton also praised his Vice President Al Gore for the manner in which he accepted defeat.

Mr Clinton said: "In this election the American people were closely divided. The outcome was decided by the Supreme Court which was closely divided. But the essential unity of our nation was reflected in the words and values of those who fought this great contest.

"I want to say I'm profoundly grateful to Vice President Gore. Without his leadership our country could not have made the progress or reached the prosperity we now enjoy.

"I'm also profoundly grateful for him in putting into words the feelings of all who disagreed with the Supreme Court decision but accepted it.

"All of us have a responsibility to support president-elect Bush and unite our country in search of common ground."

GRAPHIC: COUNTDOWN: A police officer and cleaner (top) make final preparations at Warwick Arts Centre; a sniffer dog does a final check; (above); and university vice-chancellor Sir Brian Follett (right) looks anxiously at the time. Pictures: MICHELLE SPERRY AND CHRIS RADBURNVISITORS:; President Bill Clinton and Tony Blair at Belfast yesterday. Today they were arriving in Coventry with Hillary and Chelsea Clinton and Cherie Blair; (bottom. left to right)NUMBER 43: George W Bush

Copyright 2000 Cox News Service
Cox News Service
December 14, 2000

SECTION: Washington - general news

LENGTH: 958 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON EXTOLS VIRTUES OF GLOBALIZATION; CLOSES OUT VISIT TO BRITAIN, IRELAND

BYLINE: BERT ROUGHTON JR.

DATELINE: COVENTRY, England

BODY:

President Clinton on Thursday used perhaps his final foreign policy address abroad to extol the virtues of globalization as a powerful tool against worldwide poverty.

Clinton also clearly enjoyed the final day of this brief sweep through Ireland and Britain, one of the few opportunities left for him to relish the many benefits of being an American president.

He ended his visit in Shakespeare country, an apt place for a grand exit.

In an address here at Warwick University, the president rejected the arguments of the anti-globalization movement, which holds that the rapid expansion of open markets enriches Western capitalists at the expense of poor countries. Demonstrators opposed to globalization severely disrupted World Trade Organization talks in Seattle last year.

"I disagree with the anti-globalization protestors who suggest that poor countries should somehow be saved from development by keeping their doors closed to trade," he said. "I think that is a recipe for continuing (poor countries') poverty, not erasing it."

To intermittent applause, Clinton argued that poverty poses a much greater threat to the future than any dangers of a globalized economy.

"We have seen how abject poverty accelerates turmoil and conflict," Clinton said. "How it creates recruits for terrorists, and those who incite ethnic and religious hatred. How it fuels the violent rejection of the open economic and social order upon which our future depends. The more we help the rest of the world, the better it will be for us.

"Global poverty is a powder keg ignitable by our indifference," he said.

He also called upon wealthy countries to end agricultural subsidies to make it easier for farmers in developing countries to compete in the world marketplace. Clinton said such a change would generate US\$20 billion a year in income for poor countries.

Before going to Warwick, the president paid a social call on Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace. He and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton had coffee, tea and cookies in the Queen's Audience room within the palace's private residence. Chelsea was given a tour of the palace's State Rooms.

After visiting the queen, the Clintons stopped in Notting Hill for a little shopping on the famed Portobello Road. With Secret Service agents keeping the delighted crowd at bay, they popped into antique shops and a jewelry shop.

Clinton, who is familiar with English ways from his days at Oxford as a Rhodes scholar, popped into a pub while his wife continued shopping.

The pub owner offered him a glass of Pitfields organic lager. "A little bit, not much," the president responded. "I have to stay awake to give a speech today. I stayed up late last night watching Vice President (Al) Gore and Gov. (George W.) Bush give their speeches on television."

Clinton watched the speeches at Chequers, British Prime Minister Tony Blair's country estate.

Just before the motorcade roared into Portobello Road, the power went off in the shops, restaurants and stores.

Even though the outage was unrelated to the visit, Clinton apologized to the pub patrons. "Feel free to blame me," Clinton said. "In America, they blame me if it rains."

During Clinton's visit at the pub, an oyster deliveryman showed up with seafood from Northern Ireland, which was checked carefully by Secret Service agents.

As the president made his way down the street to catch up to his wife, a man in the crowd shouted that he wanted the president to run again.

"I can't," replied the president, who was clearly having a good time.

"You should change the constitution," the man retorted.

The president smiled and said with arms open. "I can't."

The president caught up with the first lady at Silver Fox Galleries, which has a fancy jewelry shop. They stayed in the shop a long time, reviewing their choices with the bemused sales clerks. At one point, the president rested his arm around the shoulder of the first lady _ and Senator-elect from New York _ as they looked into a glass display case.

They bought something, but the president refused to say what.

"If I told you, it wouldn't be a gift," Clinton told reporters as he boarded his hulking black limo.

Early Thursday, Clinton congratulated President-elect Bush and expressed gratitude to Vice President Gore for conceding gracefully.

After they completed their addresses, Clinton spoke to both men from Chequers. The Clintons spent Wednesday night at the estate, and stayed up with the Blairs to watch Gore's address live _ at 2 a.m. GMT (9 p.m. ET). After the others retired, the president stayed up with his daughter, Chelsea, to watch Bush's remarks. He spoke to Gore briefly at about 3:22 a.m. GMT, and Bush about 20 minutes later.

Standing in the doorway at Chequers, Clinton told reporters he was extending his full support to Bush. "I pledged to President-elect Bush my efforts and best efforts of every member of my administration for a smooth and successful transition," he said.

Clinton, who will meet personally with Bush next week in Washington, saved his kindest words for the man who has served loyally as his vice president for eight years.

"I am also profoundly grateful to him (Gore) for putting into words last night the feelings of all of us who disagreed with the (U.S.) Supreme Court decision but accepted it," he said.

He also called on U.S. congressional and party leaders to unite. "The American people, however divided, they were in this election, overwhelmingly want us to build on that vital center without rancor or personal attack."

The presidential party was scheduled to return to Washington Thursday evening.

Bert Roughton Jr.'s E-mail address is: bertr(at)coxnews.com

Copyright 2000 Daily News, L.P.
Daily News (New York)
December 14, 2000, Thursday SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 790 words

HEADLINE: TEENS SEAL PEACE DEAL IN BELFAST

BYLINE: BY JIM DWYER

BODY:

BELFAST - If you could pull a thread from time and follow it back to 1994, the five poised, beautiful young women standing in the lobby of the Grand Opera House yesterday morning would have been giggling 11-year-olds.

Then again, you would not have found them on that corner where Glengall meets Great Victoria St., very nearly the center of the city.

On that corner of Belfast six years ago, the sight of sunny children would have been scarce indeed. The Opera House itself was dark most days and nights; the Europa Hotel, just across the street, had been bombed so many times that people said it would be the first hotel on the moon.

Just about the only teenagers back then would have been the young British soldiers in camouflage gear, creeping down main streets in foursomes, two walking forward, two walking backward, rifles cocked - four corners of a human box, living proof of a failed society.

And the girls themselves would have been strangers.

"Never would have known each other," said Aislinn White.

"They never would have allowed us to go into the town," said Jenny Morrow. "The parents wouldn't chance it."

"Plus, we all went to segregated primary schools," said Sinead Gormally.

Now, at age 17, they are close to finishing their schooling at an integrated secondary school. With luck and persistence, they will be the last generation to have lived as children through the cycle of state and paramilitary violence in Northern Ireland known as The Troubles.

Change has galloped through the street. The young women from Lagan College were solid evidence of the triumph of politics, as much as the young soldiers were of what we are left with when it fails.

They were intercepted yesterday morning after a speech by Hillary Rodham Clinton, whom they all pronounced brilliant, inspirational, dynamic, enchanting. Their own lives and time are just as interesting. Each grew up when sectarian violence seemed like the rain, more bad weather, inescapable.

They come from separate neighborhoods, and different religious traditions. Now they are girlfriends.

In the first blush of peace, their parents decided to walk away from the intensely segregated schools of Northern Ireland and try sending their kids to mixed schools.

One by one, people dismantled the foundations of a segregated society. Since the 1994 ceasefires, the number of integrated schools has doubled. The mixed schools are swamped with applications.

At the Opera House yesterday, Clinton - the one just starting life as an elected official - gave a pep talk to a group of women, saying they had made the peace happen. "Woman after woman, daughter after daughter, mother after mother, grandmother after grandmother, has made it clear we cannot go back," she said.

The Lagan girls had a keen ear for the sense buried inside political generalities.

"The point is you can have your opinions, you don't have to sit on the fence to be polite," said Gormally.

"She brought out for us to really listen to each other, instead of just talking," said Stephanie Clark.

The matter of religious differences - something discernible only to scholarly theologians - had no place in their lives, and no place at an integrated school.

Said Siam Beers, "You get the opportunity . . ."

Interrupted Clark: "to hear what other people are saying . . ."

"From the other side of the divide," finished Beers.

Later in the day, President Clinton spoke at the Odyssey, a new arena.

The President had spent several hours trying to jaw the political parties into a few more concessions: the British on their military encampments, the Irish Republican Army about its guns and everyone on both sides about the police force, which is currently 95% Protestant.

No deal was struck, though one is said to be in the air; to declare failure would be a terrible mistake of avoiding the slower, less dramatic, but ultimately more powerful truths about how life is organized.

"When people are in war, they measure the progress by counting victims," said Clinton. "When people are involved in peaceful endeavors, it's easy to forget to measure, because the measurement is in 'pain avoided.'"

Other than following the thread of time backward, how could you measure this fresh and new world, where young women like those from Lagan College now are free to think with and about each other in ways that would have been impossible six years ago?

"You taught us to respect each other," said Seamus Mallon, the deputy minister of the new Northern Ireland Assembly, who was hailing Clinton but could have been talking about the young women from Lagan. "To learn, in John Hewitt's words, that 'you must give freedom if you would be free, for only friendship matters in the end.'"

GRAPHIC: AP EMBRACING PEACE Hillary Rodham Clinton (l.) hugs Cherie Blair, wife of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, at session hailing women's peace efforts at Belfast's Grand Opera House yesterday.

Copyright 2000 Telegraph Group Limited
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH(LONDON)
December 14, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: Pg. 31

LENGTH: 952 words

HEADLINE: Clinton felt everybody's pain - except the Unionists'

BYLINE: By Boris Johnson

BODY:

Talk about a marmalade-dropper. If the photograph hadn't appeared in yesterday's Daily Telegraph, I would have told you it was a hoax. It seems only the other day that we were warning of the corruption of even talking to the IRA. Men such as Adams and McGuinness were apologists for terror, and even if they didn't have the blood of innocents on their hands, they spoke for those who did. And then it felt like only a matter of a few months before the pair of them were welcomed to the White House by Bill Clinton; and next, in the face of all the outrage we could muster, Bill went to

Belfast and shook hands with Gerry Adams, live, on camera.

One day Adams was an officially designated monster, a man who refused to condemn every bomb from Birmingham to Manchester, whose words could not be broadcast on the BBC. In a blink, he was having his hand pumped in a Belfast cafe by the leader of the free world. And then yesterday, what happens? We are just about learning to accept that Martin McGuinness, whose organisation has killed so many children, has been appointed a minister for education in the government of the United Kingdom. It has been hard to stomach, but we are coping. Then we get this.

The picture looks a bit grainy. There is a snatched, illicit feel to it, a bit like one of those telephoto shots of Bill sharing a private moment with Monica. But there is no doubt about it: Martin McGuinness is being kissed by Hillary Rodham Clinton. And she kissed Gerry Adams, too. There was McGuinness, the man who, according to an intelligence source codenamed Infliction, fired the first shot on Bloody Sunday, receiving the full mwah-mwah treatment from the President's wife, as though he was some kind of Hollywood contributor to Democratic funds.

What an amazing rehabilitation: first, they are the scum of the earth, reviled by all except Gaddafi; then they are being slobbered over by the First Lady. One wonders how it was created, this strange euphoric mood in which kissing a convicted IRA man is not only acceptable, but an occasion for applause. What is it that brings sentimental tears to these Irish eyes, not just at the great Guinness-fuelled blarney-fest in Dublin, but on both sides of the border? Partly it is the fact of "peace", and people's justifiable sense of relief that the bombs and the bullets have slackened off.

But very largely it is something to do with Clinton himself, and the touchy-feely bow-wave of charisma he brings with him. Look at those crowds in the Dublin bar, pressing to touch the hem of his coat, joyful at the sight of him buying his round, like a regular guy. Talk to anyone who has been in the room with him, and they will confirm his preternatural gift of empathy, his willing you to believe that he is on your side.

When Bill Clinton is brought to the bar of history, as opposed to that of Kitty O'Shea's in Dublin, there will be good and bad things to be said on his behalf, and now, after eight years, it is time to have a first stab. I do not join those who loathe him for the Monica business; he may have lied, but he was asked a ridiculous question.

He has not made a hash of the US economy; far from it. He followed James Rubin in bringing down the deficit, so permitting continuously low interest rates, a policy that has been profitably imitated by Gordon Brown. Perhaps it is true that a hard landing is now in the offing, but we have heard that before over the past three years, and Clinton cannot be entirely dissociated from the longest boom on record.

He may have had his share of foreign policy foul-ups, from the Middle East to Somalia to Kosovo, but, 11 years after the fall of the Berlin Wall, there is still only one superpower. You may think he is a phoney, and you may even think he was responsible for bumping off Vince Foster and running drugs into Arkansas. But I quite admire the way he has been the first US president to reduce his golf handicap while in office.

What makes me feel uneasy about Clinton, and prevents me from calling him a great president, is that the very charm he uses to light up a room, and which prompts an ex-IRA man and a First Lady to start their bacchic smooching, is also the utensil by which he evades and manipulates. What is his mission in Ulster, which was not, the last time I looked, part of the United States? He must be here not just to "claim his place in history", but also because he sees that Irish votes are important for Hillary in New York. That is why, yet again, he is creating a candyfloss illusion for the Unionists. What is behind the choked appeals for peace, that both sides should have the courage to "jump together"?

It is a nauseating attempt to create a moral equivalence between the disarmament of the IRA (which was meant to be, successively and abortively, the precondition of talks, then of the new institutions, then of prisoner releases) and the withdrawal of the Army. Look at Clinton's chipmunk chin, the pushing-out of the lower lip that is meant to connote modesty and sincerity. Note how often Blair imitates it. What Clinton really brought to politics was the I-feel-your-pain humbug of the Third Way.

Like Blair, Clinton has been the economic beneficiary of the conservative governments that preceded him. He has added his own extraordinary gifts of self-dramatisation and empathy. What will happen to the Third Way without Clinton? It didn't work for Al Gore. What will Blair do, when he has lost the master he studied so closely? He could try encouraging Cherie to kiss Martin McGuinness, but

I'm not sure that she would oblige. Not in public; not yet, anyway.

Boris Johnson is editor of the Spectator
[PS]Features: [ES]

Copyright 2000 Scottish Daily Record & Sunday Mail Ltd.
Daily Record
December 14, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 149 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON VOWS TO SET CIA LOOSE ON TERROR GUNMEN

BYLINE: James Hardy

BODY:

PRESIDENT Clinton has vowed to use the US Secret Service to crush the Real IRA.

He pledged the CIA would link up with MI5 and Irish Special Branch to ensure the gunmen had "no place to hide".

In an emotional farewell in Belfast, the President warned dissident Republicans must not be allowed to smash the Good Friday peace deal.

He told a crowd of 6000 at a new pounds 90million ice hockey stadium: "The people of Northern Ireland must be clear about your support for peace - the enemies of peace don't need your approval, all they need is your apathy.

"Those who reject peace should know there is no place for them to hide."

The President's message followed a day of talks with Sinn Fein boss Gerry Adams and SDLP leader John Hume over IRA arms.

First Lady Hillary Clinton has been offered pounds 6million for a tell-all book about her time in the White House.

Copyright 2000 Deutsche Presse-Agentur
Deutsche Presse-Agentur
December 14, 2000, Thursday, BC Cycle
16:24 Central European Time

SECTION: International News

LENGTH: 536 words

HEADLINE: ROUNDUP: Clinton speaks on globalisation, debt in foreign policy address

DATELINE: London

BODY:

U.S. President Bill Clinton highlighted problems of the environment, developing countries' debt and the divide between rich and poor in an address on globalisation on Thursday at the end of his three day visit to Ireland and Britain.

Speaking to a high profile audience at Warwick University in the English Midlands before flying back to the United States, Clinton characterised globalisation as unstoppable.

"The great question is not whether globalisation will proceed, but how, and what is our responsibility in the developed world to try to shape that process so that it lifts people in all nations," Clinton said.

"Whilst some of us walk on the cutting edge of the new global economy, still an amazing number of people live on the razor's edge of survival," he said.

"We have the ability and the responsibility to make a great deal of difference by promoting economic empowerment among the world's poor," he added.

Among the audience were British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his deputy John Prescott, as well as mathematician Stephen Hawking and other academics.

Clinton acknowledged the impact of economic globalisation was uneven, pointing to Pacific-rim countries worst hit by the Asian crisis two years ago. "In developing countries too it brings the promise but not the guarantee of prosperity," he said, advocating greater freedom of trade.

Clinton made special reference to the problem of agriculture where rich nations were reluctant to drop trade barriers for fear of damage to their farming sectors.

"We do have to answer those who fear that the burden of open markets will fall mainly on them," he said.

It was to the long-term advantage of richer countries to help the poor, the president said, pointing to almost one billion living in chronic hunger and almost as many unable to read.

Clinton also made reference to global warming, climatic change and the impact on agriculture, as well as the political problem over carbon sinks to offset carbon dioxide emissions, for which the U.S. is pushing in world climate talks.

Earlier, the outgoing president visited Buckingham Palace in London to say farewell to Queen Elizabeth.

Clinton and First Lady Hillary Clinton talked to the queen over tea and coffee in the Audience Room of the palace in central London, while their daughter Chelsea was shown around the state apartments.

The Clintons later emerged from the palace with the queen, posing for pictures outside the entrance to the private apartments before leaving by limousine as Queen Elizabeth waved them goodbye.

They had landed earlier in nearby Hyde Park by helicopter from Chequers, the official country residence near London of Prime Minister Tony Blair, where they had spent the night.

On arrival the president embarked on a brief impromptu walkabout, before a motorcade took the family on the short journey to the palace, where they swept through the main gates escorted by scores of security officials.

The main aim of the three-day visit to Ireland, Northern Ireland and Britain has been to boost the Northern Irish peace process, which is stalled over the issue of the disarmament of paramilitary organisations. dpa rpm ms

Copyright 2000 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.
Evening News (Edinburgh)
December 14, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: Pg. 1

LENGTH: 413 words

HEADLINE: OF COURSE YOU NEEDN'T WORRY ABOUT ELECTIONS

BODY:

BILL CLINTON and the Queen talked on the steps of Buckingham Palace today as the US President urged the American people to put the "rancour" of the election battle behind them to support George W Bush.

Mr Clinton praised Vice President Al Gore for the manner in which he accepted defeat.

