

a job at Xerox. "And any normal person here would support the peace process."

The 30,000 residents of Dundalk--the vast majority of them Catholic--voted overwhelmingly to support the 1998 Good Friday peace agreement, which relinquished the Irish Republic's claim to the six counties of Northern Ireland in exchange for political and civil rights reforms in the province.

Many also have supported the Irish Republican Army, which declared a cease-fire in 1997 and all but signed on to the peace accord that has seen its political wing, Sinn Fein, join a Protestant and Catholic power-sharing government in Northern Ireland.

But the town is also known to Irish and British authorities as a base for the dissident Real IRA, which claimed responsibility for a 1998 bombing in the town of Omagh that was the worst single attack in the 30-year history of Northern Ireland's sectarian war. Twenty-nine people died in the blast.

The leaders of the 32 County Sovereignty Movement, which opposes the peace process and claims to be strictly a political group working for a united Ireland, live in a suburb of Dundalk. Michael McKevitt and Bernadette Sands McKevitt--sister of hunger striker Bobby Sands, who died in 1981 and became a martyr to Irish Catholics--deny police accusations that they are a front for the Omagh bombers.

No one has been charged with murder for the bombing, although in Dundalk it is said that "even the dogs in the street" know who did it.

But in Dundalk, people also know to keep their mouths shut.

One man waiting for hours in a steady rain to see Clinton claimed to be a neighbor of the McKevitts.

"She's well thought of. I'm friendly with her son, who owns the village takeout food shop. I don't think they did it," said the man. But he declined to give his name, pointing a finger at his temple like a pistol and saying: "Security. You know, mentioning the McKevitts and all."

A couple of blocks away, an American flag hung in the window of McDonnells pub, widely known but rarely said aloud to be an IRA extremist bar. The owner, Colm Murphy, has been charged with conspiracy to cause explosions in connection with the Omagh bombing and released on bail to await trial.

Customers wearing stubbly beards and shamrock tattoos grew quiet at the sight of two U.S. reporters asking for opinions about the Clinton visit.

"I'd really rather not say," answered the ginger-haired bartender with beefy arms. "I'd rather you not ask."

Why the American flag, then?

"It's just the spirit of the day," he said frostily as a few Guinness-drinkers smirked.

Across the street at Ma Brady's restaurant, owner Michael Brady wouldn't discuss McDonnells. ("Oh, I don't know about that, I'm on this side of the street.") But he was more than happy to talk about Clinton.

"He's a good man, and he's done a lot for Ireland," Brady said.

Brady's grandparents founded the restaurant in 1916, the year of the Easter Rising against British rule, he noted. His mother, Agnes, who ran Ma's for 56 years before he took over, is

also a fan of Clinton's.

"He's a lovely man," she said as she donned a plastic rain scarf in preparation for going out.

And the peace process?

"You'll never change some sides, you know. But it's much, much better than it was. It was terrible a few years ago."

Better or not, security in Dundalk was ample Tuesday. As soldiers with sniffer dogs checked for bombs, security experts searched sewers, drainpipes and trash bins downtown. Scores of police circled the central square, which was blocked off to traffic in every direction for blocks.

Nonetheless, well-wishers arrived early dressed as Uncle Sam and the Statue of Liberty to listen to Irish samba music and folk singers.

Sheila Campbell, 55, showed up at 11:30 a.m. with a folding stool and a flask of tea to wait for Clinton, who didn't arrive until 8:30 p.m.

"You know the pilgrimage site of Lough Derg? Well, you stay up all night there doing your penance, so this is no bother here," Campbell said. "We just wanted to see President Clinton. He's done so much for peace in Ireland."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: President Clinton toasts with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern in a Dublin pub before heading to Dundalk. **PHOTOGRAPHER:** Associated Press **PHOTO: (A2) IRISH VISITOR--**President Clinton visited the border town of Dundalk, Ireland, to ask the people to stand up for peace between Protestants and Roman Catholics in Northern Ireland. Left, Clinton greets a crowd in the town's central square. **PHOTOGRAPHER:** Associated Press

LOAD-DATE: December 13, 2000

Search within these results:

Search

This will only search up to 1,000 documents, even if your original search retrieved more.

