

Belfast Telegraph
9/3/1998

peace will be defeated.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair was expected at Belfast International Airport to meet Mr Clinton who was travelling on board Air Force One - First Lady Hillary Clinton had journeyed to Belfast a day earlier on Air Force Two.

This presidential visit will add impetus to the Irish peace process which has already picked up pace as a result of Gerry Adams's signal that violence must be a thing of the past, over, done with and gone.

A huge security operation co-ordinated by the American secret service and the RUC was ready to swing into place and a motorcade prepared to speed Mr Clinton to Parliament Buildings, Stormont.

On the steps of Stormont - a place once described as a Protestant parliament for a Protestant people - Mr Clinton is due to receive a joint greeting by the unionist and nationalist leaders of Northern Ireland's new power-sharing assembly, David Trimble and Seamus Mallon.

The symbolic significance of Mr Clinton first going to meet the 108 assembly members underlines the American president's firm conviction that the Good Friday agreement is the touchstone for political progress into the future.

After the Stormont meetings with all the political parties, Mr Clinton's schedule includes a keynote speech at the Waterfront Hall. He also goes to the site of the new Springvale campus of the University of Ulster in west Belfast, visits Omagh and the site of the bombing which killed 28 people and injured 220 and then in the evening he travels to Armagh for talks with church leaders and to take part in a peace and reconciliation event.

Undoubtedly, the most sombre and moving part of President Clinton's visit will be in Omagh where he will hear from survivors and relatives of the dead.

He will convey to them the condolences of the American people who, along with people throughout the world, were shocked by this terrible bombing which led to the largest loss of life of any single incident in Northern Ireland.

Mr Clinton will also reflect on another terrible act of violence - the burning to death of three children in their Ballymoney home at the height of the Drumcree crisis.

These will be moments of deep reflection for President Clinton but again his message will be a powerful one in that the people of Ireland have the courage to face the future and will not allow the ship of peace - the Good Friday agreement - to sink.

Instead Mr Clinton will advise that the political leaders, while not facing an easy road ahead, have demonstrated that they are risk-takers and the prize must be a peaceful future.

Yesterday, ahead of the president's arrival from Moscow, Hillary Clinton was in Belfast to speak at the Women in Democracy conference.

She said that "when my husband and I go to Omagh we will pay tribute to those who were murdered by the enemies of peace. They were mostly women and children, Catholic and Protestant, unionist and nationalist, young and old. They were people simply living their lives."

Mrs Clinton praised the role of women in the search for peace and spoke about the courage and strength of generations of women.

She added that the United States would continue to do all it could to support Northern Ireland.

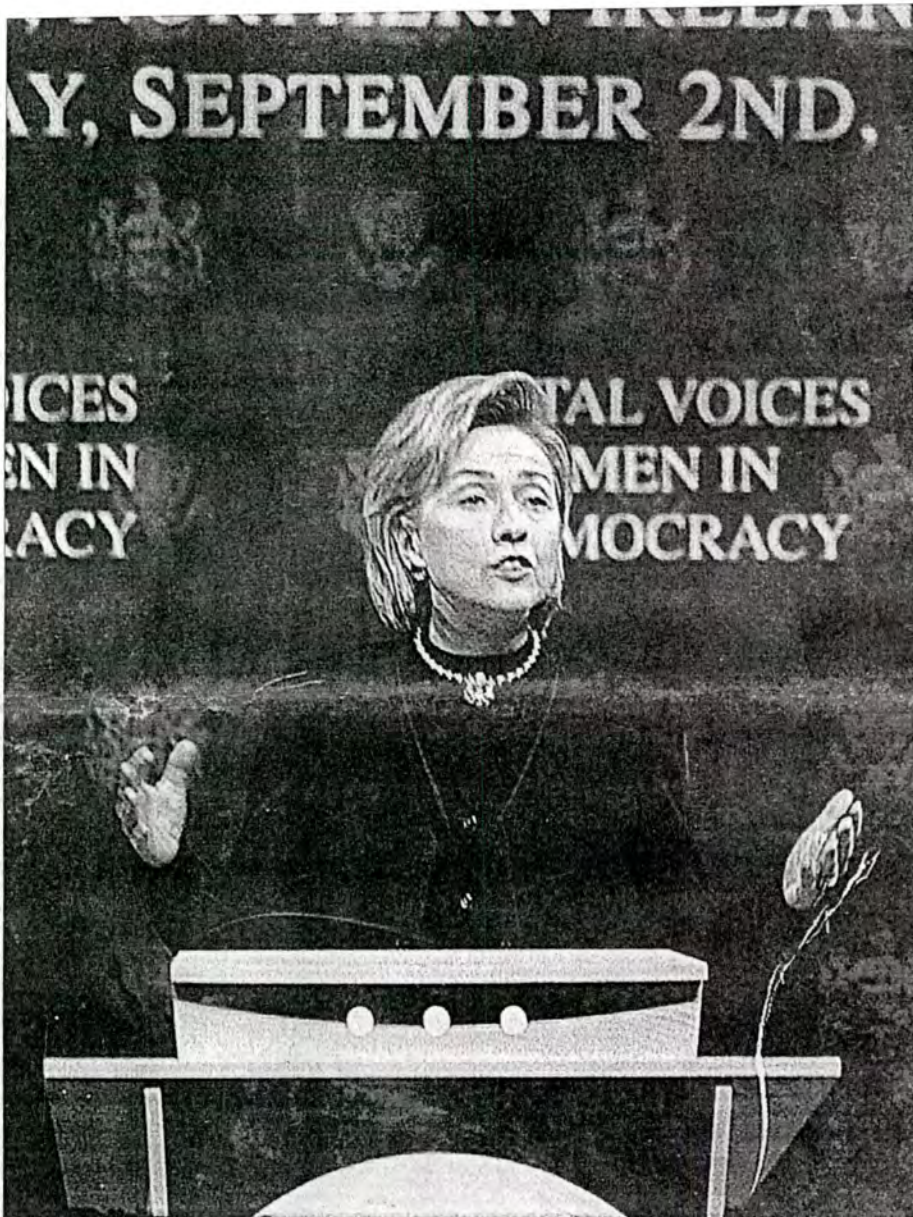
"You will only move forward and, as you do, please know that America will stand with you."