In his first public comment since Mr Gore withdrew from the race for the White House, Mr Clinton said the US owed the Democrat candidate a debt for the progress and prosperity he had helped achieve.

Asked if Mr Bush's appointment would affect the special relationship between the US and UK, he said: "No. I'm sure it will continue."

Mr Clinton also welcomed the prospect of electoral reform to prevent a repeat of the uncertainty and confusion which dogged the election.

He said: "I thank the members of Congress from both parties who have pledged to work with the

President-elect and have also pledged to elect common-sense bi-partisan election reforms so the votes of all citizens can be easily used and easily counted in elections."

He added: "The American people, however divided they were in this election, want us to build on the divided senate without rancour."

Before flying off in a US Navy helicopter from the Prime Minister's Buckinghamshire retreat to visit the Queen, Mr Clinton saved his final words of thanks in his last few weeks of power for the American people.

He said: "Finally, I want to thank the American people for their patience, passion and patriotism through this extended election season."

Kindness

Mr Clinton made a final plea for unity : "All of us should do our part to give the President-elect a chance to do his job.

"Two years from now, what I hope will happen is that the honest differences that remain between the two parties will be the subject of a vigorous and constructive debate, but that we will be moving further and further away from rancour."

"President-elect Bush responded with generosity and kindness, I think, in his remarks.

"We ought to use this opportunity to come together and get the new administration off to a good start."

The outgoing US President and First Lady Hillary Clinton spent 20 minutes chatting to the Queen, over tea and coffee, in the Palace Audience Room.

Today's audience, after the president's peace-seeking visit to Northern Ireland, was an opportunity for the Queen to say goodbye to him before he hands over power to Mr Bush in the New Year.

Copyright 2000 EXPRESS NEWSPAPERS

The Express
December 14, 2000

LENGTH: 942 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON TURNS ON THE CHARM IN FINAL ARMS PLEA

BYLINE: BY ALAN MURRAY, TED OLIVER AND KIRSTY WALKER

BODY:

BILL CLINTON gave a rousing farewell to the people of Ulster last night, despite failing to spark a breakthrough in the peace process.

He promised a crackdown on the Real IRA and other dissident groups in America as he made an emotive last ditch attempt to persuade all paramilitaries to give up arms to the cheers of an 8,000-strong crowd in Belfast.

Mr Clinton used every ounce of his charm to urge politicians to move the peace process forward for the sake of future generations.

But any hopes of seeing out his final hours as President of the United States with a victory were fading when there appeared to be no sign of progress in the province last night.

Despite holding a series of crucial talks with politicians at Stormont, all sides refused to budge on the key issues of disarmament and policing.

Ulster Unionists' leader David Trimble said there could be no real peace unless the IRA disarmed.

And Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, who was embraced by Mr Clinton and wife Hillary on Tuesday, also admitted that the President's visit had failed to secure progress in the talks.

The impasse came despite Mr Clinton promising that efforts would be intensified to crack down on

the group who bombed Omagh.

He added: "I urge the political parties here, the British and Irish governments and the communities themselves to work out the way forward in the coming days and weeks."

He called for "an irrevocable commitment to effecting change only through peaceful means, through ballots not bullets. It means putting all arms fully and forever beyond use".

He told the cheering crowd at Belfast Odyssey Centre: "I do not believe you want Northern Ireland ever again to be a place where dreams are clouded by yesterday's nightmares. The vast majority of people in Northern Ireland are still on the side of peace and want it to prevail."

He said peace was not a spectator sport and people couldn't sit and do nothing. "Let's work together to make killings and bombings remnants of a past we want to leave behind," he said.

Mr Clinton admitted there had been significant difficulties in his talks with unionists and nationalists, but said the Patten report must be implemented and weapons put beyond use.

Saying the visit was his last opportunity as President to speak to the people of Ulster, he added: "I have tried to be pretty straightforward in my reasoning and not as emotional as I feel."

He said he hoped to be with the people of Ulster in the future in some capacity but said in the end "what really matters is what you do and whether you decide to give your children not your old yesterdays but their own tomorrows.

"The difficulties of sharing power in a free, peaceful, democratic system are nothing compared to the difficulties of not having any power at all, or living with constant insecurity and violence."

Earlier, wife Hillary told an audience, including Cherie Blair: "Building peace anywhere is never easy and there are always people who are the self-appointed doom-sayers, who would rather throw up their hands than roll up their sleeves.

"There always come times when it is just easier to go back. But none of us can afford to let that happen.

"All our problems are of our making and so our solutions are of our making as well. This is one of those special moments when you have the chance to defy generations of hatred."

Tony Blair, who also held meetings with parties, said the men of violence would never get their way.

"There is no other choice which somehow offers a painless way of grasping the potential of the future. This is our chance in Northern Ireland," he said.

Ulster's First Minister David Trimble said: "I stand firm on the need for decommissioning." Yet he added: "I do not intend to let the ship of peace sink on the rocks of old habits and hard grudges."

Please help me find my father's killers, Mr President A SCHOOLGIRL Bill Clinton took to his heart during his previous visit to Northern Ireland yesterday appealed to him to help uncover the truth about the murder of her father.

Since Catherine Hamill read a moving welcome to Mr Clinton five years ago, evidence has emerged suggesting that British security forces colluded with loyalist terrorists in the killing of her father Patrick.

Catherine, 14, hopes her special relationship with the President will lead to an independent inquiry into the killing, in 1987.

Mr Hamill's family believe he died after a shadowy British army intelligence group, the Force Research Unit (FRU), turned a blind eye to a loyalist plot to murder him.

They also believe that security forces handed a photograph of him to his Ulster Defence Association killers.

The possible involvement of FRU in the murder of Mr Hamill, 29, who had no links to any terror group, has shocked the authorities and the President was said to be "distressed" when told of the

claims.

Catherine, who was just 11 months old when her father was shot dead at the family home in Belfast, was chosen to address Mr Clinton and his wife when they visited Ulster in 1995.

The President listened spellbound as Catherine, then nine, spoke of her father's death and wished for lasting peace and love throughout Ireland. The Clintons invited Catherine, her elder sister Kelly and mother Laura to the White House the following Christmas.

The activities of FRU are already being investigated by Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir John Stevens, but he has so far declined to include the murder of Patrick Hamill.

Mrs Hamill is now planning to sue the MoD, citing its involvement in the murder of her husband.

Copyright 2000 The Financial Times Limited
Financial Times (London)
December 14, 2000, Thursday London Edition 3

SECTION: NATIONAL NEWS; Pg. 3

LENGTH: 425 words

HEADLINE: NATIONAL NEWS: Political allies gather for an Irish swan-song

BYLINE: By BRIAN GROOM

BODY:

Few will miss Bill Clinton more than Tony Blair. The two met in Belfast yesterday for a swan-song, in another effort to advance the peace process - Mr Clinton's third and final visit as president.

The event was poignant, coming on the day George W. Bush was finally heading for the presidency - a development that deprives Mr Blair of the personal and political support from across the Atlantic that has shaped his first term.

Their relationship has been closer than any in recent memory, except for Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan. Lord Tebbit once described the prime minister as "Bill Clinton with his trousers zipped up".

Last night, Mr Clinton stayed at Chequers, the prime minister's country residence. After an audience with the Queen today, he will travel with Mr Blair to Warwick University to deliver a speech.

Mr Blair's advisers say they speak on the telephone about once a week - and more at times of crisis. Their closeness has smoothed relationships between Downing Street and the White House at all levels. Their wives are also friendly - Cherie Blair called Hillary Clinton to congratulate her on being elected to the Senate.

The government has courted Mr Bush and Al Gore. They hope Mr Bush will prove co-operative, despite his apparent lack of interest in international affairs. Downing Street fears he will be distracted by the need to heal the divided US's wounds. It is hard, though, to imagine the prime minister turning to a Republican president to help out in Northern Ireland.

Mr Blair learnt much from Mr Clinton, who was the senior partner not just because the US is bigger, but because his presidency began five years before Mr Blair came to power.

The president, annoyed by John Major's support for the Bush campaign in 1992, rolled out the red carpet when Mr Blair, then still in opposition, visited in 1996. There was a meeting of minds on policy and a glittering party thrown by Sydney Blumenthal, veteran presidential adviser.

Mr Blair modelled New Labour on the New Democrats, adopted a raft of campaign techniques such as the pledge card, and shared the movement's central ethos: "not bigger government, but more effective government".

In return, Mr Blair offered support on the world stage, particularly in Europe, and backing for the president at the height of the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

But what worries Labour strategists is how far Mr Clinton's success was a matter of personality. If the Democrats cannot do without Clinton, they wonder, could New Labour do without Blair?

SECTION: Pg. 10

LENGTH: 531 words

HEADLINE: Rousing send-off for the peacemaker: Belfast responds in kind as Clinton bids a fond farewell

BYLINE: Michael Settle Chief Political Correspondent

BODY:

AMID rapturous scenes, Bill Clinton, in one of his final acts as US president, bade an emotional farewell to Northern Ireland yesterday, urging its people to keep faith with the fragile peace process and not allow the province to slip back to the dark days of bloodshed.

"What really matters is ... whether you decide to give your children not your own yesterdays but their own tomorrows," he told 8000 people in Belfast's Odyssey sports arena.

He gave a clear indication he believed his successor, George W Bush, would keep America engaged in Ulster's search for a permanent peace.

"I believe the US will be with you in the future," he said.

Downing Street last night insisted the "Clinton magic" had not achieved a breakthrough, but a new impetus had been created to overcome the remaining hurdles of disarmament, policing and demilitarisation.

The most telling point in Mr Clinton's speech came when he addressed a crucial stumbling block in the peace process - dissident terrorists. He issued a stark warning, directed most notably at the Real IRA, who carried out the Omagh bombing which killed 29 people. To applause, he said: "Those who reject peace, there is no place for them to hide."

He also announced the security services of America, Ireland, and Britain would work together to neutralise dissident groups. Experts would meet soon to "make sure we do whatever we can to root out terrorism and to make this peace agreement take hold".

Praising Mr Clinton's commitment, Tony Blair, the prime minister, said the men of violence would never get their way. "This is our chance in Northern Ireland," he said.

Both he and Mr Clinton highlighted two of the dividends of peace, jobs and investment. The £91m Odyssey sports arena was chosen specifically because it symbolised Northern Ireland's new-found prosperity.

Mr Clinton told the audience: "First, the Patten Report (on police reform) must be implemented and on that basis, leaders from every part of the community must commit to make the new service work.

"There must be security normalisation and arms must be put beyond use.

"This will lead to a reduction of fear and mistrust on all sides. Somehow these processes must take place together."

Earlier, the presidential schedule had been delayed because of surprise talks at Mr Clinton's hotel with Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Fein, and John Hume, the leader of the nationalist SDLP. Five hours of talks with all the parties followed at Stormont.

It was clear pressure was being put on the UK government to scrap some of the army watchtowers in South Armagh.

David Trimble, first minister and leader of the Ulster Unionists, has already indicated he might be flexible on lifting the ban on Sinn Fein from attending ministerial meetings of the north-south bodies. A court challenge to the ban takes place tomorrow. The quid pro quo for British and unionist movement would be Sinn Fein persuading the IRA to engage with the decommissioning body and starting disarmament.

Although this is his last official visit, from the sentiments expressed yesterday no one doubts Mr Clinton will be back in Northern Ireland.

GRAPHIC: SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP: Hillary Clinton and Cherie Blair embrace at the end of a meeting for women in Belfast Pictures: ADAM BUTLER/AP

Copyright 2000 Newspaper Publishing PLC
The Independent (London)
December 14, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 8

LENGTH: 917 words

HEADLINE: BELFAST TRIBUTE TO THE PRESIDENT THEY CALL A FRIEND

BYLINE: David Mckittrick Ireland Correspondent

BODY:

BELFAST GAVE a rousing send-off yesterday to Bill Clinton, whose two-day visit has confirmed that he has surpassed even JFK as Ireland's favourite US President.

The consummate campaigner thrilled 7,000 fans at the Odyssey Arena, Belfast's latest symbol of modernity, urging the audience to raise their sights from "all the many squabbles and fights" and work together for the peace process. The issue, he said, was "how your kids are gonna live".

His triumphant farewell appearance as President came after a morning of arm-twisting when he and Tony Blair met a stream of local politicians. Their sessions were aimed at pushing republicans and Unionists towards a deal on arms decommissioning and other thorny issues.

Whether their attempts to broker trade-offs involving guns, policing reform and demilitarisation made any headway may take some days to reveal. The official marksmen prowling around the roof of Stormont as they talked inside were evidence enough that the gun has not yet disappeared from Irish politics.

The enthusiastic audience, which included many children, clearly viewed Mr Clinton as an inspiring contrast to the scepticism and suspicion that permeates Belfast politics. He insisted that the peace process must succeed.

The former US senator George Mitchell, who has served as the Clinton representative in Belfast, has spoken of local politicians and their "vast inventories of historical recrimination". These coexist with substantial reservoirs of pessimism.

Bill and Hillary Clinton attacked the wells of pessimism yesterday, with the President and others dropping broad hints that he did not regard his association with Northern Ireland as being over. Mrs Clinton emphasised that message, condemning what she called "self-appointed doom-sayers" who, she said, were forming a "back to the Troubles" committee. Despite the continuing disputes, she said, the Good Friday Agreement was working.

Her husband will be remembered for turning traditional US policy on Ireland on its head. For decades American administrations shied away from the issue, the White House taking the line that it was a British domestic problem. At the same time some Irish-Americans sent guns and money to the IRA.

All changed with the Clinton decision to allow Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, to visit America, against the trenchant opposition of the Conservative government. Mr Clinton has always felt that the controversial decision was vindicated by the subsequent IRA ceasefire.

The immediate effect of this was to deepen Ulster Unionist suspicions of the US as being pro-Irish nationalist and anti-Unionist.

Mr Clinton's next achievement, an extraordinary one, came as he worked on Unionist opinion, eventually convincing most, though not all, Ulster Protestants that he was not a menace to their interests. This was reflected yesterday when the Unionist leader David Trimble introduced the President as "an old friend" and indicated that he would welcome back Mr Clinton in the future in a private capacity.

The Clinton legacy may be judged on two levels. On one, he has helped to counter Northern

Ireland's seemingly endemic negativity and given voice to the idea that real progress is possible despite all the difficulties. As yesterday's audience clearly showed, many in Belfast, in particular the young, have an appetite for being inspired and for being told that their problems are capable of resolution.

On another level, the US intervention under Mr Clinton has introduced what most participants in the peace process regard as a very valuable widening of the issue with the introduction of a new dimension that helped to lift the problem out of the familiar trenches. The experience of the Clinton years has also been educational for Britain in that the traditional attitude that this was a domestic issue in which American involvement was unwelcome has been replaced by a recognition that the issue has been thoroughly internationalised.

Where American and above all Irish-American involvement was viewed as meddling, it is now accepted that the US has played a valuable role and often helped to keep the process alive.

One of the points Mr Clinton pressed for in several contacts with republicans yesterday was for the IRA to reopen talks with the capital's decommissioning body. A potentially promising sign of this came in the Odyssey hall where, while waiting for the President, Martin McGuinness of Sinn Fein was to be seen chatting affably to the Canadian general John de Chastelain. In the relaxed atmosphere Mr McGuinness, Mr Adams and some Unionist ministers were to be seen joining in Mexican waves started by the schoolchildren.

In his speech Mr Clinton admitted that "it's always easier to talk about high-minded change than to pull it off". He summarised the immediate issues, saying that the Patten report on police reform should be implemented, more moves to normal security should be made, and arms should be put beyond use. He was particularly insistent on the weapons question, saying he meant "putting all arms finally, fully and for ever beyond use". The problem, he acknowledged, was how these pieces could be put in place together. This was a reference to the behind-the-scenes efforts to find agreement on some form of sequencing in which the different elements involved could agree to make concessions simultaneously.

All the signs are that agreement on these matters is not immediately close.

GRAPHIC: President Bill Clinton making his farewell speech to an audience of, 7,000 at the Odyssey Arena in Belfast yesterday Chris Bacon/PA; Hillary, Clinton, left, and Cherie Blair at a conference at the Grand Opera House in, Belfast yesterday AFP

Copyright 2000 International Herald Tribune
International Herald Tribune (Neuilly-sur-Seine, France)
December 14, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: News; Pg. 6

LENGTH: 833 words

HEADLINE: Irish Cheer Rise of a Newly Powerful Friend Named Hillary Clinton

BYLINE: By Warren Hoge; New York Times Service

DATELINE: BELFAST

BODY:

President and Mrs. Bill Clinton have a record of paying particular attention to Ireland and Northern Ireland, and it has brought them both rapturous receptions on their visits to the island.

This time the welcome for the couple has been no less embracing, but speakers have embellished their praise of the chief executive's past contributions to include special mention of the new status of the first lady that makes her the Clinton with the political future that Ireland and Ulster keenly anticipate.

Even in her solo appearances, she has been introduced only as the first lady - not also as the senator-elect from New York - and her staff members stress that she does not want to detract from the "victory lap" aspect of the last visit Mr. Clinton is making here as president.

Mr. Clinton enjoys extraordinary popularity north and south of the border for his active participation in the Northern Ireland peace settlement, and the response to his visit, the third he has made during his years in office, has been celebratory.

But Mrs. Clinton doesn't have to bring up her new job and how it might play to the advantage of the

Irish. Her presenters do it for her. "Hillary Clinton is a friend we know we will have in the U.S. Senate," said Prime Minister Bertie Ahern in his public greeting to the Clintons in Dublin on Tuesday. He added, "Give 'em hell."

In Belfast on Wednesday, Mary Black, the head of the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust, told women community activists and politicians who crowded into the Grand Opera House to hear Mrs. Clinton that women in Ulster were "overjoyed" at her election. The hundreds of women thronging the orchestra and balconies illustrated her point with cheers and prolonged applause.

The Grand Opera House is a red and gold music-hall confection more accustomed to family entertainment revues such as its current attraction, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," than to grand opera. Yet even this benign activity in Ulster life didn't spare it, and it was bombed and shut down twice during the three decades of sectarian conflict known as "the troubles."

Mrs. Clinton recalled that period solemnly and said that having been "a small part in such a great historic change" was a high point of the White House years for her. This was her fifth visit to the province, and she implied it wouldn't be her last. "I will always be there as a friend and an advocate and a partner as you continue the hard, hard work of peace and reconciliation," she said.

But she said her real purpose this time in Belfast was to acknowledge the role women had played in securing political stability here and to urge them to continue and to energize other women elsewhere.

Speaking in front of an illuminated legend proclaiming "Women raising their voices for a new Northern Ireland," she told the gathering how a simple event that she participated in here two years ago - the opening of a playground in a contested part of Belfast for use by both Catholic and Protestant children - had resonated in far-off places.

She said that on a visit to Rwanda, she asked local women who had lived through massacres and machete attacks what she could do to help them. "They said, 'Build a playground'; they had read about the playground in Belfast," she said.