General News;"Clinton gets hero's welcome"

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.

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

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.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2000

IRELAND

Clinton sees hopes for real peace fade

Vows a continued fight against terror

From combined dispatches

BELFAST — President Clinton's Irish farewell ended yesterday with the path to peace in Northern Ireland as rocky as ever.

Despite drawing a road map for the British-ruled province to end decades of sectarian strife, Mr. Clinton wound up the third visit to Ireland of his presidency with little more than optimistic words and a vow to step up the fight against terrorism.

It was not the ending he had planned 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 Tuesday. 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 had slammed into a brick wall with hard-line Protestant politicians in Belfast claiming the United States unfairly 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 cease-fires, 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 U.S. tilt toward Catholic IRA allies in the province.

During a meeting with Northern Ireland parliamentarians, Cdr. 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."

Clinton pushes peace efforts

Pledges to help 'root out' Irish terrorists

By Ellen Hale
USA TODAY

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — President Clinton promised on 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 8,000 here. Clinton also called on leaders here to resolve the controversies over policing and decommissioning that have snagged 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 / 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

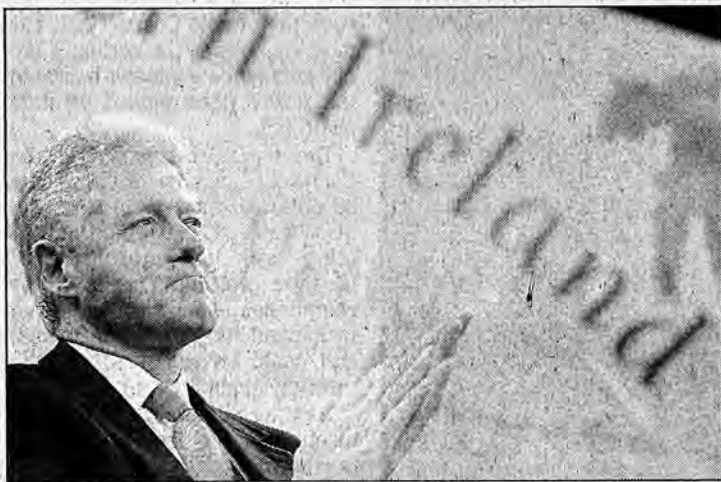
BELFAST, Northern Ireland—In his last play as a peacemaker for Northern Ireland, President Clinton on Wednesday urged the province's feuding Protestant and Roman Catholic political parties to break their deadlock and move in step to resolve the outstanding issues of disarmament, policing and demilitarization.

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.

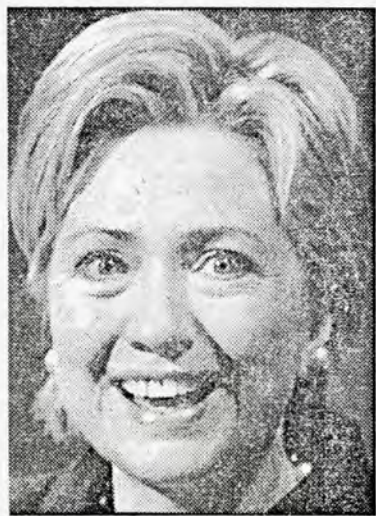
The British and Irish governments have asked that Clinton put the dissident republican group opposed to the peace process, the Real IRA, on the U.S. list of terrorist organizations, thereby banning it from raising money and support in the United States.