"While the president and the prime minister are up at the legislature working on the big acts today," she told the community workers, "I come here to celebrate daily small acts of courage."

In Dublin, Mrs. Clinton told a reception with 40 women from Irish political life at the U.S. ambassador's residence that she wanted to "create opportunities for women's voices to be heard" around the world after her husband leaves the White House and she takes up her Senate position. "Women in public life - in appointed positions and in elected positions - have a great many lessons to exchange with one another," she told the Irish lawmakers. "I've observed that. Now I'm about to live that."

Cherie Blair, the wife of the British prime minister, Tony Blair, told the Belfast gathering that "for women getting involved in politics, Hillary Clinton is a great role model."

Mrs. Clinton noted that two of the other women on stage - Mrs. Blair and Daphne Trimble, wife of David Trimble, the first minister of the Northern Ireland Assembly - were lawyers like her. She also noted approvingly that Mrs. Blair had been introduced to the largely female audience as Cherie Booth Q.C., the name and Queens Counsel title that she uses in her law practice. "Interesting, we all went to law school and learned how to advocate," she said. "That is the way that some of us of a certain generation decided to have our own voices."

She said she hoped to be in touch in the future, welcoming groups to Washington, though, she added, in different circumstances. "We won't be hosting them in the White House next year," she said. "But we'll find a venue somewhere."

Copyright 2000 The Irish Times
The Irish Times
December 14, 2000

SECTION: CITY EDITION; HOME NEWS; THE CLINTON VISIT; Pg. 11

LENGTH: 355 words

HEADLINE: No breakthrough, but Clinton has set agenda for further negotiation

BYLINE: By FRANK MILLAR, London Editor

BODY:

President Clinton set the scene for further intensive negotiations in Belfast before travelling to London last night for the final leg of his visit.

Despite the absence of an immediate breakthrough, British government sources indicated there would be no let-up in the efforts to break the impasse in Northern Ireland's political process following the President's departure from London later today.

On the last leg of his visit to the United Kingdom and Ireland, President Clinton will this morning meet Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace before delivering a speech on globalisation at Warwick University this afternoon.

The President and his wife, Senator Hillary Clinton, spent last night with the Blairs at Chequers.

Commenting on President Clinton's meetings at Stormont yesterday, a British source told The Irish Times: "He has set up the agenda for the next round of the negotiation." Asked if that negotiation would carry into the new year, the source confirmed continuing hopes of a pre-Christmas breakthrough, saying: "Let's see how things go over the next few days." Central are the key issues of Mr David Trimble's ban on Sinn Fein's participation in meetings of the North-South Ministerial Council; the continuing standoff between the British government and Sinn Fein and the SDLP over policing; and the vexed questions of demilitarisation and IRA decommissioning.

There was speculation in some unionist circles last night that the SDLP leadership might be close to endorsing the new policing dispensation in Northern Ireland. However, it seems certain that Mr Trimble will not lift his ban on Sinn Fein's participation in North-South Ministerial Council meetings without an advance on the arrangements for the inspection of a limited number of IRA arms dumps.

Meanwhile, the mystery of Mr Trimble's sudden departure from Belfast ahead of President Clinton was explained last night by official sources. While the US President ran predictably behind schedule, Northern Ireland's First Minister left on time for Palermo, Sicily, where he is attending a conference on countering organised crime.

**Copyright 2000 The Irish Times
The Irish Times
December 14, 2000**

SECTION: CITY EDITION; HOME NEWS; THE CLINTON VISIT; Pg. 12
LENGTH: 498 words

**HEADLINE: Britt Ekland in supporting role as First Lady takes to the stage
Hillary Clinton enjoyed an adoring reaction from the mainly female audience in Belfast's Grand Opera House yesterday, writes Roisin Ingle**

BODY:

So engrossed was the 500-strong audience in Hillary Clinton that hardly anyone noticed a second celebrity blonde sitting in the back row of Belfast's Grand Opera House.

Wrapped in a pink scarf and disguised by dark sunglasses, 1970s sex symbol Britt Ekland had come to pay homage to one of her idols. The glamorous Swede is starring in the Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs pantomime at the theatre in the role of the Wicked Queen.

Oh Yes She Is.

"I got up at 8 a.m. this morning, despite having done two shows yesterday, just so that I could see her," said the panto queen breathlessly.

"I just really admire her, she is a great role model." Ekland said she was so excited by the prospect of seeing the First Lady that "I e-mailed my son and all my ex-husbands to tell them".

Shortly after 11 a.m. she watched as the First Lady burst on to the stage of the magnificent Victorian theatre to the popping of flashbulbs and the kind of rapturous applause even veteran performer Ekland could only dream of.

But if the crowd's adoring reaction made the actress envious, she would have been appeased by the opening words of the First Lady who declared herself "thrilled and delighted" to be at the Opera House.

"The current production is Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs," said the First Lady as theatre management took turns grinning for Northern Ireland. "And if any of you are here to see that, it's on at two o'clock."

Going all Oprah Winfrey on us, Mrs Clinton said the Grand Opera House was an appropriate place to "make a song to sing together and create a chorus of change of opportunity and greater space for dreams and aspirations and hopes. . ." and, well, you get the picture.

One of the warm-up acts at this conference was Token Man Mr Chris Gibson of the Civic Forum. Risking the wrath of the mainly female audience, he said he felt like the back-up for "Hillary and the new Spice Girls".

A Secret Service man in regulation mackintosh hovered ominously in the wings. "He's behind you," we felt like warning Mr Gibson. But we didn't.

The peace process nay-sayers reminded the First Lady of the story of Moses and the way his followers wanted to return to Egypt because life was too hard in the promised land.

She took the part of a disgruntled Moses follower. "We knew where we were in Egypt," she said. "We knew they wore funny skirts and we got up for work every day building their tombs," she continued, drawing an analogy with those who wanted to return to the bad old days.

Afterwards, community worker Kathleen Feenan, who shared the stage with the First Lady, said that as a working class woman it was a wonderful experience meeting her up close. "She knows how to relate to people . . . and I loved her hair, it's definitely one to copy".

As the crowd left the theatre, Britt Ekland was spotted hurrying backstage to get ready for her matinee. Or maybe she just wanted to swap hair-tinting tips with the immaculately groomed First Lady.

Copyright 2000 The Irish Times
The Irish Times
December 14, 2000

SECTION: CITY EDITION; HOME NEWS; THE CLINTON VISIT; Pg. 12

LENGTH: 598 words

HEADLINE: First Lady praises courage of North's women

BYLINE: By ROISIN INGLE

DATELINE: BELFAST

BODY:

Working with the women of Northern Ireland was "one of the greatest privileges of my lifetime" the US First Lady told a conference in Belfast yesterday.

Newly elected Senator Hillary Clinton received a standing ovation from around 500 women as she took to the stage of the Grand Opera House in Belfast's Great Victoria Street shortly after 11 a.m.

The conference, Women Raising their Voices for the New Northern Ireland, was organised by the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust to mark its 21st year. Her trip to Belfast marked a particularly heartfelt and bittersweet time for her family, she said. "We have been delighted and honoured, challenged and perplexed by our work on your behalf.

Nothing has given us greater joy than to be a small, small part of such a great historic change as you have brought about.

"Building peace anywhere is never easy and there are always people who are the self-appointed doom-sayers, who would rather throw up their hands than roll up their sleeves," she said.

"There always come times when it is just easier to go back . . . But none of us can afford to let that happen. All of our problems are of our own making and so our solutions are of our own making as well."

She said this was one of those "special moments" when there was a chance to defy generations of hatred. "And that is why I have come to Belfast, filled with hope and certitude that this moment will

be seized." Mrs Clinton praised the daily "acts of courage" of women in Northern Ireland and mentioned plans for a parliamentary get-together next year of women parliamentarians from Ireland, Northern Ireland and the UK.

The First Lady was joined on stage by Mrs Cherie Blair, wife of the British Prime Minister, Mrs Daphne Trimble, wife of First Minister Mr David Trimble, ICTU president Ms Inez McCormack, chairman of the Civic Forum Mr Chris Gibson, Ms Mary Black of the NIVT and community worker Ms Kathleen Feenan.

The invited audience included former US ambassador to Ireland, Ms Jean Kennedy Smith, her nephew, Congressman Patrick Kennedy, Congressman Peter King, the US Secretary for Education, Mr Richard Riley, and Ms Pat Hume, wife of the SDLP leader. Chelsea Clinton did not arrive as expected.

Mrs Trimble welcomed the Clintons, saying they came at a difficult time in the peace process when "murder still walks the streets". She hoped the visit would help secure a "just and peaceful future which is the birthright of every citizen of Northern Ireland . . . the women sitting here today are ready to play their full part in that future".

Ms Feenan of Belfast's Women's Information Group said Mrs Clinton was a champion for women's issues around the world. Ms McCormack congratulated her friend on her electoral victory and said she hoped Mrs Clinton would continue her association with the Vital Voices campaign to include more women in political life.

Mrs Clinton later announced that political and media experts would be coming to the North next year to provide training to those involved in Vital Voices.

There was a warm tribute from Ms Blair, who said Mrs Clinton had done much to encourage women all over the world. "And your commitment to women here in Northern Ireland has been outstanding," she said during the closing address.

Earlier, Mrs Clinton promised to continue to build on the relationship she had built with the women of Northern Ireland. "I will always be there as a friend and an advocate and a partner as you continue the hard, hard work of peace and reconciliation. There isn't any more important work to be done."

Copyright 2000 The Irish Times
The Irish Times
December 14, 2000

SECTION: CITY EDITION; HOME NEWS; THE CLINTON VISIT; Pg. 13

LENGTH: 1344 words

HEADLINE: 'Give children not your yesterday but their tomorrows' (Part 1)

BODY:

This is an edited version of the speech delivered by President Clinton in the Odyssey Centre, Belfast yesterday. The full speech, together with the text of the speeches of Mr Tony Blair, Mr David Trimble and Mr Seamus Mallon, are available on www.ireland.com/special/clinton

Hillary, Chelsea and I are delighted to be back in Northern Ireland, and here.

I also can't help noting that this magnificent new arena is new since I was last here in '98 - a new team, a new sport, a new facility, a new Northern Ireland. I want to thank the Belfast Giants for letting us use the arena tonight. I understand they don't treat their opponents as kindly as me, and I thank them for that. Thank you.

Believe it or not, I actually read in the press this reference that said that since I'll be out of work soon - (laughter) - that if I can skate and shoot and I'm not very expensive, the Giants would consider offering me a position. Well, I'm used to absorbing blows, but that's about the only qualification I have. Senator Mitchell, however, comes from Maine, where they play hockey all the time, and I think you should consider offering him a position. He is very well suited for it.

Let me say to all of you, I have been honoured to be involved in the quest for peace here for almost eight years now. It has been not a passing interest, but a passion for me and my administration, and, as many as you know, for my family as well. And I want to say a special word of thanks to my wife, and to the women here in Northern Ireland who have worked with her through the Vital Voices

programme and other things to try to make a contribution to the peace.

I came here five years ago for the first time. Now, I am back on my third visit - no other American President can say that. I want you to know that I'm here not just because I have Irish roots, like millions of Americans; and not simply because I love the land and the people: I believe in the peace you are building. I believe there can be no turning back. I believe you are committed to that. And I think it's very important that people the world over see what you are doing and support you along the way.

I remember how hard Prime Ministers Blair and Ahern, and George Mitchell, and all the leaders here worked on the Good Friday accord. I remember time and time again being called, saying that this or that problem had arisen and maybe the agreement couldn't be reached. And just before dawn on Good Friday, when the final momentum was building, one of your leaders said to me, in a very tired voice - I'll never forget it - this is a life-and-death meeting. And then he added, but we'll make it happen. When they did, I remember saying to that person, go and claim your moment.

That is what I have to say today. After the Good Friday accord was reached, the people of Northern Ireland sealed it in an overwhelming vote for peace. And so I say, it is still for you to claim your moment.

How many children are alive today in Northern Ireland because deaths from sectarian violence are now a small fraction of what they were before the Good Friday accords? How many days of normality have you gained because the checkpoints on the border aren't there anymore, because honest people can go to a pub or a school or a church without the burden of a search or the threat of a bomb?

You have spent so many years mourning your losses. I hope you will now celebrate with pride and defend with passion the progress you have made.

Just look at this arena here. Ten years ago, I'm not sure you could have gotten the investment necessary to build this arena or to revitalise the entire Laganaside area. But over the five years just passed, as hopes for peace have grown, the economy has grown - manufacturing up 27 per cent, foreign investment almost 70 per cent, the number of American firms growing from 40 to 100, 22,000 new jobs there alone. More people coming in than moving out.

In spite of the overwhelming support for the Good Friday agreement and the evident progress already brought, opponents of peace still try to exploit the implementation controversies, to rub salt in old wounds and serve their own ends. And others, for their own purposes, still stand on the sidelines, watching and just waiting for something to go wrong. Well, I wanted you all to come together, first to show the world that the great majority of the people of Northern Ireland are still on the side of peace and want it to prevail; second, to say again to the proponents of violence that their way is finished; and, third, to reaffirm, even in this great arena, that peace, unlike hockey, is not a spectator sport.

No one can afford to sit on the sidelines. For years you have made your view clear: Violence is not the answer. Peace is the path to justice. The Good Friday accords define that path.

Last week's tragic killings are a brutal reminder of a past we all wish to leave behind that is not completely gone, and a sober reminder that failing to move forward risks slipping backward. The people of Northern Ireland must be clear and unequivocal about your support for peace. Remember, the enemies of peace don't really need your approval. All they need is your apathy.

I do not believe you want Northern Ireland ever again to be a place where tomorrow's dreams are clouded by yesterday's nightmares. The genius of the Good Friday agreement still remains its core principles of consent, equality, justice, respect for each other and for law and order. These ideas are big enough to embody the aspirations, hopes and needs of all the people of Northern Ireland.

As I said before, your progress in putting these principles into practice has truly been remarkable. But, again, we all know there is still much to do before the agreement's vision is fully and finally realised. We know, for example, there must be a full and irrevocable commitment to effecting change only through peaceful means - through ballots, not bullets. That means putting all arms fully, finally and forever beyond use.

Last week's IRA statement on this topic was a welcome development; the follow-through will be even more so.

We welcome the contribution of those paramilitaries observing a ceasefire. Those who reject peace should know there is no place for them to hide. Based on my conversations with Prime Minister Ahern in Dublin yesterday, and with Prime Minister Blair today, I want to say that the United States will intensify its co-operation with British and Irish authorities on counter-terrorism, to combat groups seeking to undermine the Good Friday accords through violence.

We are going to get experts from the three nations together in the near future, and the United States will continue to work in a systematic way to do whatever we can to help to root out terrorism and to make this peace agreement take hold.

Now, we also know that real respect for human rights must be woven into the fabric of all your institutions. The light this will cast is the best guarantee that political violence will disappear. That's why it is so important to have a police force that inspires pride and confidence in all the people.

Just before our gathering here, I met with victims of the violence - quite a large number of them who lost their children, their husbands, their wives, their limbs, their livelihood. Among them was the widow of an RUC officer and the sister of a slain defence attorney. Together, they offer the best testimony to the need to honor those who unjustifiably sacrificed their lives, their health or their loved ones. We should honor those who have done their duty in the past while making a fresh start toward a police service that will protect, serve and involve everyone equally in the years to come.

Finally, and maybe most important of all, for the vision of the Good Friday agreement to be fully realised, all sides must be fully engaged with each other, understanding that they must move forward together or not at all; that for one community to succeed, the whole community must succeed.

Copyright 2000 The Irish Times
The Irish Times
December 14, 2000

SECTION: CITY EDITION; EDITORIAL PAGE; EDITORIAL COMMENT; Pg. 19

LENGTH: 585 words

HEADLINE: Clinton's Honours

BODY:

President Clinton has come and gone from Ireland, not just to claim his honours for the third and final time in his period of office, but to earn them. His message in Dublin, Dundalk and Belfast for the past two days has been simple but profound. The peace process has been for him "not a passing interest but a passion"; the difficulties of sharing power are nothing to the difficulties of having no power at all; and there has to be a commitment to effecting change only through peaceful means, through ballots, not bullets.

A third visit to Ireland by a serving President of the United States is unprecedented. In his final weeks in office, President Clinton has lent the authority gained from his bona fides in the Belfast Agreement and the influence of his high office, to an endeavour to tease out the current "implementation controversies" which could stall the whole political process early next year.

Some may be surprised that President Clinton, during his whirlwind final days in Ireland, could not wave a magic wand to lift the Unionist ban on Sinn Fein's participation in the North/South Ministerial Council; to end the stalemate on the nationalist parties signing up to the new Police Service of Northern Ireland; to reverse the refusal of the IRA to engage meaningfully on putting arms verifiably beyond use with the Independent International Body on Decommissioning. But a solution to these difficult obstacles to the full implementation of the Belfast Agreement could never be forced. The "implementation controversies", as he categorised them, have to be confronted and overcome by the participants themselves.

President Clinton has helped, once again, to focus minds on the nub of the current problems. And like the Taoiseach and the British Prime Minister, he is determined that all outstanding issues of implementation must be addressed together in a new sequencing package. He listed them, in order of priority, as putting arms fully and finally beyond use; getting the nationalist parties to sign up to the new police service; and demilitarisation.

The negotiation of the details of such a package will fall now to the two Governments and the pro-agreement parties in the coming days and weeks. It will be extremely difficult. The British Prime

Minister is being asked to dismantle the watchtowers and to withdraw British troops from Crossmaglen. Mr Blair is showing understandable reluctance to take such a security risk with the threat of republican dissidents in the background. A new ingredient has been fed into this equation, however, with President Clinton's commitment to have a tripartite US, British and Irish drive to combat those paramilitaries opposed to the agreement. The Taoiseach is willing to share the risk by having a large Garda presence at the border. There is a growing acceptance that a major gesture on demilitarisation is the key to unlocking the decommissioning deadlock in a concrete, final and lasting way.

It remains to be seen whether President Clinton's exhortation to look at the bigger picture will serve as the spur to move forward. One thing is certain. The rapturous reception for the President and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton at symbolic venues, North and South, is a testament to the fond esteem in which they are held in Ireland. President Clinton has earned his honours on the peace process. He has provided a major impetus to political leaders to deliver to him a Belfast Agreement in working order before he leaves office.

Copyright 2000 The Irish Times
The Irish Times
December 14, 2000

SECTION: CITY EDITION; SPORT; AMERICA AT LARGE; Pg. 24

LENGTH: 892 words

HEADLINE: Secret of the eagle that Clinton landed

BYLINE: By GEORGE KIMBALL

BODY:

In the course of the visit to Dublin of America's First Family on Tuesday, Hillary Clinton prefaced her remarks at the US Ambassador's residence by voicing her husband's principal regret about the brevity of the trip: "Bill is heartbroken he can't play golf." Outside the rain was falling on a chilly, windy, wintry day, and the Oireachtas ladies chuckled politely, assuming the remark to have been made at least half in jest, but my guess is she was telling the truth. William Jefferson Clinton is a certifiable golfing fool, and it wasn't the weather that kept him away. If they'd built a few more hours into his schedule, he'd have been out to Portmarnock in a flash.

One summer evening half a dozen years ago I found myself in Washington, and had dropped by the East Potomac Golf Club for a chat with my friend and swing guru, Julieta Stack. After her last lesson of the evening we had headed out for a bite to eat, but upon arriving at an Indian restaurant on Capitol Hill, we found the sidewalk outside swarming with members of the local constabulary.

Stick-ups in Washington are not uncommon, even in the shadow of the White House, and we first took this to be the case. As we approached, I asked one of the gendarmes if there was a problem.

"No, sir," he replied, "but if you're going in we're going to have to search you." When I asked why, he replied "because the President is having dinner inside." After submitting to a pat-down, we entered the restaurant to find Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton seated at one table, along with presidential adviser Mack McLarty and his wife Donna. Most of the other tables were occupied by Secret Service men vainly attempting to appear inconspicuous.

Once we had taken in the scene and placed our order, Julieta reached into her purse, took out one of her business cards identifying her as a certified LPGA teaching pro, and scribbled a note on the back. She then summoned our Punjabi waiter and asked him to deliver it to the man across the room.

The note read: "Dear Mr President, I've seen that swing on television, and I think I can help." Bill Clinton acknowledged the note with a smile and a cheery wave towards our table, and stuck the card in his pocket. Three weeks later, the leader of the Free World showed up, unannounced, at East Potomac. Julieta, much to her regret, was off that day, but the President went out and played a round on the scruffy municipal course anyway.

Bill Clinton, probably the best-golfing president since Kennedy, and certainly the most avid since Eisenhower, achieved an historical milestone of sorts by becoming the first president to actually lower his handicap (from 13 to 12) while in office.

This is no mean feat, particularly when you consider that every time he sets out on the links, his every shot is scrutinised not only by his playing partners and the odd reporter, but by a squadron of secret servicemen in motorised golf carts, not to mention the obligatory police sniper and another fellow

who follows along bearing the secret codes for unleashing a nuclear attack.

While he has played with many of the top golfers of his era, Clinton confessed to being intimidated by playing with only one - Christy O'Connor, he confessed to Tom Friedman of the New York Times in an interview which appeared in Golf Digest this autumn. Two summers ago the President played a round with Himself at Ballybunion.

Clinton enjoys the company of golfers. "I get to play with all these pros and other good golfers, and they give me all this good advice," explained the President. Clinton, who has been trying to arrange a game with the disabled golfer Casey Martin, said he would also like to play with Tiger Woods and David Duval. He was even gracious in recalling the implicit snub when the victorious 1993 US Ryder Cup team declined an invitation to visit the White House.

Several of that year's Ryder Cuppers were irate over a measure passed early in the Clinton administration which had increased their already-healthy tax bite, and one of them, Paul Azinger, had also labelled the President a 'draft dodger' over his anti-war stance during the Vietnam era - a charge which prompted a colleague of mine to ask at the time "Excuse me, but exactly what war did Paul Azinger fight in, anyway?"

When Friedman asked President Clinton to name his favourite courses, by the way, the first word out of his mouth was Ballybunion.

Once when he was Governor of Arkansas, Clinton recalled, he was feeling sufficiently stressed-out that he cancelled his appointments for the afternoon and sneaked out to a local course. He encountered a doctor who was also playing hookey from his office, and the two made up a game.

During the course of the round, Clinton smashed a 260-yard drive which missed the fairway and came to rest beneath a tree. Assaying his unenviable position, he tried the only stroke available, played "a three-iron, off my back foot," and miraculously holed the shot from 175 yards. His jubilation quickly subsided when he realised he was in the precise position of the proverbial priest who went out to play on Sunday morning and made a hole-in-one: Who was he going to tell?

"I'd just hit the best shot of my life and made an eagle, and I couldn't tell a soul about it," he recalled years later. "But at least I had a witness."

Copyright 2000 Newcastle Chronicle & Journal Ltd
THE JOURNAL (Newcastle, UK)
December 14, 2000, Thursday Edition 1

SECTION: NATIONAL NEWS, Pg. 18

LENGTH: 525 words

HEADLINE: Deadlock must end - Clinton

BYLINE: by Geoff Meade

BODY:

US President Bill Clinton last night urged David Trimble and Gerry Adams to agree a deal to end the policing and disarmament deadlock threatening the future of the troubled peace process. Guns, he said, had to be put finally and forever beyond use to reduce fear and mistrust, and Northern Ireland needed a police service which would protect, serve and involve all sides equally. The President told an 8,000 crowd in Belfast that the days of the men of violence were finished forever, but admitted there were difficulties which had to be overcome to secure the Good Friday Agreement. After new talks involving Prime Minister Tony Blair and the main party leaders failed to make any obvious progress, the President said: "I am convinced they all genuinely want this peace process to work, they know how irresponsible it would be to let it fail." Later he declared: "I do not believe you want Northern Ireland ever again to be a place where tomorrow's dream is clouded by yesterday's nightmares." This was his third and final visit to Northern Ireland as president and even though he was given a thunderous reception at the city's Odyssey Centre - at one stage he challenged a heckler - Mr Clinton left for London clearly disappointed there was no breakthrough. He is to have more talks with Mr Blair before he goes back to Washington tomorrow after pledging fresh counter-terrorism action against groups like the Real IRA - the organisation which bombed Omagh. The British and Irish governments are now under intense pressure to try and shift the Sinn Fein president and Mr Trimble, the Stormont First Minister, before the middle of next month. On Friday at the Northern Ireland High Court Sinn Fein is to challenge Mr Trimble's ban on the party's two ministers attending north-south ministerial meetings. With uncertainty over future policing arrangements and British resistance to republican demands to clear the south Armagh countryside of

military surveillance posts, there is unlikely to be any move by the IRA on decommissioning. Mr Clinton was heckled by one man protesting about his administration. Elected New York Senator and First Lady Hillary Clinton called on the people of Northern Ireland to seize the chance for peace. She described the role she and the outgoing president had played in the peace process as a "small, small part" but one that brought them "great joy". And she vowed she would remain an "advocate and friend" of Northern Ireland after she takes her seat in the US Senate. She was speaking at a conference in Belfast on Women Raising Their Voices for the New Northern Ireland. She said: "Building peace anywhere is never easy and there are always people who are the self-appointed doomsayers, who would rather throw up their hands than roll up their sleeves. "There always come times when it is just easier to go back ... but none of us can afford to let that happen. All of our problems are of our own making and so our solutions are of our own making as well."

Bidding for Hillary Clinton's memoirs on life with Bill in the White House has reached £5m as at least five US publishers chase the deal.

GRAPHIC: Seeing eye to eye: Hillary Clinton and Cherie Blair embrace at the end of the Women Raising Their Voices for the New Northern Ireland conference in Belfast.

Copyright 2000 MGN Ltd.
The Mirror
December 14, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 29

LENGTH: 175 words

HEADLINE: THE CLINTON VISIT: YOU GIVE US FRESH HOPE

BYLINE: Jilly Beattie

BODY:

A PEACE campaigner whose wife was killed in one of the Troubles' worst atrocities told Hillary Clinton yesterday: "Northern Ireland is moving forward and having you here gives it added momentum."

Alan McBride, 36, met the First Lady at the Grand Opera House where he told her his wife Sharon was a victim of terrorism.

But the community worker said: "My wife Sharon was blown up in the Shankill bomb seven years ago leaving me with a two-year-old daughter to look after.

"I could either lie down and die with Sharon or I could pick myself up and move forward and work to ensure that her death was not in vain.

"I know how difficult it is to lose some of the most precious things in your life - I lost my wife and my father-in-law, Desmond - but I also know that life has to go on for the sake of the children.

"That's what I told Hillary today and that's what she understands as the most important work that any community can do - to give our children a future and to ensure that no-one has power to take away their lives."

GRAPHIC: SURVIVOR: Alan

Copyright 2000 MGN Ltd.
The Mirror
December 14, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 28, 29

LENGTH: 772 words

**HEADLINE: THE CLINTON VISIT: FIRST LADY OF THE OPERA;
PEACEMAKER HILLARY TAKES CENTRE STAGE**

BYLINE: Jilly Beattie And Jenny Johnston

BODY:

HER eyes were wide and she smiled broadly as she stepped on to the stage at Belfast's Grand Opera House.

Hillary Clinton - Senator, First Lady, lawyer and guest speaker. Her power was never more electric.

From the moment she strode purposefully to the podium, it was Mrs Bill Clinton no more.

This was the newly elected US Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, determined to leave her own personal mark on this historic visit.

She was the personification of power. She was electrifying. And the crowd couldn't get enough of her.

The message she came with was strong - the peace process IS working and while every step will be painful, it will be worth it.

Her "seize the peace" request was similar to the one delivered by President Clinton in the city's Odyssey Arena, but the delivery couldn't have been more different.

His was reflective and valedictory; hers was forward-looking. Where Clinton had waxed lyrical about his love of all things Irish, she took a much more pragmatic approach, telling the people of Northern Ireland that they must take responsibility for their own actions and not regard themselves as victims.

She said women had kept Northern Ireland going during 30 years of violence and without their input, there would never have been a Good Friday Agreement.

She said: "All of our problems are of our own making and so our solutions are of our own making as well.

"This is one of those special moments when you have the chance to defy generations of hatred."

It was a perfectly pitched speech. Leaning over the podium, brow furrowed, Hillary seemed to embody weary determination.

She said: "Building peace anywhere is never easy and there are always people who are the self-appointed doom-sayers, who would rather throw up their hands than roll up their sleeves.

"There always come times when it is just easier to go back... but none of us can afford to let that happen."

There was little syrup in this speech. Instead of unqualified praise for the virtues of the Irish, there was a frank recognition of our terrible capacity for hatred and distrust.

Mrs Clinton spoke of her work in Rwanda and how she met people who had witnessed "the absolute worst that humanity is capable of".

The implication was that her audience would understand. They did. Because they had witnessed it themselves.

She said the Opera House was a mirror image of the women of Northern Ireland. She said: "Twice the Opera House was bombed. Twice it was forced to close its doors and twice it reopened them immediately.

"The Opera House showed it would not give in to violence from any source at any time.

"And we recognise today how far we have come. And by recognising that we have the momentum to move forward."

The applause was rousing - it rose suddenly, abruptly, piercing the quiet of the Opera House. And it stopped just as suddenly - her guests anxious not to miss a single word of her speech.

Hillary - flanked by Cherie Booth, wife of Prime Minister Tony Blair - and the men and women from the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust who organised the conference - explained her own feelings on her last Irish trip as First Lady.

She said: "This is a heartfelt, bittersweet day for my husband and I.

"We were so often delighted, honoured, challenged and perplexed by our work on your behalf.

"And despite the obstacles that still remain today, the Good Friday Agreement is still working. Politicians are working out the knotty problems that come with democracy.

"When we left Dundalk on Tuesday night, Bill and I reminisced about our times in Ireland while we travelled north in our car.

"We remembered our relationship with the Northern Ireland people of five years ago.

"Nothing has given us greater joy than to be a part of such a great historic change as you have brought about.

"Despite the obstacles that remain, the Good Friday Agreement is working and for the first time in 30 years politicians and people are sitting across tables working out the knotty problems that democracy bring."

She vowed that her association with the people of Ireland would not end when her husband stands down.

She described working with the women of Ireland over the last five years as "one of the greatest privileges of my lifetime".

"I will always be there as a friend and an advocate and a partner as you continue the hard, hard work of peace and reconciliation. There is not any more important work to be done.

"Today there really is a new Northern Ireland - it is not just a slogan.

"We are here at the start of a progressive and better era."

GRAPHIC: MESSAGE: Hillary makes a point at Belfast's Opera House yesterday;; FRIENDS: The First Lady greets Cherie Booth on stage; APPLAUSE: Hillary claps in thanks as the audience welcomes her; RESILIENT: The Opera House survived two IRA bombings

LOAD-DATE: December 14, 2000

Copyright 2000 MGN Ltd.
The Mirror
December 14, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 4, 5

LENGTH: 772 words

**HEADLINE: THE CLINTON VISIT: I'M FIRST LADY OF THE OPERA;
HILLARY PRAISES ULSTER WOMEN'S DRIVE FOR PEACE**

BYLINE: Jilly Beattie And Jenny Johnston

BODY:

HER eyes were wide and she smiled broadly as she stepped on to the stage at the Grand Opera House.

Hillary Clinton - Senator, First Lady, lawyer and guest speaker. Her power was never more electric.

From the moment she strode purposefully to the podium, it was Mrs Bill Clinton no more.

This was the newly elected US Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, determined to leave her own personal mark on this historic visit.

She was the personification of power. She was electrifying. And the crowd couldn't get enough of her.

The message she came to Belfast with was strong - the peace process IS working and while every step will be painful, it will be worth it.

Her "seize the peace" request was similar to the one delivered by President Clinton in the Odyssey Arena, but the delivery couldn't have been more different.

His was reflective and valedictory; hers was forward-looking. Where Clinton had waxed lyrical about his love of all things Irish, she took a much more pragmatic approach, telling the people of Northern Ireland that they must take responsibility for their own actions and not regard themselves as victims.

She said women had kept Northern Ireland going during 30 years of violence and without their input, there would never have been a Good Friday Agreement.

She said: "All of our problems are of our own making and so our solutions are of our own making as well.

"This is one of those special moments when you have the chance to defy generations of hatred."

It was a perfectly pitched speech. Leaning over the podium, brow furrowed, Hillary seemed to embody weary determination.

She said: "Building peace anywhere is never easy and there are always people who are the self-appointed doom-sayers, who would rather throw up their hands than roll up their sleeves.

"There always come times when it is just easier to go back... but none of us can afford to let that happen."

There was little syrup in this speech. Instead of unqualified praise for the virtues of the Irish, there was a frank recognition of our terrible capacity for hatred and distrust.

Mrs Clinton spoke of her work in Rwanda and how she met people who had witnessed "the absolute worst that humanity is capable of".

The implication was that her audience would understand. They did. Because they had witnessed it themselves.

She said the Opera House was a mirror image of the women of Northern Ireland. She said: "Twice the Opera House was bombed. Twice it was forced to close its doors and twice it reopened them immediately.

"The Opera House showed it would not give in to violence from any source at any time.

"And we recognise today how far we have come. And by recognising that we have the momentum to move forward."

The applause was rousing - it rose suddenly, abruptly, piercing the quiet of the Opera House. And it stopped just as suddenly - her guests anxious not to miss a single word of her speech.

Hillary - flanked by Cherie Booth, wife of Prime Minister Tony Blair - and the men and women from the Northern Ireland Voluntary Trust who organised the conference - explained her own feelings on her last Irish trip as First Lady.

She said: "This is a heartfelt, bittersweet day for my husband and I.

"We were so often delighted, honoured, challenged and perplexed by our work on your behalf.

"And despite the obstacles that still remain today, the Good Friday Agreement is still working. Politicians are working out the knotty problems that come with democracy.

"When we left Dundalk on Tuesday night, Bill and I reminisced about our times in Ireland while we travelled north in our car.

"We remembered our relationship with the Northern Ireland people of five years ago.

"Nothing has given us greater joy than to be a part of such a great historic change as you have brought about.

"Despite the obstacles that remain, the Good Friday Agreement is working and for the first time in 30 years politicians and people are sitting across tables working out the knotty problems that democracy

bring."

She vowed that her association with the people of Ireland would not end when her husband stands down.

She described working with the women of Ireland over the last five years as "one of the greatest privileges of my lifetime".

"I will always be there as a friend and an advocate and a partner as you continue the hard, hard work of peace and reconciliation. There is not any more important work to be done.

"Today there really is a new Northern Ireland - it is not just a slogan.

"We are here at the start of a progressive and better era."

GRAPHIC: MESSAGE: Hillary makes a point at Belfast's Opera House yesterday;; FRIENDS: The First Lady greets Cherie Booth on stage; APPLAUSE: Hillary claps in thanks as the audience welcomes her; RESILIENT: The Opera House survived two IRA bombings

Copyright 2000 MGN Ltd.
The Mirror
December 14, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 2

LENGTH: 299 words

HEADLINE: CLINTON'S FAREWELL: SENATOR HILLARY STEPS FORWARD TO RALLY WOMEN PEACEMAKERS

BYLINE: Jenny Johnston

BODY:

IN LESS enlightened times, it would have been seen as a sideshow - Mrs Bill Clinton chatting to the good ladies of Belfast while her husband grappled with this complicated peace process thing.

But the First Lady's address at the Belfast Opera House yesterday was a remarkable event in its own right.

It was clear that Mrs Bill Clinton was no more. This was the newly-elected US Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, determined to leave her own mark on this historic visit.

Her "seize peace" message was similar to the one given by President Clinton, but the delivery couldn't have been more different.

His was reflective, hers was forward-looking. She was pragmatic, telling the people of Northern Ireland that they must take responsibility for their own actions and not think of themselves as victims.

She said: "All of our problems are of our own making and so our solutions are of our own making as well. This is one of those special moments when you have the chance to defy generations of hatred." It was a perfectly pitched speech.

She said: "Building peace is never easy and there are always people who are doom-sayers, who would rather throw up their hands than roll up their sleeves.

"There always come times when it is just easier to go back. But none of us can afford to let that happen."

Further along the stage, Cherie Booth smiled knowingly as Hillary talked of the difficulties of creating your own identity.

In her own speech, Cherie, who warmly hugged Mrs Clinton, reminded the audience how women were woefully under-represented in the political process here. But she said those who did stand for office will act as role models.

She told Mrs Clinton: "You have done so much in your time as First Lady to encourage women all over the world."

SECTION: HOME NEWS

LENGTH: 470 words

HEADLINE: QUEEN SAYS FAREWELL TO CLINTONS

BYLINE: Peter Archer, court correspondent PA News

BODY:

The Queen said farewell to Bill Clinton today when the White House came to Buckingham Palace.

The outgoing US President and First Lady Hillary Clinton spent 20 minutes chatting to the Queen, over tea and coffee, in the Palace Audience Room.

Meanwhile, their daughter Chelsea was given a private tour of the Buckingham Palace state apartments by the Surveyor of the Queen's Pictures, Christopher Lloyd.

The Clintons swept into the Palace in a motorcade bristling with communications aerials and guarded by US secret service agents.

Protocol dictated that the presidential black stretch Cadillac drove through the centre gate of the Palace, reserved for VIPs, and then into the grounds via the Garden Entrance.

Earlier, the President had arrived in nearby Hyde Park by helicopter and surprised aides by deciding on an impromptu walkabout.

Both Mrs Clinton and Chelsea chose to wear trouser suits for the Palace visit, while the Queen wore a red wool jacket and skirt.

As the two heads of state and the First Lady chatted, the White House press corps were entertained in the grounds by the Queen's corgis who were out for a morning walk with a Palace footman.