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



A HAND FOR HILL: Hillary Rodham Clinton returns the greetings of well-wishers before speaking at a Belfast conference yesterday. Reuters

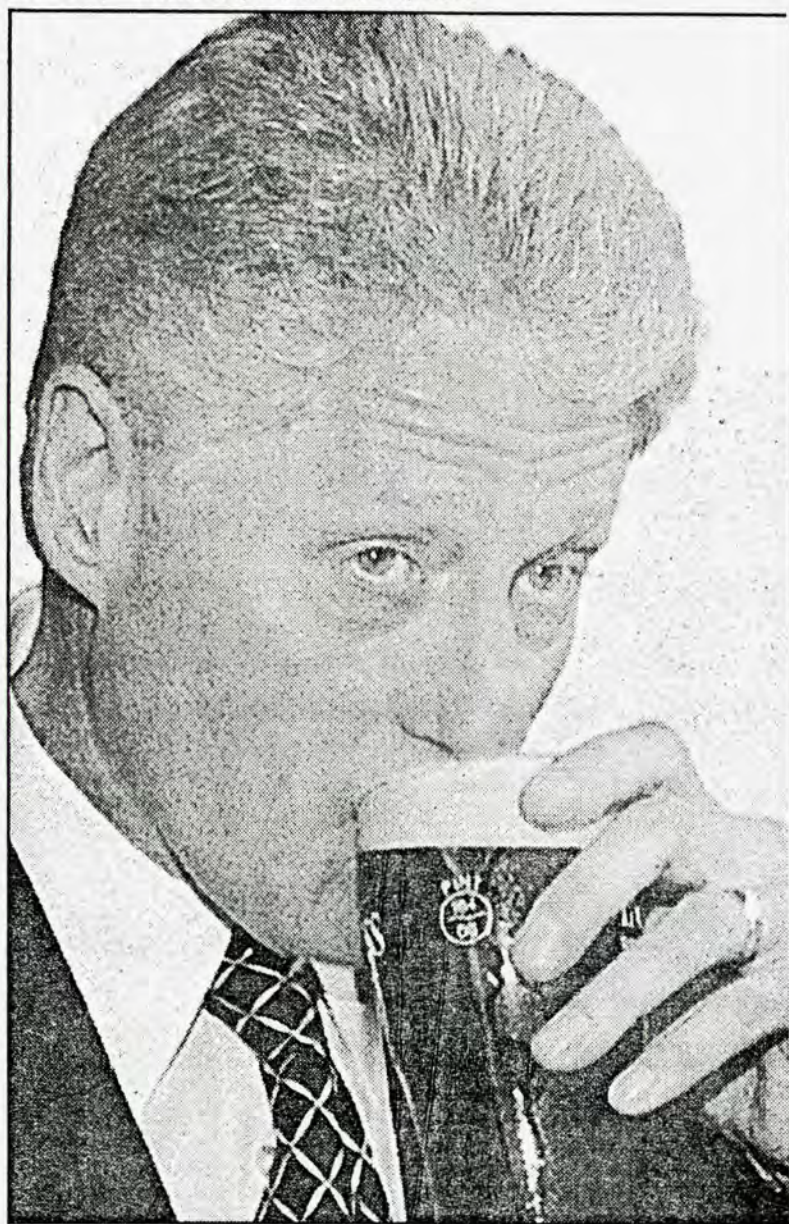
By LEONARD GREENE

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 arms must be put beyond use."

In Belfast Hillary Rodham Clinton, who accompanied the president, urged Northern Ireland's 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.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Clinton, in Ulster, Confronts Warring Passions Head-On

By MARC LACEY

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, Dec. 13 — President Clinton received a blunt reminder of the heated passions that remain in Northern Ireland today as he visited the National Assembly and found himself caught up 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 Wilson, that the United States was backing known terrorists while promoting peace.

Mr. Wilson said the president glared at him angrily and disputed his 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 our meeting."

Their exchange came after Mr. Wilson 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 figures — as well as some of its stiffest — 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 headaches," 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 I.R.A., 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 I.R.A. 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 of deaths from sectarian violence as now a small fraction of what there 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 or 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 late. "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, 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."