A hapless American photographer accidentally trod on the paw of one of the dogs, which let out a pained yelp.

"Oh my God, didn't Winston Churchill tread on one of the Queen's dogs?" asked the US newsman.

It was the second time President Clinton has visited Buckingham Palace.

He last came in November 1995 but he also met the Queen the previous year onboard the Royal Yacht Britannia, in the English Channel, during the D-Day 50th anniversary commemorations.

Today's audience, after the president's peace-seeking visit to Northern Ireland, was an opportunity for the Queen to say goodbye to him before he hands over power to George W Bush in the New Year.

A White House spokesman said the president last night spoke to Mr Bush on the telephone from Chequers.

"The president spoke to the governor for about five minutes and invited him to the White House next week," said the spokesman.

"He told the governor he would do everything he could to ensure the smooth transition of power."

Previously, the president had spoken by telephone to Al Gore and commiserated on the final outcome of the prolonged election.

The Clintons, with Mr Blair and his wife Cherie, had stayed up into the early hours to watch Mr Gore's television address.

Only Chelsea stayed up with her father to watch Mr Bush's TV broadcast.

The American visitors showed no signs of their late night when they emerged from the Palace with a

smiling Queen.

They posed for pictures outside the entrance to the Queen's private apartments before leaving by limousine.

The Queen gave a familiar wave as Mr Clinton left Buckingham Palace for the last time as a serving president.

Copyright 2000 The Press Association Limited

Press Association Newsfile

December 14, 2000, Thursday

SECTION: HOME NEWS

LENGTH: 713 words

HEADLINE: BLAIR SAYS FAREWELL AND HAIL TO US PRESIDENTS

BYLINE: Jon Smith, Political Editor, PA News

BODY:

Prime Minister Tony Blair tonight said farewell to Bill Clinton on the international stage as he welcomed his successor, US President-elect George W Bush with a promise that Britain's special relationship with the White House would continue.

Mr Blair hailed his close political ally Mr Clinton as a "true leader of the western world" - but was at pains also to stress that he would continue to work closely with President Bush, proud to call the UK America's "closest ally".

The Prime Minister's comments came as Mr Clinton completed his three-day valedictory tour of the UK and Ireland with an impromptu snack in London's Portobello Road and a speech at the University of Warwick on globalisation.

The subject has long been one of the two leaders' favourite themes and it made a fitting finale to Mr Clinton's farewell foray into international affairs.

Earlier, the clearly relaxed outgoing leader of the western world had popped into the Portobello Gold pub for a serving of gambo prawns (£6.95), smoked trout and pecan nut pate (£5.25) and a club sandwich (£5.95) with about 10 secret service men.

He also downed a £1.30 half-pint of organic Pitfields lager, made in Britain from New Zealand ingredients, and a Diet Coke, while his secret service men drank Coke - but left without paying the bill, which will be picked up by the White House.

Mr Clinton, his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea then arrived by helicopter at the university, near Coventry, to hear praise heaped on him by Mr Blair.

The US President "has been a true leader of the Western world", said the Prime Minister.

He added: "He has been a friend and a counsel to me and many other political leaders right round this world."

But Mr Blair, with his wife Cherie and Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott in the audience, went on to pay tribute to president-elect Mr Bush.

"We spoke about Britain's special friendship with America, a friendship that has helped guarantee our freedom through the last turbulent 20th century.

"And I have absolutely no doubt either that it will flourish under the Bush presidency. I know that he will be a friend to Britain and a friend to Europe, a friend to free trade, new technology and solid defence.

"The world needs a strong America and America is strong today, and I'm sure under President-elect Bush it will continue to be so.

"I offer to President Bush, on behalf of a country proud to call itself America's strongest ally, our unwavering support."

Opening his speech, Mr Clinton paid tribute to the "unusual" friendship between himself and Mr Blair and their respective families.

But echoing Mr Blair's theme of continuity, he went on: "We have honoured the deeper and more important friendship between the United States and Britain, which I believe will continue through the ages and be strengthened through changes of party and from election to election."

Mr Clinton went on to take to task the anti-globalisation protesters who brought high-profile demonstrations to the streets of Seattle and Prague.

"I disagree with the anti-globalisation protesters who suggest that poor countries should somehow be saved from development by keeping their doors closed to trade," he said.

"I think that is a recipe for continuing their poverty, not erasing it.

"More open markets would give the world's poorest nations more chances to grow and prosper."

And Mr Clinton stressed that the UK and US were natural partners in the fight against global poverty, because "at the core of the national characters of the British and American people is the belief in the inherent dignity and equality of all people".

After his speech, the President - who earlier today had an audience with the Queen - flew by helicopter to Birmingham Airport to begin his journey home to Washington.

The Clintons later flew out of Birmingham International Airport on Air Force One, the presidential Boeing 747.

Before boarding the aircraft, Mr Clinton met Marge Potter, a Birmingham pensioner who last met the president during the 1998 G8 Summit after starring in a poster campaign promoting the event.

After five minutes saying an emotional farewell to visit organisers and embassy officials, the First Family then boarded Air Force One.

The plane lifted off at 5.10pm.

**Copyright 2000 The Scotsman Publications Ltd.
The Scotsman
December 14, 2000, Thursday**

SECTION: Pg. 5

LENGTH: 294 words

HEADLINE: DAY THE KISSING HAD TO STOP

BYLINE: Kate Ginn

BODY:

IT WAS a warm embrace; the kiss on the cheek was full of genuine affection.

For a moment, and perhaps for the last time as first ladies, they stood side by side.

They had both chosen tailored suits for the occasion - Hillary Clinton in subtle grey and Cherie Blair in deep purple. With sleek, short haircuts, they looked every inch modern successful women.

Yesterday, the two women shared a moment of historical and personal emotion, at the Women Raising their Voices for the New Northern Ireland conference in Belfast.

Mrs Clinton, elected New York Senator, leaves the White House in January when her husband's term of office ends.

Mrs Blair, using her professional name Cherie Booth QC, paid tribute to her friend, praising her contribution as a role model to women all over the world. "You have done so much throughout your time as First Lady to encourage women all over the world," she said. "And we all know your commitment to women here in Northern Ireland has been outstanding."

The pair have much more in common than just the political positions of their spouses and it was

always inevitable that Hillary Clinton and Cherie Blair would get on.

Both are lawyers and serious career woman. Both have also successfully combined motherhood and careers. And as the wives of high-profile politicians, they have both had to handle being in the public eye.

Mrs Clinton said the trip to Northern Ireland was a bittersweet time for her and her husband.

She said: "Nothing has given us greater joy than to be a small part of such a great historic change as you have brought about."

She may not have long left as First Lady but her relationship with Mrs Blair is certain to continue long after she bows out next month.

**Copyright 2000 U.P.I.
United Press International
December 14, 2000, Thursday**

SECTION: GENERAL NEWS

LENGTH: 1008 words

HEADLINE: Analysis: Hillary blunders in Ulster

BYLINE: By MARTI SIEFF, UPI Senior News Analyst

DATELINE: BELFAST, Dec. 13

BODY:

She has won a triumphant landslide victory as the next U.S. Senator for New York. She is already regarded as a hot frontrunner for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination in 2004.

But when it comes to the admittedly complicated and trapdoor riddled politics of Northern Ireland, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has all the grace and skill of a rhinoceros trying to tap-dance.

Clinton accompanied her husband, President Clinton, in his dramatic appeal for peace in the Irish republic town of Dundalk -- a stronghold of the extremists of the Real IRA -- Tuesday. And on Wednesday, she gave a stirring speech on the virtues of peace at Belfast's Grand Opera House.

Both speeches were well received by the sympathetic audiences they were addressed to. But both of them looked certain to play into the hands of the most dangerous political foes of Bill and Hillary Clinton's latest push for a peace deal in Northern Ireland, the activist members of David Trimble's Ulster Unionist party.

The UUP is the main political party of Northern Ireland's majority 900,000 Protestants. Trimble won the Nobel Peace Prize, but risked his political life, by committing it to support a Power-Sharing Executive with parties representing the province's 600,000 minority Catholics. One of them is Sinn Fein, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army, which waged an almost three-decades-long guerrilla war of assassinations and terrorist bombings of civilian targets before declaring a truce in the current peace process three years ago.

Trimble is hanging on to the leadership of the UUP by a hair against angry critics who charge he has sold out by staying in the Executive with Sinn Fein while the IRA still refuses to deactivate, or decommission, any of its weapons supplies. They are believed by Northern Irish security officials to be big enough to equip two light infantry divisions.

Well-placed Protestant unionist political sources told UPI they estimated that Trimble still enjoyed a narrow majority of support in the region of around 53 percent to 47 percent among the 800 members of the UUP's ruling Council. But they warned that he could face a renewed challenge to his leadership as early as next month.

In these delicate circumstances, President Clinton focused in his visit to Northern Ireland Wednesday not on huge feel-good public rallies, but on long hours of rolled-up-sleeves politicking with the leaders of the provinces political parties.

But in Dundalk and Belfast, Hillary Rodham Clinton committed embarrassing public missteps that did not help him.

In Dundalk, she publicly kissed Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams in front of the rolling television

cameras.

People in Northern Ireland have television, too. And that includes Unionist activists and ruling council members. They almost unanimously regard Adams as being the embodiment of evil, or little better. And most of them share the conviction that Adams personally led, ordered and directed the horrific IRA terror bombing campaign that set Belfast ablaze in the early 1970s and that killed hundreds of civilians and wounded many more. Adams has always denied this and he was never publicly convicted of any of it, though he was held for years as a suspected IRA member in Northern Ireland's Maze prison.

However, veteran Northern Irish security officials told UPI that in 1974, Adams played a prominent roll in an IRA delegation that held secret peace talks with the British government and that he received a secret British government pardon as a result of it.

For Senator-elect Clinton to publicly embrace Adams with such affection as she did, was to signal publicly and dramatically to the embattled Protestant unionists of Northern Ireland that she thought the world of a man they widely regard as their most dangerous and implacable enemy. And it also confirmed many of them in their conviction that she was deeply biased against them. After all, she did not plant any kiss on the lips of Trimble or any other Protestant unionist leader, including the Rev. Ian Paisley.

Hillary Rodham Clinton compounded her missteps Wednesday amid the ornate, Victorian Gothic decor of Belfast's Grand Opera House.

She filled her speech there with arguments and images from the Bible to convince her listeners to embrace the peace process and look forward -- and not back -- with it.

Long excursions into Biblical exegesis have never been the first lady's style, to put it mildly. Her labored parallels between the peace process and the travails of Moses in the Wilderness, therefore, could only arouse the suspicion that she and her speechwriters thought the way to appeal to the Bible-reading fundamentalist Protestants of Northern Ireland was to argue her case from the Good Book.

But if that was the case, the least she could have done was to get her reference right. Hillary Rodham Clinton compared supporters of the peace process to the Children of Israel following Moses through the Wilderness in the Book of Numbers.

"You have been bought through the Wilderness with the promise that there is a peaceful land awaiting," she said.

But the Israelites to whom she compared supporters of the peace process did not expect to enter any "peaceful land," and they certainly did not expect to inherit it peacefully.

The book of Joshua records how they had to militarily conquer that land and how they then dealt with its previous inhabitants by either expelling them or slaughtering them.

That is exactly the fate that the most hard-line Unionist critics of the peace process fear at the hands of Adams and the IRA if they are abandoned to their mercies, or lack of them. And this unintentional parallel will not have been lost on the members of the UUP Council who preside over Trimble's political fate, and that of the peace process.

It is not a parallel that will help the efforts of Clinton's husband in Belfast Wednesday to convince Trimble's far-from-loyal supporters that they have nothing to fear from making new concessions in the peace process.

CLIPS

FOR

**FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 15, 2000**

NEW YORK POST, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2000



ROYAL WELCOME: The Clintons visit Queen Elizabeth yesterday at Buckingham Palace after wrapping a visit to Ireland and Northern Ireland. Despite trying to "discourage" talk of a White House run, Hillary can't shake it. Reuters

Clinton calls on West to help poor nations catch up



By Paul Richards, Agence France-Presse

In London: Bill Clinton chats with Queen Elizabeth II as first lady Hillary Clinton and daughter Chelsea watch at the Garden Entrance of Buckingham Palace on Thursday.

By Ellen Hale
USA TODAY

COVENTRY, England — In an address to British students Wednesday, President Clinton said that industrialized nations "must be willing to pay" to help keep poor countries from falling further behind in the global economy.

Rich countries need to provide resources for developing nations to fight AIDS, bridge the so-called digital divide and educate their children in order to remove impediments to growth, Clinton told students at the University of Warwick in the heart of Shakespeare land.

He also warned against the dangers of climate change, saying that the Earth is warming and therefore "it will become virtually impossible in some places to have a sustainable economy."

"This is a big deal," Clinton said. He condemned "interest groups in places like the United States" for refusing to believe that

"you can break the link between growing wealth and putting more Greenhouse gases into the atmosphere." His comments follow recent failed talks in the Netherlands about how to implement an international treaty to curb greenhouse gases.

On what most likely is the last foreign trip of his administration, Clinton urged developed nations to use their current unprecedented prosperity to help poor countries. He said that open markets are the "proven engines of economic growth." He also called for wealthy countries to end their agricultural subsidies. Doing so, he said, would increase the income of developing countries by \$20 billion a year.

Clinton's call came on the last day of a three-day trip to Ireland and Britain in which he tried to re-energize peace talks in Northern Ireland. The president played a key role in brokering the 1998 Good Friday accord that helped inaugurate talks and a multiparty Assembly in Belfast.

Clinton is highly regarded in Ireland and

Britain and was greeted by cheers and applause throughout what was clearly a sentimental visit. In Ireland, fans lined his motorcade routes and stood in the cold for hours to see him.

Thursday, after spending the night with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife, Cherie, the Clintons had tea at Buckingham Palace with Queen Elizabeth.

The Clintons then went shopping on Portobello Road, site of the famous Saturday flea market. One bystander asked the president to run for the White House again. When the president responded that he couldn't, the questioner told him to change the Constitution.

Clinton then ducked inside a pub, where the barman offered him a pint. The president asked for just "a little bit" because "I stayed up late last night watching Vice President Gore and Gov. (George W.) Bush give their speeches on television."

He chased the pint of lager with a diet Coke.

THE PRESIDENT

Clinton Praises Speeches That Ended Campaign

By MARC LACEY

LONDON, Dec. 14 — After staying up most of the night to watch the back-to-back speeches by Vice President Al Gore and President-elect George W. Bush, President Clinton called on all Americans today to rally around his successor and vowed to do everything he could to help him "get off to a good start."

Mr. Clinton said he was proud of both men's graciousness as they ended a hard-fought election. Still, he made clear that he thought the Supreme Court had erred in its decision ending the recounts that might have made Mr. Gore the winner.

The president telephoned both Mr. Gore and Mr. Bush early this morning, speaking to each about five minutes, with the vice president getting the first call.

Mr. Clinton had received advance word from Mr. Gore on Wednesday that his long campaign would end. After a dinner on Wednesday evening at Chequers, the country estate of the British prime minister, where he stayed overnight, the president sat glued to the television early today as the man he had hoped would succeed him finally bowed out.

Later Mr. Clinton credited his vice president, who he said had been an essential part of creating the last eight years' prosperity, with striking just the right tone in his concession.

"I am profoundly grateful to him for putting into words last night the feelings of all of us who disagreed with the Supreme Court's decision but accepted it," the president told reporters. "And as he said, all of us have a responsibility to support President-elect Bush, and to unite our country in the search for common ground."

Mr. Clinton voiced backing for Mr. Bush's vow to reach across the aisle in pursuing his agenda.

"I wish President-elect Bush well," Mr. Clinton said. "Like him, I came to Washington as a governor, eager to work with both Republicans and Democrats. And when we reached across party lines to forge a vital center, America was stronger at home and abroad."

"The American people," he added, "however divided they were in this election, overwhelmingly want us to build on that vital center, without rancor or personal attack."

Despite his late night in front of the television, the president and Hillary Rodham Clinton arose early for tea



Reuters

President Clinton talking to reporters yesterday at the country home of British prime ministers.

and coffee with Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace. No aides were around at the meeting, which was held in the Queen's Audience Room, to report later whether Mr. Bush's victory had come up.

Prime Minister Tony Blair said he telephoned Mr. Bush with congratulations today and came away comfortable that the relationship between the United States and Britain would remain strong.

"I don't have any doubt it will flourish still fuller under a Bush presidency," Mr. Blair said.

Later in the morning, the president and the first lady went Christmas shopping along trendy Portobello Road in the West End. They ducked into a pub called the Portobello Gold, where the bartender offered Mr. Clinton a beer.

"A little bit," the president replied. "Not much. I have to stay awake to give a speech today. I stayed up late last night."

Clinton, Winding Up Trip, Tells the Rich Not to Forget the Poorer Nations

By MARC LACEY

COVENTRY, England, Dec. 14 — Laying out some of the challenges that will face the world after he leaves office, President Clinton today wound up what may be his final overseas trip as president with a plea to developed countries not to forget the poor in this era of high technology and globalization.

"No generation has ever had the opportunity that all of us now have to build a global economy that leaves no one behind and, in the process, to create a new century of peace and prosperity in a world that is more constructively and truly independent," Mr. Clinton told several hundred people at the University of Warwick. The university has a special institute that specializes in global issues.

"It is a wonderful opportunity," Mr. Clinton said of the spread of trade, communications and computer technology throughout the globe. "It is also a profound responsibility."

Mr. Clinton, who was to fly back to Washington late tonight, spent

the morning in London, where he and Hillary Rodham Clinton had tea, coffee and cookies for about 20 minutes with Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

Mr. Clinton, who has met the royal family before, joked to the queen that after he leaves office he wants a golf rematch with her second son, Prince Andrew, who trounced him when the two last hit the links.

Presidential aides are still mulling whether Mr. Clinton ought to make a trip to North Korea, but that visit grows more unlikely by the day as his term runs out. So this may have been the final trip beyond the United States borders by a president who has traveled more than any other. It was Mr. Clinton's seventh trip to Britain, where he has established a close bond with Prime Minister Tony Blair.

"Bill Clinton has been a true leader of the Western world," Mr. Blair said in introducing the president, not long after he telephoned congratulations to the next one, President-elect George W. Bush. The prime minister noted that Mr. Clinton had been "a friend and confi-

dant to me and leaders around the world.

In his foreign policy speech today, Mr. Clinton urged wealthy countries to consider forgiving the debts of nations in the developing world and to ensure that the "digital divide" is

Overseas trip could be the peripatetic president's last.

reduced between countries connected to computers and those left behind in the computer age.

"It's fair to ask, I suppose, are computers really an answer for people who are starving or can't yet read?" Mr. Clinton asked. "Is e-commerce an answer for villages that don't even have electricity? Of course, I wouldn't say that.

"We have to begin with the basics. But there should not be a choice between Pentium and penicillin."

The president, who often touts rosy statistics showing prosperity spreading throughout the world, focused today on the many problems that will outlast his presidency. He said half the world's people are struggling to survive on less than \$2 a day, that nearly one billion live in chronic hunger, that half the children in the poorest countries are not in school and almost a billion adults have never learned to read.

Mr. Clinton has made globalization a foreign policy mantra, pursuing a free-trade agenda resisted by many. That resistance, he said, does not point out flaws in globalization itself but in a thoughtless approach to breaking down barriers among nations.

"The great question before us is not whether globalization will proceed, but how," the president said. "And what is our responsibility in the developed world to try to shape this process so that it lifts people in all nations."

Mr. Clinton largely steered clear of many high-profile issues the world will face in the years to come: the spread of terrorism, the

effects of a missile shield, the role of peacekeepers stationed throughout the globe. Today, he focused on matters that often fall below the radar screens of foreign ministries, like the dangers of climate change, the national security threat that AIDS presents, and the importance that education and school lunches can play in stabilizing a country.

White House aides said that the president's speech was aimed at leaders the world over, not at Mr. Clinton's successor, who comes to the job with modest credentials in foreign affairs.

"President Clinton made the transition from governor to world leader, and it will be up to President-elect Bush to make that same transition," said P. J. Crowley, the president's national security spokesman. "He will, because the president of the United States has a unique mantle as a world leader. I don't think anyone will question that the United States will stay engaged. The question is how do you handle the challenges we all face?"

Clinton Urges U.S., Other Rich Nations to Help Poor

By T.R. REID

Washington Post Foreign Service

COVENTRY, England, Dec. 14—In a valedictory assessment of American foreign policy in the age of globalization, President Clinton today offered an expansive prescription for how the United States might help close the gap between rich and poor nations, including some stiff medicine his successor may reject.

The president suggested that the world's rich countries should end subsidies to their farmers and instead buy food from the Third

World. Wealthy nations should spend billions of dollars more each year to fight infectious disease abroad, he said, and drastically cut industrial emissions to deal with "the fact" of global warming.

This activist program was set out as the president ended a bittersweet tour of the British Isles. The last day of his last scheduled overseas trip as president found Clinton, his wife Hillary Rodham Clinton and their daughter Chelsea in a nostalgic mood. Everywhere he went, he noted that this was "my final journey here as president."

As president, Clinton stopped by

Buckingham Palace for a spot of tea with Queen Elizabeth II. As tourist, he strolled hand in hand with his wife past trees decorated for the holidays in Hyde Park, then did some Christmas shopping on London's Portobello Road.

He stopped for a half-pint of organic lager at a local pub, sipping it by the fireplace because the electricity had failed just before his arrival. When his fellow customers groused about the power outage—a surprisingly common occurrence in this wealthy country—Clinton said he'd take the heat: "Feel free to blame me. In America they blame me when

it rains."

The president was obviously exhausted. Having just spent two emotional days barnstorming through Ireland, a place he obviously loves, he stayed up late Wednesday with British Prime Minister Tony Blair to watch President-elect Bush's speech to the nation—an address that took place at 3 a.m. London time.

This afternoon, in a speech here at the University of Warwick, the president presented what the White House called a "new development agenda for the 21st century." His plan for an American "response to

globalization" was designed to bookend a speech he gave in Nebraska last week on more traditional foreign policy concerns. In both talks, Clinton laid out a busy agenda that he said was appropriate for the world's only "military superpower and economic superpower."

Today he said an activist U.S. role was just as necessary in economic development. He called for an "accelerated campaign against global poverty." Among other things, he said, technologically advanced countries have an obligation to overcome any "digital divide" that leaves the Third World lacking in wealth-creating computer technology.

He also said that "the wealthiest countries should end our agricultur-

al subsidies" and buy food instead from Third World farmers who can produce it "more cheaply than we." That suggestion drew a gulp from Blair, seated just behind the president, because Britain and other European countries heavily subsidize their farms. But an end to the multi-billion-dollar subsidy program in the United States would wreak havoc in American farm states as well.

Clinton urged stronger steps by rich nations to combat the threat of global warming, which he called "a big deal." Clinton said it is "a lie" to suggest that industrial countries would lose wealth if they reduce industrial emissions to deal with warming. Many environmentalists blamed the United States for the collapse of negotiations in The Hague last month that were aimed at reducing global warming.

The problem for Clinton is that his successor, George W. Bush, seems unlikely to take much of the advice. On the campaign trail, Bush called for the United States to take a "humble" stance, reducing its commitment and spending around the world, and he expressed doubt that global warming is real.

Clinton's speech was about the future, but he spent much of his tour here reflecting happily on the past eight years. Everywhere he went in Britain and Ireland, politicians, pundits and people praised him, and the president clearly loved it.

As Clinton was walking along Portobello Road today, a man shouted to him: "You should run again!" The president smiled, opened his arms in a gesture of futility and stood there on the London sidewalk, contemplating the idea for a long, wistful moment.

DECEMBER 15, 2000

Copyright 2000 The Atlanta Constitution
The Atlanta Journal and Constitution
December 15, 2000, Friday, Home Edition,
Correction Appended

SECTION: News; Pg. 10A

LENGTH: 824 words

**HEADLINE: CLINTON IN BRITAIN: Visit ends on wry note;
President expounds on the threat of global poverty, then has tea with the queen and goes shopping for jewelry.**

BYLINE: Bert Roughton Jr., Cox Washington Bureau

SOURCE: CONSTITUTION

BODY:

Coventry, England --- President Clinton on Thursday used perhaps his final foreign policy address abroad to extol the virtues of globalization as a powerful tool against worldwide poverty.

Clinton also clearly enjoyed the final day of this brief sweep through Ireland and Britain, one of the few opportunities left for him to relish the many benefits of being an American president.

He ended his visit in Shakespeare country, an apt place for a grand exit.

In an address here at Warwick University, the president rejected the arguments of the anti-globalization movement, which holds that rapid expansion of open markets enriches Western capitalists at the expense of poor countries. Demonstrators opposed to globalization severely disrupted World Trade Organization talks in Seattle last year.

"I disagree with the anti-globalization protesters who suggest that poor countries should somehow be saved from development by keeping their doors closed to trade," he said. "I think that is a recipe for continuing (poor countries') poverty, not erasing it."

To intermittent applause, Clinton argued that poverty poses a much greater threat to the future than any dangers of a globalized economy.

"We have seen how abject poverty accelerates turmoil and conflict," Clinton said. "How it creates recruits for terrorists, and those who incite ethnic and religious hatred. How it fuels the violent rejection of the open economic and social order upon which our future depends. The more we help the rest of the world, the better it will be for us. Global poverty is a powder keg ignitable by our indifference."

He also called upon wealthy countries to end agricultural subsidies to make it easier for farmers in developing countries to compete in the world marketplace. Clinton said such a change would generate \$ 20 billion a year in income for poor countries.

Before going to Warwick, the president paid a social call on Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace. He and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton had coffee, tea and cookies in the Queen's Audience room in the palace's private residence. Chelsea was given a tour of the palace's State Rooms.

After visiting the queen, the Clintons stopped in Notting Hill for a little shopping on the famed Portobello Road. With Secret Service agents keeping the delighted crowd at bay, they popped into antique shops and a jewelry shop.

Clinton, who is familiar with English ways from his days at Oxford as a Rhodes scholar, popped into a pub while his wife continued shopping.

Just before the motorcade roared into Portobello Road, the power went off in the shops, restaurants and stores.

Even though the outage was unrelated to the visit, Clinton apologized to the pub patrons. "Feel free

to blame me," Clinton said. "In America, they blame me if it rains."

The pub owner offered the president a glass of Pitfields organic lager. "A little bit, not much," the president responded. "I have to stay awake to give a speech today. I stayed up late last night watching Vice President Gore and Governor Bush give their speeches on television."

After the visit, pub manager Mike Bell said, "We gave him anything we could cook without electricity." That included a Cajun shrimp sandwich on ciabatta bread and a soda. Bell also served prawns, smoked trout and pecan nut pate to some of Clinton's agents and staffers.

During Clinton's visit at the pub, an oyster deliveryman showed up with seafood from Northern Ireland, which was checked carefully by Secret Service agents.

After the president left, Bell thought of a question he should have asked much earlier: "Who picks up the tab for this?" (He later said he had been given the name of someone to whom to send the bill, which came to \$ 35.)

As the president made his way down the street to catch up to his wife, a man in the crowd shouted that he wanted Clinton to run again.

"I can't," replied Clinton, who was clearly having a good time.

"You should change the Constitution," the man retorted.

The president smiled and said with arms open, "I can't."

Clinton caught up with the first lady at Silver Fox Galleries, which has a fancy jewelry shop. They stayed in the shop a long time, reviewing their choices with bemused sales clerks. At one point, the president rested his arm around the shoulder of the first lady --- and senator-elect from New York --- as they looked into a glass display case.

They bought something, but the president refused to say what.

"If I told you, it wouldn't be a gift," Clinton said as he entered his hulking black limo.

The presidential party was scheduled to return to Washington on Thursday evening.

Presidential aides are still mulling whether Clinton ought to make a trip to North Korea, but that visit grows more unlikely by the day.

> ON THE WEB: President Clinton's visit to England's Warwick University:
www.clinton.warwick.ac.uk/

CORRECTION-DATE: December 16, 2000

CORRECTION:

page A/2: A news section headline in Friday's editions about President Clinton's visit to England misstated the timing of his speech at Warwick University. The address on worldwide poverty came after he had visited with the queen and had gone shopping in London.

GRAPHIC: Photo

Below, Clinton salutes the crowd during a shopping trip Thursday to the Notting Hill area of London.
/ RON EDMONDS / Associated Press

Photo

President Clinton and Britain's Queen Elizabeth II chat Thursday --- followed by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton (top left) and the Clintons' daughter, Chelsea --- at Buckingham Palace in London.
/ JOHN STILLWELL / Associated Press

SECTION: FEATURES; Pg. 8

LENGTH: 276 words

HEADLINE: LETTER: HIGHLIGHTED HYPOCRISY

BYLINE: David Vance

BODY:

The image of a smiling Senator Hillary Clinton embracing Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness as the Presidential cavalcade thundered through this country reflects the political embrace of Sinn Fein/IRA that has so marked her husband's Presidency.

Was it really President Clinton who stood outside the City Hall and staunchly declared to the men of violence that "your day is over"? Was he the same man who sombrely declared that there could be no hiding place for the terrorists that bombed Oklahoma and the World Trade Centre? Yet Sinn Fein, which Tony Blair tells us is inextricably linked to the IRA, has now become bloated with wealth of funds raised in the USA during his Presidency! The IRA continues to murder, maim, intimidate, exile and engage in all kinds of criminality but is no longer even classified as an international terrorist organisation by the FBI, thanks to Mr Clinton. Heinous IRA (and loyalist) murderers now walk free from justice thanks to the "courage" shown by the pro-Agreement lobby and applauded by the President and First Lady. The jubilation of the crowd in Dundalk is perhaps better understood in this context.

It was appropriate that as President Clinton basked in the warm glow of the court of sycophants that surround his touring entourage, the Supreme Court of the USA finally dismissed the claims of Al Gore his would-be successor to the White House.

The legacy of William Jefferson Clinton will be the erosion of public decency, the subversion of political honour, and the twisting of the principles of democracy both in the USA and Northern Ireland.

David Vance, Deputy leader, UK Unionist Party

GRAPHIC: HILLARY CLINTON: her actions mirrored the President's

[View Related Topics](#)

December 15, 2000 Friday, CHICAGO SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: News; Pg. 4; ZONE: N

LENGTH: 841 words

HEADLINE: TEA WITH QUEEN, PUB CHAT FOR CLINTON AS TRIP ENDS

BYLINE: By Ray Moseley, Tribune Foreign Correspondent.

DATELINE: LONDON

BODY:

On his final day in Europe as president, Bili Clinton went to tea Thursday with Queen Elizabeth II, walked out of a pub without paying his lunch bill and talked passionately to university students about the gap between rich and poor nations.

The president, accompanied by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and their daughter, Chelsea, then left for Washington after a three-day visit that took him to the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland in further pursuit of a lasting peace there and to mainland Britain, where he visited his close friend, Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The American presidency was decided while he was in Europe, and he paid tribute to the winner and loser. But his main focus was on the last rituals of his own fading presidency.

He had spent the night at Chequers, the official country retreat of Blair and his wife, Cherie, and he flew by helicopter from there to a private tea with the queen at Buckingham Palace.

Clinton and the first lady chatted with the queen for 20 minutes in her ornate audience room while Chelsea and White House aides went on a tour of the palace. The queen, in a bright red suit, came out of the palace afterward for a group photo with the Clintons on a rare sunny day during the English winter.

Then the presidential party was off to Portobello Road, the center of a fashionable antique market in London, for window shopping and a visit to a pub.

The president tasted a little organic Pitfields beer but told pub owner Mike Bell not to pour him much because he had to "stay awake to give a speech today."

He also had a diet cola and shared with about 10 Secret Service agents a serving of prawns, a smoked trout and pecan pate, and a club sandwich.

Just before the party arrived, a power outage struck the pub and the electronic cash register was not working. "Feel free to blame me," Clinton told those in the pub. "Back home people try sometimes to blame the weather on me."

Bell, 59, blamed him instead, jokingly, for not paying.

"They bloody well did not pay, but I have got an address of someone in America I can send the bill to," he said. "I do not know what the total bill is. ... We could not offer him a hot meal. It was total chaos." The bill came to \$35.80.

Bell said the president chatted happily with him and other lunchtime customers about Northern Ireland and the presidential election. "He told me, 'I'm in the last stretch of my presidency so I can relax a little,'" Bell said.

After the pub visit Clinton flew to Warwick University, at Warwick in the British Midlands, to speak to students. The 35-year-old university has one of the country's top five business schools and a student body of 17,000.

The president's theme was globalization, and Tim Lessells, 19, a student at nearby Coventry University, didn't think much of that. Before Clinton arrived, Lessells held up a banner proclaiming: "Capitalism Kills. Fight for Socialism."

Other students gave the president a warm welcome and applauded his speech enthusiastically. It ranged widely over global issues, from poverty to global warming.

Clinton urged rich nations to do more to help the poor but also said it was vital for poor countries to clean up their act and root out corruption, "something that I think has been overlooked."

He noted that half the world's people struggle to survive on less than \$2 a day, nearly 1 billion live in chronic hunger, almost a billion adults cannot read and half the children in the poor countries are not in school.

"So, while some of us walk on the cutting edge of the new global economy, still amazing numbers of people live on the bare razor's edge of survival," he said.

Poverty, he said, creates recruits for terrorists and fuels a violent rejection of the open economic and social order. "Global poverty is a powder keg, ignitable by our indifference," he said.

Clinton drew applause when he noted that wealthy countries could increase the income of developing countries by \$20 billion a year merely by ending subsidies to their own farmers.

Rich countries have a legitimate wish to preserve their agriculture and countryside, he said, but "we have to ask ourselves what our relative responsibilities are."

Clinton said globalization protesters were wrong in suggesting poor countries should be saved from development by keeping their doors closed to trade. "I think that is a recipe for continuing their poverty, not erasing it," he said.

Touching on global warming, he said it is "shocking" how many leaders in the public and private sector misunderstand the relationship between burning greenhouse gases and economic growth.

"An enormous majority of the decision-makers ... still don't believe that a country can grow rich and stay rich unless it puts more greenhouse gas into the atmosphere every year," he said. "It is not true."

This link can be broken, he said, and new discoveries on the horizon increase the possibility of doing so. People in positions of influence, he said, must learn "to get rid of a big idea that is no longer true."

GRAPHIC: PHOTOPHOTO: President Clinton talks with British Prime Minister Tony Blair during an appearance Thursday at England's University of Warwick. Reuters photo.

Copyright 2000 Associated Newspapers Ltd.
DAILY MAIL (London)

December 15, 2000

SECTION: Pg. 12

LENGTH: 1134 words

HEADLINE: Good riddance to bad rubbish;

As Clinton's much-trumpeted Ulster mission comes to an end...

BYLINE: Simon Heffer

BODY:

THERE was a nasty piece of protocol in the days of the Soviet empire whenever Khrushchev or Brezhnev visited one of the USSR's colonies in Eastern Europe.

The puppet prime minister would turn up, usually accompanied by the youth movement and grinning apparatchiks, to fawn monstrosly on the visiting leader.

In return, he would be patronised in the most condescending fashion, and on his departure all were grateful that the proprieties had been observed.

The Soviet emperor was content that the illusion of his invincible might and beneficence had been maintained; the local stooge was happy because he was not, yet, on the way to Siberia.

Unaccountably, I was reminded of this when I watched Bill Clinton, the soon-to-be-ex-President of the U.S., on his visit to the British Isles that ended yesterday.

Another superpower leader turns up in a country which, it seems, is incapable of sorting out its own problems - in this case Northern Ireland - and offers his help and leadership while the nominal prime minister dispenses gratitude and adoration in return.

Anyone who really understands what is going on in Northern Ireland can only have been nauseated by the Clinton visit.

But the whole trip was of a piece with the history of his administration's involvement in the Ulster question, which has led to the continued appeasement of terrorists and the further subjugation of the rights of the law-abiding majority in the Six Counties.

Perhaps our Prime Minister has reached the heights of cynicism in encouraging Clinton's involvement in the so-called peace process. Perhaps Mr Blair is saying that if we can't sort it out, maybe we should leave it to the Americans to prove they can't either. That, at least, would end up making his administration look less impotent.

For President Clinton, though, interference in Northern Ireland has brought substantial benefits.

After all, 40 million Americans, most with votes, claim Irish descent.

Many have a folk-memory of their families coming to America, oppressed by what they refer to as the 'bloody British', albeit generations ago.

Then again, a President tainted by a grisly sex scandal in which he lied to his people needs to find new ways to make himself look statesmanlike.

The Middle East seemed to serve that purpose for a while, but no amount of smarm and schmooze on the part of the President could keep that on track.

When matters in Ulster were looking rocky, they became highly useful at a time when a little more grandstanding was needed to boost his image.

So Clinton feels it looks good to be seen shaking Gerry Adams's hand in public, and urging concessions on the Ulster Unionists.

Even if such behaviour failed to get his vice-president elected to succeed him, it at least means that, whenever Clinton needs an ego-trip in his retirement, he has just to hop on a plane to Belfast.

The most repellent spectacle of the whole visit - that of Hillary Clinton kissing the terrorists' friend Gerry Adams (something that should not have been shown on TV until after the watershed) gave the game away about the Clintons' true motivation.

However reprehensible, Mr Clinton's handshake may be excused as a diplomatic necessity: his wife's far more enthusiastic gesture suggests deep affection for Republicanism, and all that it murderously entails.

But then Mr Clinton has a lot to answer for. On Good Friday 1998, David Trimble, leader of the official Unionists, was under severe pressure from his party, minded not to sign the deal.

We have it on Mr Blair's authority that only a phone call to him from Clinton - promising or threatening, we know not what pulled him back into line. Then, and ever since, the pressure from Clinton has been to concede more and more to the terrorists.

The original deal, creating the impression that Sinn Fein/IRA would be allowed into government only after a surrender of weaponry, has been thoroughly dishonoured. And it has been the Clinton administration that has urged Unionists to put up with this scandalous breach of faith.

Indeed, Clinton was doing the same again in Belfast this week.

He also seemed to endorse the Patten Report on the future policing of Ulster.

It is now clear, if it was not already, that to regard Clinton as some sort of 'honest broker' for the process is like regarding European Commission President Romano Prodi as a Eurosceptic.

Clinton, by his actions, is an apologist for the terrorists he so hypocritically condemns. He has advocated the suspension of the rule of law where they are concerned, and at every stage has acted against the express wishes of the democratic majority in Northern Ireland.

There is talk of him succeeding Senator George Mitchell as the arbiter of the peace process. If that is the intention, we might as well hand the Six Counties over to the Irish Republic now.

At least this is the last time Mr Clinton will be able to use the authority of his office to interfere in Britain's domestic affairs, albeit at the deeply misguided invitation of Mr Blair.

Although jokes are made about his successor's lack of knowledge of foreign affairs, it is hard to believe President-Elect George W. Bush could be so ignorant or so deeply amoral when it comes to Northern Ireland.

It is hard to believe, either, that Mr Blair would involve Bush so much in our affairs. Blair and Clinton were disciples of the 'third way' (they believed in whatever it took to get elected).

Bush has different instincts.

A great leap of imagination is required to see Mr Blair warming to a man who signs death warrants almost as often as the Prime Minister eats ciabatta bread, or Mr Bush admiring someone who wishes to close Nato by stealth and is obsessed with the rights of homosexuals.

This should all lead to a far healthier and more moral alliance between Britain and the U.S. The master/servant relationship, with Mr Clinton very much the master and Mr Blair grateful to bask in the sunlight of shared photo-opportunities, has been disastrous for Northern Ireland.

Ulster's problems will never be solved by saccharine speeches that drip with hypocrisy, framed by piped pop music and punctuated by slogans and clichés.

They will only be solved when criminal elements, wherever they come from, are faced down, and the democratic will prevails. Now, that will demand that Ulster should be British: but Mr Clinton has never appeared willing or able to recognise that concept.

As Air Force One wings home westward, we should all wish the President bon voyage. The briefest survey of what he has achieved by his unscrupulous meddling in what he regards as one of his overseas dominions does, however, suggest a much more appropriate valediction: good riddance.

GRAPHIC: TAINTED PRESIDENT: BILL CLINTON HAS A LOT TO ANSWER FOR
OVER NORTHERN IRELAND

Copyright 2000 Associated Newspapers Ltd.
DAILY MAIL (London)
December 15, 2000

SECTION: Pg. 16

LENGTH: 598 words

HEADLINE: Glad you fancied a pub lunch but what about the bill, Bill?

BODY:

HE had clearly worked up an appetite trawling the antiques shops in Portobello Road with Hillary. So Bill Clinton dropped in unannounced at a London pub for lunch and a lager.

It should have been a memorable moment for Mike Bell, landlord of the Portobello Gold.

Except that the President arrived in the middle of a power cut and left without paying.

Accompanied by ten black-suited secret service agents, Mr Clinton spent 45 minutes propping up the bar of the Notting Hill pub.

He ordered a half pint of organic lager, explaining: 'I have to stay awake to give a speech today.' The glass the President used was not immediately smashed by his bodyguards, as happened during a previous visit to prevent his fingerprints being obtained, but was washed and put back on the shelf.

Mr Clinton also had a Diet Coke, while his staff drank Coke. The President and his entourage munched their way through gumbo prawns (GBP 6.95), smoked trout and pecan nut pate (GBP 5.25) and a club sandwich (GBP 5.95), running up a bill of GBP 24.70.

Mr Clinton chatted happily to Mr Bell, 59, and lunchtime drinkers about Northern Ireland and the long-running U.S. presidential election battle.

'He told me, "I'm in the last stretch of my presidency, so I can relax a little",' Mr Bell said.

'He gave me the impression that this sort of thing was not the kind of thing that he would have done a few years ago.' The landlord had been delighted when Mr Clinton arrived, and felt slightly embarrassed when he was unable to offer him hot food because of the power cut.

But when the presidential party drove off in a fleet of black limousines without parting with any cash, he was not so happy.

'They bloody well did not pay but I have got an address of someone in America I can send the bill to,' Mr Bell said.

He was made aware of the visit 20 minutes beforehand when 'men in black' came to look the place over.

While Mr Clinton was in the pub, a delivery man arrived with a box of oysters. He was immediately swarmed upon by the secret service men checking for a bomb.

The President did pay by credit card when he bought gifts for Hillary and their daughter Chelsea at a designer jewellery exhibition further along Portobello Road.

Mrs Clinton picked out a GBP 120 silver chain with long thin aquamarine crystals, while Chelsea was bought three slender silver and gold rings at GBP 55 each.

Owner Ming Lampson said: 'He paid with a Visa card and it had his name Bill Clinton on it. I need to cash in the slip but I've not decided if I will yet because he signed it.' Earlier, the Clintons had flown from Chequers to Hyde Park by helicopter for an audience with the Queen. They climbed into a limousine but then decided to walk through the park, flanked by secret service agents.

Chelsea paused briefly to speak with children from a primary school while Mr Clinton greeted a number of Americans who had turned out to see him. After 500 yards, they returned to the cavalcade and were driven to Buckingham Palace.

Bidding for Mrs Clinton's memoir of her White House years has reached GBP 5million, with offers still pouring in.

She has indicated that she will write about her husband's affair with Monica Lewinsky and the subsequent attempt to impeach him.

'It will be a fantastic coup for whoever gets the book,' said an industry insider.

Mrs Clinton is said to be demanding two-thirds of the payment upfront so that she can buy a house in Washington DC.

She wants to complete a deal before she takes her seat in the Senate next month.

Copyright 2000 Daily News, L.P.

Daily News (New York)

December 15, 2000, Friday SPORTS FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 4

LENGTH: 329 words

HEADLINE: BILL URGES UNITY, BUT AL'S LOSS ANNOYS HIL

BYLINE: By KENNETH R. BAZINET DAILY NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU

BODY:

WASHINGTON - President Clinton urged Americans yesterday to put aside any bitter feelings over the presidential election, but First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton was still insisting the Supreme Court's crucial decision was wrong.

"The American people, however divided they were in this election, overwhelmingly want us to build on that vital center, without rancor or personal attack," the President said before leaving Britain to return home. "I wish President-elect Bush well."

It was the last stop on a three-day visit to Northern Ireland and England.

One top federal official, who spoke yesterday after returning from the trip with the Clintons, said: "The President is doing what he did during impeachment. . . . He's compartmentalizing" the election outcome.

"He was focused on the Northern Ireland peace process. He was chairing meetings and running the peace talks," the official said.

The President's interest in the election's outcome was demonstrated by his staying up until 4 a.m. to watch Gore and George W. Bush give their concession and acceptance speeches.

"I was proud of both men," said Clinton, who invited Bush to meet with him next week at the White House.

The First Lady, on the other hand, "sounded like an appellate attorney" in how she described the case arguments and the Supreme Court's contentious 5-to-4 ruling that gave Bush the presidency, the top official said.

"She thinks, you know, [Gore] got screwed. . . . But her opinion is all legalistic. She's not taking it personally," said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

A second federal official who discussed the Supreme Court's decision with the First Lady, who is the senator-elect from New York, said, "She was very practical, almost cold . . . like you would expect from a lawyer."

"She said, 'This is the law. This is the argument,' and 'This is how they should have ruled.' " the official said, describing the conversation with the First Lady.

Copyright 2000 Telegraph Group Limited
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH(LONDON)
December 15, 2000, Friday

SECTION: Pg. 04

LENGTH: 971 words

HEADLINE: Blair faces struggle to renew close ties

BYLINE: By Toby Harnden in Washington and Andy McSmith, Chief Political Correspondent

BODY:

TONY BLAIR was the first foreign leader to telephone to congratulate George W Bush on his election victory and it was the President-elect rather than the Prime Minister who raised the "special relationship" between their two countries.

But their eight-minute conversation marked not only the start of an uphill struggle for Mr Blair to build ties with the 43rd president's administration but also the end of a remarkably close alliance with Mr Bush's predecessor.

A little over 36 days earlier, there had been a collective sigh of relief from New Labour strategists when Mr Blair's warmest wishes were hastily retracted after being faxed from the British embassy to the Texas governor's headquarters when Mr Gore conceded prematurely.

In Millbank, it was well known that a Gore victory would guarantee an extension of the close transatlantic ties between Mr Blair's Downing Street and the White House under President Clinton.

The Conservative leader William Hague had travelled to Texas to meet Mr Bush as early as February last year and had spoken warmly about "compassionate conservatism" during the Republican convention at Philadelphia in August.

Yesterday's call marked the first conversation between the Prime Minister and Mr Bush, who in July told The Daily Telegraph that although the relationship between Britain and the United States was "more special than special", he had no considered view of Mr Blair.

"I'm impressed by how he's worked closely with the US. It seems like he is a strong ally and appreciates our relationship," Mr Bush said. "I don't know much more."

Mr Blair knew that the election would be close and feared having doors closed to him in Washington as John Major had in 1992 after helping Mr Bush's father in his losing campaign against Mr Clinton.

Jonathan Powell, his chief of staff, had observed at first hand the damage this had done to Anglo-American relations and advised that the Government and even the Labour Party should be seen to stay out of the American election.

Only Peter Mandelson, the Northern Ireland Secretary, was seen to have transgressed when he made some unguarded off-the-record comments to journalists last week but these hardly registered with the Bush campaign.

Relations between New Labour and the Democrats had developed over the Clinton years. Bob Shrum, the Washington consultant who advised Mr Gore on how to paint mainstream Republicans such as Mr Bush as far-Right extremists, has close ties to Mr Blair and Gordon Brown, who has followed a similar line of attack against the Conservatives.

Mr Shrum is also close to Douglas Alexander, the Labour MP who represents Mr Brown at Millbank and who travelled to Los Angeles in the summer for the Democratic convention. At the same convention were Margaret McDonagh, Labour's general secretary, her sister Siobhain McDonagh, the MP for Mitcham and Morden, the wealthy Labour peer Waheed Alli, and Ed Miliband, Mr Brown's political adviser and the younger brother of David Miliband, the head of the

Downing Street policy unit.

Some junior Labour apparatchiks worked on Hillary Clinton's Senate campaign while others took jobs helping Mr Gore's staff to deal with the press or on Democratic senate campaigns.

If there is likely to be any coolness among Republicans about this it has not become apparent. "Tony Blair is a very accomplished Prime Minister and President-elect Bush will be looking forward to working with him," said a member of Mr Bush's staff.

In Washington, Sir Christopher Meyer, the British ambassador, and his staff have spent the past two years building up contacts in both the Bush and the Gore camps. "We always knew it was going to be very close so it would have been foolish to have done otherwise," said one insider.

Sir Christopher is said to have built up a particularly warm relationship with Condoleezza Rice, Mr Bush's likely national security adviser. He has also known Dick Cheney, the new Vice-President who was defence secretary during the Gulf war, from a previous Washington posting.

Diplomatic sources also said Mr Bush was the type of person who would not worry about Mr Blair's support for Mr Clinton. "He will just treat him as a bloke and if they get on that will filter right down."

Miss Rice, who advised Mr Bush's father on European and Russian matters, has consistently stressed that Mr Bush would put a high premium on consulting with America's allies before taking foreign policy decisions.

Gen Colin Powell, Mr Bush's likely Secretary of State, held a "very friendly and productive" meeting with Mr Blair and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, in February.

But there was visible gloom among ministers in the run-up to the American election as they braced themselves for the end of a very special political relationship dating back to 1992, when a Labour Party traumatised by defeat watched Mr Clinton pull off his victory.

Labour's debt to President Clinton was immense. The party's Rapid Rebuttal Unit and other spin-doctoring techniques were copied from the Democrats. Mr Clinton gave Mr Blair the idea of putting the word "New" in front of Labour. Mr Blair's promise to be tough on crime and his slogan "education, education, education" were also Clinton inspired.

Mr Blair, Mr Brown and Margaret Beckett visited the US around the time Mr Clinton was inaugurated. Philip Gould, Labour's focus group organiser, worked with the Democratic campaign and arranged for Democrat strategists to visit London.

Mr Clinton also did Mr Blair the immense favour of letting him visit the White House and be treated like a visiting statesman while he was leader of the Opposition - making up for the humiliation heaped upon Neil Kinnock when he visited Ronald Reagan. In return, Mr Blair stuck loyally by Mr Clinton throughout the Monica Lewinsky affair.

Copyright 2000 Telegraph Group Limited
THE DAILY TELEGRAPH(LONDON)
December 15, 2000, Friday

SECTION: Pg. 09

LENGTH: 197 words

HEADLINE: It was not just a stroll in the park

BYLINE: By Maurice Weaver

BODY:

IT WAS just a relaxed stroll in Hyde Park on a rare day of winter sunshine. But when the family in question was President Clinton, his wife Hillary and their daughter Chelsea, nothing was quite what it seemed.

Security men and back-up vehicles feature in the most mundane and civilised of presidential outings.

The image of approachable congeniality achieved by the US First Family on their "farewell" tour of England and Ireland was a triumph of practice and personality over protocol.

Invisible behind his smiling figure stood the ranks keeping him safe. The president travelled with 100

US government leaders, ambassadors, aides, advisers, and men with earpieces and bulging raincoats. The Clintons were accompanied by more than 10 vehicles, including the presidential Cadillac, an ambulance, a minibus and cars, bristling with aerials, for his bodyguards.

These maintained an unsmiling presence as the President went on an impromptu walkabout.

Then the whole party departed as they had arrived, on board a squadron of aircraft, with Air Force One, the presidential jumbo jet, tailed by the support group's 707 and a military transport plane for their motorcade cars.

**Copyright 2000 Sun Media Corporation
The Edmonton Sun**

December 15, 2000, Friday, Final EDITION

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. 89

LENGTH: 481 words

HEADLINE: CLINTONS WOW LONDON TOWN

BYLINE: CP

DATELINE: LONDON

BODY:

Britain swooned under a bit of U.S. President Bill Clinton's acclaimed charm yesterday as he visited with the Queen over coffee, tea and cookies after urging Americans to rally around their Republican president-elect.

Now in the final days of his presidency, Clinton's trip with his family to Northern Ireland and England mixed international affairs with the more pleasurable pursuits of the average tourist.

Clinton defended globalization in a speech at the University of Warwick in Coventry after some shopping and a pub lunch in London's trendy Notting Hill.

His last foreign trip was also a chance to bid an official farewell to an old friend, British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The warmth of Clinton and Blair's relationship was often on display during the two-day visit. Blair paid tribute to Clinton as a president who used his international influence wisely, and who had brought Europe and the United States closer together.

But the final lap of the Clinton road show wasn't all about dinner with the Blairs at Chequers - the prime minister's country residence - and seeing the London sights.

His speech at Warwick tied a call for a worldwide attack on poverty to his support for globalization, under assault from social and environmental organizations.

Directly taking on the protesters who have disrupted meetings of major world economic organizations in Seattle and Prague in the Czech Republic, Clinton said globalization offers hope for the poor.

"I disagree with the anti-globalization protesters who suggest that poor countries should somehow be saved from development by keeping their doors closed to trade," he said. "I think that is a recipe for continuing their poverty, not erasing it."

Later yesterday, the president and First Lady Hillary Clinton had coffee, tea and cookies with the Queen in her audience room at Buckingham Palace while Chelsea took a private tour of its state rooms.

The president's visit to trendy Notting Hill's famous Portobello Road market included browsing through an antique shop, and having lunch at a blacked-out pub.

British newspapers reported today Clinton left without paying the bill at the pub.

"They bloody well did not pay the bill," pub owner Mike Bell was quoted in the Guardian. "But I have got the address of someone in America I can send the bill to," he said.

Clinton chatted with staff and customers at the Portobello Gold pub as he and his entourage tucked into a menu that included prawns and smoked trout, the papers said. He washed down his meal with half a pint of organic beer before leaving without paying the cheque - which came to about \$ 54 Cdn.

Britain's mass circulation Mirror tabloid said it had stepped in and covered his tab.

The Mirror quoted a happier sounding Bell as saying: "I wouldn't quite say he did a runner. I just don't think it occurred to him to pay."

GRAPHIC: photo by Reuters U.S. President Bill Clinton talks with Queen Elizabeth in London yesterday, while daughter Chelsea and wife Hillary look on.

Copyright 2000 Guardian Newspapers Limited
The Guardian (London)
December 15, 2000

SECTION: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 6

LENGTH: 585 words

HEADLINE: Clinton visit: President gives farewell warning on global warming: Clinton says he hopes Bush 'will not turn his back on the world'

BYLINE: Ewen MacAskill Diplomatic editor

BODY:

President Bill Clinton used his last big foreign speech yesterday to focus on the plight of the developing world, especially the devastation caused by Aids and by climate change.

Mr Clinton, speaking at Warwick University at the end of his three day visit to Ireland and Britain, ran through a catalogue of problems facing the poorest countries, and said there was a wonderful opportunity to tackle these to create a century of peace and prosperity.

He hoped George W Bush, who during his campaign had been isolationist, would not turn the back on the world. He said: "For eight years, I have done what I could to lead my country down that (international) path. I think for the rest of our lives, we had all better stay on it."

The president's idealistic speech was well-received by an invited audience that ranged from the deputy prime minister, John Prescott, to academics such as Stephen Hawking. Joining him on the platform were Tony Blair, who had phoned Mr Bush to congratulate him, Hillary Clinton, daughter Chelsea and Mr Blair's wife, Cherie.

Mr Clinton, who has broken the presidential record for trips abroad while Mr Bush has only been out of the US six times, said that globalisation - and the creation of a global media village - meant "we can no longer have the excuse of ignorance. We can choose not to act, but we can no longer choose not to know."

He added: "Global poverty is a powderkeg, ignitable by our indifference."

Rejecting the maintenance of trade barriers, he pleaded with developed countries such as Britain and France, as well as the US, to help poorer nations by reducing, or even ending, subsidies to their own farmers.

"If the wealthiest countries ended our agricultural subsidies, levelling the playing fields for the world's farmers, that alone could increase the income of developing countries by Dollars 20bn a year."

He urged the continuance of debt relief to the poorest countries and more cash from developed countries to help provide clean water supplies and tackle malnutrition and, above all, Aids.

Western countries should pay pharmaceutical companies, either directly or through tax credits, to develop vaccines since the poor could not pay for them.

He had little time for those who criticised the west for suggesting that computers were not a solution because electricity was in short supply in some developing countries and that the money should be spent on health or other pressing problems. It was a false choice: "There should not be a choice between Pentium and penicillin."

On global warming, he said: "This is a big deal." The last decade had been the hottest for a thousand years and there was a danger that the Florida Everglades could end up covered in water if no action was taken to cut down on greenhouse gases.

He expressed disappointment that the latest round of talks on the climate had failed and urged the developing world not to be suspicious of the proposed cuts in gas emissions, saying it should not be seen as an attempt by the rich to keep the poor in poverty. "We have to convince them that you can break the link between growing wealth and putting more greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere."

Despite the rhetoric, Mr Clinton's administration has a mixed record on globalisation. Its record on aid to the developing world is poor, it is among the worst offenders in terms of greenhouse gases and its backing for the United Nations, especially peacekeeping operations, lukewarm.

Copyright 2000 Guardian Newspapers Limited
The Guardian (London)
December 15, 2000

SECTION: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 6

LENGTH: 378 words

HEADLINE: Clinton visit: Free lunch at the pub with no power

BYLINE: Raekha Prasad

BODY:

He chatted with the regulars and washed down the food with half a pint but at the end of the improptu visit to a London pub, the outgoing president of the United States failed to reach for his wallet.

Challenging the adage "there's no such thing as a free lunch", he polished off gambo prawns, smoked trout and pecan nut pate, a club sandwich, half a pint of organic lager and a diet Coca Cola, costing a total of pounds 24.70, in the Portobello Gold.

After antique shopping in the Portobello Road with Hillary and Chelsea, Mr Clinton spent 40 minutes standing at the bar chatting to a few of the regulars about Bush's victory and the preceding tussle for the top job.

Mike Bell, owner of the pub, only learned that the president wanted to drop in when more than 20 of his dark-suited security men came in and looked around. "They bloody well did not pay the bill, but I have got an address of someone in America I can send the bill to," Mr Bell said. "He told me: 'I'm in the last stretch of my presidency so I can relax a little.'"

A power cut earlier in the morning had left the pub without electricity and the staff rallied around to make a cold meal.

While Mr Clinton was in the pub, a delivery of oysters from Strangford Lough in Northern Ireland aroused the suspicions of his security men who searched the delivery man for explosives.

The glass the president used was washed and placed back on the shelf before he left to prevent his fingerprints being obtained.

Caroline McBride, office manager of the Portobello Gold, said. "We were in the middle of a power cut so everyone pitched in to try and prepare something for him. We managed some bar snacks and lit some candles."

One of the regulars asked the president if he believed he could have won another term, if he was able to run for a third term. "He said he thought he'd have won again," Ms McBride said.

"He was like a guy on holiday. It was all very casual and relaxed. We were all quite touched because when he left he shook all of our hands and thanked us and said that he didn't often get to do this sort of thing."

After putting on a long coat over his dark suit, the president and his entourage slipped back into the waiting fleet of black limousines.

SECTION: NATIONAL NEWS, Pg. 1

LENGTH: 751 words

HEADLINE: Who paid the bill Bill?

BODY:

'A true leader of the western world ...'

Prime Minister Tony Blair last night said farewell to Bill Clinton on the international stage as he welcomed his successor, US President-elect George W Bush, with a promise that Britain's special relationship with the White House would continue. Mr Blair hailed his close political ally Mr Clinton as a "true leader of the western world" - but was at pains also to stress that he would continue to work closely with President Bush, proud to call the UK America's "closest ally". The Prime Minister's comments came as Mr Clinton completed his three-day valedictory tour of the UK and Ireland with an impromptu snack in London's Portobello Road and a speech at the University of Warwick on globalisation. The subject has long been one of the two leaders' favourite themes and it made a fitting finale to Mr Clinton's farewell foray into international affairs. Earlier, the clearly relaxed outgoing leader of the western world had popped into the Portobello Gold pub for a serving of gambo prawns [£6.95], smoked trout and pecan nut pate [£5.25] and a club sandwich [£5.95] with about 10 Secret Service men. He also downed a £1.30 half-pint of organic Pitfields lager, made in Britain from New Zealand ingredients, and a Diet Coke, while his secret service men drank Coke - but left without paying the bill, which will be picked up by the White House. Mr Clinton, his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea then arrived by helicopter at Warwick University, near Coventry, to hear praise heaped on him by Mr Blair. The US President "has been a true leader of the western world", said the Prime Minister. He added: "He has been a friend and a counsel to me and many other political leaders right round this world." But Mr Blair, with his wife Cherie and Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott in the audience, went on to pay tribute to president-elect Mr Bush. The Prime Minister said as he introduced Mr Clinton: "I have just spoken on the phone to President-elect Bush, to congratulate him and to underline our commitment to that unique relationship between our two countries. "We spoke about Britain's special friendship with America, a friendship that has helped guarantee our freedom through the last turbulent 20th Century. "And I have absolutely no doubt either that it will flourish under the Bush presidency. I know that he will be a friend to Britain and a friend to Europe, a friend to free trade, new technology and solid defence. "The world needs a strong America and America is strong today, and I'm sure under President-elect Bush it will continue to be so. "I offer to President Bush, on behalf of a country proud to call itself America's strongest ally, our unwavering support." Opening his speech, Mr Clinton paid tribute to the "unusual" friendship between himself and Mr Blair and their respective families. But echoing Mr Blair's theme of continuity, he added: "We have honoured the deeper and more important friendship between the United States and Britain, which I believe will continue through the ages and be strengthened through changes of party and from election to election." Mr Clinton went on to take to task the anti-globalisation protesters who brought high-profile demonstrations to the streets of Seattle and Prague. "I disagree with the anti-globalisation protesters who suggest that poor countries should somehow be saved from development by keeping their doors closed to trade," he said. "I think that is a recipe for continuing their poverty, not erasing it. "More open markets would give the world's poorest nations more chances to grow and prosper." And Mr Clinton stressed that the UK and US were natural partners in the fight against global poverty, because "at the core of the national characters of the British and American people is the belief in the inherent dignity and equality of all people". After his speech, the President - who earlier yesterday had an audience with the Queen - flew by helicopter to Birmingham Airport to begin his journey home to Washington. The Clintons later flew out of Birmingham International Airport on Air Force One, the presidential Boeing 747. Before boarding the aircraft, Mr Clinton met Marge Potter, a Birmingham pensioner who last met the President during the 1998 G8 Summit after starring in a poster campaign promoting the event. After five minutes saying an emotional farewell to visit organisers and embassy officials, the First Family then boarded Air Force One.

GRAPHIC: President Clinton left a landlord fuming after failing to pick up the tab for lunch in Portobello Gold bar in trendy Notting Hill. Further along the street the US president resorted to plastic to buy jewellery for his wife and daughter.

LOAD-DATE: December 15, 2000

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. A13

LENGTH: 609 words

HEADLINE: BRITAIN EMBRACES CHARMING CLINTON U.S. PRESIDENT MIXES POLITICS, PLEASURE ON FINAL FOREIGN TRIP

BYLINE: KEVIN WARD, CP

DATELINE: LONDON

BODY:

Britain swooned under a bit of U.S. President Bill Clinton's acclaimed charm yesterday as he visited with the Queen over coffee, tea and cookies after urging Americans to rally around their Republican president-elect.

Now in the final days of his presidency, Clinton's trip with his family to Northern Ireland and England mixed international affairs with the more pleasurable pursuits of the average tourist.

Clinton defended globalization in a speech at the University of Warwick in Coventry after some shopping and a pub lunch in London's trendy Notting Hill.

His last foreign trip was also a chance to bid an official farewell to an old friend, British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The warmth of Clinton and Blair's relationship was often on display during the two-day visit, Clinton frequently taking his friend by the arm when they appeared publicly together.

Before his speech on globalization, Blair paid tribute to Clinton as a president who used his international influence wisely, and as someone who brought Europe and the United States closer together.

"Bill Clinton has been a true leader of the Western world, he has been a friend and a counsellor to me and other leaders right round this world," said Blair.

But the final lap of the Clinton road show wasn't all about dinner with the Blairs at Chequers -- the prime minister's country residence -- and seeing the London sights.

His speech at Warwick tied a call for a worldwide attack on poverty with his support for globalization, under assault from social and environmental organizations.

Directly taking on the protesters who have disrupted meetings of major world economic organizations in Seattle and Prague in the Czech Republic, Clinton said globalization offers hope for the poor.

"I disagree with the anti-globalization protesters who suggest that poor countries should somehow be saved from development by keeping their doors closed to trade," he said. "I think that is a recipe for continuing their poverty, not erasing it."

A day earlier in Belfast, Clinton attempted to breathe new life into the Northern Ireland peace process his administration helped start two years ago, but stands stalled today on the details of the peace agreement's implementation.

The Clintons spent the night at Chequers, where they and the Blairs sat up into the early morning watching Vice-President Al Gore's concession speech on television.

After everyone else went to bed, Clinton and his daughter Chelsea sat up to watch George W. Bush speak for the first time as president-elect.

"I think we ought to use this opportunity to let the country come together and try to get the new administration off to a good start," Clinton said in his appeal to Americans deeply divided by the protracted legal battle for the U.S. presidency.

Later yesterday, the president and First Lady Hillary Clinton had coffee, tea and cookies with the Queen in her audience room at Buckingham Palace while Chelsea took a private tour of its state rooms.

The last Clinton trip was significant to Britain, getting live attention on television, and even broke some of the normal rules associated with royal protocol.

The Clintons posed for pictures with the Queen outside Buckingham Palace, a photo opportunity that isn't always afforded visiting political leaders.

On their way to the palace, the Clintons took advantage of a rare sunny day in London and made an unscheduled trip into Hyde Park, walking through crowds of people, some of whom were on their way to work and stunned by the president's appearance. They spent time with a group of touring primary school children.

GRAPHIC: photo by AP U.S. President Bill Clinton and Queen Elizabeth pose at Buckingham Palace in London yesterday when Clinton met the Queen at the end of his three-day tour.

Copyright 2000 MGN Ltd.
The Mirror
December 15, 2000, Friday

SECTION: NEWS; Pg. 13

LENGTH: 266 words

HEADLINE: CLINTONS AT HOME IN CLARE

BYLINE: Pat Flynn

BODY:

US PRESIDENT Bill Clinton could soon feel even more at home in Ireland.

A Dublin-born woman based in Washington is fronting a group who want to build him and his family a holiday mansion in Co Clare.

Plans to build an \$ 8 million house for the Clinton family are said to be well advanced, with funds coming from supporters across the world.

It is understood an influential Irish group, pleased with President Clinton's contribution to the peace process during his eight-year term in office, is also backing the scheme.

A source said those providing the finance included a number of top businessmen, some from multi-national organisations.

One of the most influential is the chief executive of a healthcare group.

Clinton, who made his love of Ireland clear during his visit earlier this week, is as yet unaware of the plan to provide him with an Irish home.

The source said preliminary visits to a number of potential sites had already taken place.

A plot of land of considerable size is required.

As the Clintons will want a location within easy travelling distance of an international airport, there is speculation that a site in the Ennis or Shannon areas will be chosen.

With significant funds having already been contributed, the initiative is expected to move forward quickly.

Senator-elect Hillary Clinton visited Clare in a private capacity during her husband's 1998 Irish tour.

She has also shopped in the stores at Shannon airport when passing through on her way elsewhere.

The group behind the venture declined to comment last night.

SECTION: Pg. 3

LENGTH: 279 words

HEADLINE: BLAIR BIDS FOND FAREWELL TO HIS POLITICAL ALLY

BYLINE: Jenny Percival Political Correspondent

BODY:

TONY Blair, the Prime Minister, last night bid a fond farewell to his friend President Bill Clinton as he welcomed his successor, George W Bush, and promised to cement Britain's special relationship with the US with an early visit to Washington.

Despite their party political differences, Mr Blair was the first foreign leader to telephone President-elect Bush to congratulate him on his victory. He is set to meet him after his inauguration on 20 January.

While the Prime Minister hailed President Clinton as a "true leader of the western world", he also stressed that he would work closely with President Bush.

His comments came as President Clinton completed his three-day valedictory tour of the UK and Ireland with an impromptu snack in London's Portobello Road and a speech at the University of Warwick.

President Clinton also popped into a pub where he shared a quick snack with about ten secret service men.

Mr Clinton, his wife Hillary and daughter Chelsea then arrived by helicopter at the university, near Coventry, to hear praise heaped on him by Mr Blair.

As he introduced the President, Mr Blair said: "I have just spoken to President-elect Bush, to congratulate him and to underline our commitment to that unique relationship between our two countries.

" I have absolutely no doubt that it will flourish under the Bush presidency. I know he will be a friend to Britain and a friend to Europe, a friend to free trade, new technology and solid defence."

A spokesman added that during the eight-minute conversation, Mr Bush had "recalled fondly" a visit he made to Scotland when he was working in the oil industry.

SECTION: NATIONAL; Pg. 18A

LENGTH: 600 words

HEADLINE: Don't forget poor, Clinton urges students in Britain

SOURCE: Compiled from Times Wires

DATELINE: LONDON

BODY:

On his final day in Europe as president of the United States, President Clinton went to tea Thursday with Queen Elizabeth II, walked out of a pub without paying his lunch bill and talked passionately to university students about the gap between rich and poor nations.

The president, accompanied by first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and their daughter, Chelsea, then left for Washington after a three-day visit that took him to the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland in further pursuit of a lasting peace there and to mainland Britain, where he visited his close friend, Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Clinton and the first lady chatted with the queen for 20 minutes in her ornate audience room while Chelsea and White House aides went on a tour of Buckingham Palace.

Most of Clinton's conversation was grounded in talk about serious subjects such as Zimbabwe, where there has been an upsurge in violence, although the president said the queen strictly observed the British tradition of not making policy statements.

"But she's a highly intelligent woman who knows a lot about the world," he said. "I always marvel when we meet at what a keen judge she is of human events. I think she's a very impressive person. I like her very much."

On Air Force One during his flight back from London, the president said he noticed that the 74-year-old queen's hair has all turned white. She has what he described as "youthful eyes."

"She has these baby blue eyes - just piercing," he said.

After the Buckingham Palace visit, the presidential party was off to Portobello Road, the center of a fashionable antiques market in London, for window shopping and a visit to a pub.

The president tasted a little Pitfields beer but told pub owner Mike Bell not to pour him much because he had to "stay awake to give a speech today."

He also had a Diet Coke and shared with about 10 Secret Service agents a serving of prawns, a smoked trout and pecan pate, and a club sandwich.

Just before the party arrived, a power outage struck the pub and the electronic cash register was not working. "Feel free to blame me," Clinton told those in the pub. "Back home, people try sometimes to blame the weather on me."

Bell, 59, blamed him instead, jokingly, for not paying. The bill was \$ 35.80.

After the pub visit Clinton flew to Warwick University, where he gave a speech touching on issues from poverty to global warming.

Clinton urged rich nations to do more to help the poor but also said it was vital for poor countries to clean up their act and root out corruption, "something that I think has been overlooked."

He noted that half the world's people try to survive on less than \$ 2 a day, nearly 1-billion live in chronic hunger and half the children in the poor countries are not in school.

"So, while some of us walk on the cutting edge of the new global economy, still amazing numbers of people live on the bare razor's edge of survival," he said.

Clinton drew applause when he noted that wealthy countries could increase the income of developing countries by \$ 20-billion a year merely by ending subsidies to their own farmers.

Clinton said globalization protesters were wrong in suggesting poor countries should be saved from development by keeping their doors closed to trade. "I think that is a recipe for continuing their poverty, not erasing it," he said.

Touching on global warming, he said, "An enormous majority of the decisionmakers still don't believe that a country can grow rich and stay rich unless it puts more greenhouse gas into the atmosphere every year. It is not true."

Copyright 2000 Pacific Press Ltd.
The Vancouver Sun
December 15, 2000 Friday FINAL EDITION

SECTION: NEWS, Pg. A14

LENGTH: 675 words

HEADLINE: Clinton's final foreign trip includes royal tea: Farewell trip to Northern Ireland and England a mix of politics and pleasure

BYLINE: Kevin Ward

SOURCE: Canadian Press

DATELINE: LONDON

BODY:

Britain swooned under a bit of U.S. President Bill Clinton's charm Thursday as he visited with the

Queen over coffee, tea and cookies after urging Americans to rally around their Republican president-elect.

Now in the final days of his presidency, Clinton's trip with his family to Northern Ireland and England mixed international affairs with the more pleasurable pursuits of the average tourist.

Clinton defended globalization in a speech at the University of Warwick in Coventry after shopping and lunch in London's trendy Notting Hill.

His last foreign trip was also a chance to bid an official farewell to an old friend, British Prime Minister Tony Blair. The warmth of Clinton and Blair's relationship was often on display during the two-day visit, Clinton frequently taking his friend by the arm when they appeared publicly together.

Before his speech on globalization, Blair paid tribute to Clinton as a president who used his international influence wisely, and as someone who brought Europe and the United States closer together.

"Bill Clinton has been a true leader of the Western world, he has been a friend and a counsellor to me and other leaders right round this world," said Blair.

But the final lap of the Clinton road show wasn't all about dinner with the Blairs at Chequers -- the prime minister's country residence -- and seeing the sights. His speech at Warwick tied a call for a worldwide attack on poverty with his support for globalization, under assault from social and environmental organizations.

Directly taking on the protesters who have disrupted meetings of major world economic organizations in Seattle and Prague in the Czech Republic, Clinton said globalization offers hope for the poor.

"I disagree with the anti-globalization protesters who suggest that poor countries should somehow be saved from development by keeping their doors closed to trade," he said. "I think that is a recipe for continuing their poverty, not erasing it."

A day earlier in Belfast, Clinton attempted to breathe new life into the Northern Ireland peace process that his administration helped start two years ago, but stands stalled today on the details of the peace agreement's implementation.

The Clintons spent the night at Chequers, where they and the Blairs sat up into the early morning watching U.S. Vice-President Al Gore's concession speech on television. After everyone else went to bed, Clinton and his daughter Chelsea sat up to watch George W. Bush speak for the first time as president-elect.

"I think we ought to use this opportunity to let the country come together and try to get the new administration off to a good start," Clinton said in his appeal to Americans deeply divided by the protracted legal battle for the U.S. presidency.

Later Thursday, the president and First Lady Hillary Clinton had coffee, tea and cookies with the Queen in her audience room at Buckingham Palace while Chelsea took a private tour of its state rooms.

The last Clinton trip was significant to Britain, getting live attention on TV, and breaking some of the normal rules associated with royal protocol. The Clintons posed for pictures with the Queen outside Buckingham Palace, a photo opportunity that isn't always afforded visiting political leaders.

On their way to the palace, the Clintons took advantage of a rare sunny day in London and made an unscheduled trip into Hyde Park, walking through crowds of people, some of whom were on their way to work and stunned by the president's appearance.

The president's visit to Notting Hill's famous Portobello Road market included browsing through an antiques shop, the purchase of a necklace for his wife, rings for his daughter and lunch at a blacked-out pub. The quick lunch, lit only by a crackling fire, consisted of a half-pint of organic lager, a pop, a Cajun shrimp sandwich and some good-natured humour over the power failure.

"Feel free to blame me," Clinton reportedly drawled. "Back home people try sometimes to blame the weather on me."