Prime Minister Tony Blair said yesterday that things were now moving in the right direction in Northern Ireland and that the best response to the Omagh bombing was not to abandon the peace accord but to carry it forward vigorously and deny those opposed to the democratic process.

The Dail and the Commons rushed through tough new legislation to deal with dissidents, although there have been strong questions posed about the dangers of human rights abuses.

Taoiseach Bertie Ahern has said that the message to those who carried out the Omagh bombing was that "you cannot hope to take on the people of Ireland and win."

Clearly directing his remarks towards the Real IRA, Mr Ahern said: "These people are about to learn a lesson that will teach them to respect the strength of Irish democracy."



● SHOW OF HANDS ... Hillary Clinton at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast yesterday

Picture: Hugh Russell

The president's schedule

THIS is the schedule for today's visit to Northern Ireland by the President of the United States, Bill Clinton.

He will arrive at Belfast International Airport on Air Force One from Moscow at around 8.30am this morning and be met by the Lord Lieutenant or County Antrim, Lord O'Neill, the prime minister Tony Blair, secretary of state Mo Mowlam, minister of state Paul Murphy, and the chief constable Ronnie Hanagan.

From the airport Mr Clinton will travel to Parliament Buildings Stormont where he will be met on the front steps by assembly first minister David Trimble and deputy first minister Seamus Mallon.

The Clinton party will then go inside Parliament Buildings and be greeted by presiding officer Lord Alderdice and the president is expected to sign the visitors book.

Following this there will be a number of private meetings and the president will also meet a delegation of congressmen.

In the long gallery which is on the first floor of the east wing of Parliament Buildings Mr Clinton will meet with Northern Ireland's newly elected 108 assembly members.

About an hour-and-a-half later

Mr Clinton will leave Stormont and arrive at the Waterfront Hall where he will be met by the Lord Lieutenant of Belfast, colonel James Elliot Wilson, the lord mayor of Belfast councillor David Alderdice and the Sheriff for the County Borough of Belfast councillor James Clarke.

The president is expected to have a number of private meetings and may join with representatives of the Industrial Development Board for discussions as well as having talks with senior company executives from US companies operating in Northern Ireland.

Later the president will give a keynote address at the Waterfront Hall before departing after midday for Springvale where he will be met by the vice-chancellor of the University of Ulster Lord Smith of Clifton, and the principal of the Belfast Institute of Further and Higher Education, professor Patrick Murphy.

It is understood he will meet two pupils from schools on the peaceline - Gerard Quinn, Corpus Christi College and Margaret Gibney, Mount Gilbert Community College.

Later in the afternoon Mr Clinton will travel by helicopter from Belfast City Airport and arrive at Omagh. He will drive to

IAN KNOX



Omagh leisure centre. There the prime minister and the president will meet with a large number of relatives and survivors of the Omagh tragedy.

On leaving the leisure centre the presidential cavalcade will go to Market Street where a plaque will be unveiled near to the scene of the bombing. Then at High Street wreaths will be laid at shops which lost staff in the explosion.

Mr Clinton and Mr Blair will speak with emergency workers, many of whom attended the

injured in the immediate aftermath of the attack.

Before 6pm Mr Clinton will arrive in Armagh by helicopter from Omagh and be met by the Lord Lieutenant the Earl of Caledon.

The mayor of Armagh will present city civic leaders to the president.

The president will also meet with church leaders in The Mall - the Most Rev Lord Eames (Lord Archbishop of Armagh), Most Rev Sean Brady (Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland), Rev David Kerr (President Methodist Church in Ireland), and Rev Dr John Dixon (Moderator Presbyterian Church in Ireland).

Before the president's arrival in The Mall members of the public will be entertained by a cross-community choir and folk singer Mary Black.

The president will deliver a speech at the Mall green and then fly by helicopter to Dublin.

This morning first lady Hillary Clinton will visit together with the prime minister's wife Cherie the Playboard Scheme in Belfast.

Playboard has for the past eight years undertaken research and training on the impact of violence and sectarianism in children.

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Hillary gives a helping hand to women in the business world

By Jim Fitzpatrick
 Business Editor

AMERICAN First Lady Hillary Clinton's visit to Northern Ireland yesterday spurred the launch of the first all-Ireland organisation for women in business.

Network Ireland, which is currently a major organisation for female entrepreneurs and executives in the Republic, is launching a recruitment drive in Northern Ireland later this month.

Network Northern Ireland will be headed by Sharon O'Connor, who is director of the Learning Centre in Belfast. She said the organisation would be aimed at women who own their own firms, or work in companies.

Speaking at the Waterfront Hall where she was attending the Vital Voices conference, Ms O'Connor said: "The visit of Hillary Clinton to Northern Ireland highlights the need for Northern Ireland women to make their voices heard nationally and internationally."

"The launch of Network Northern Ireland, the organisation for women in business, is about creating opportunities for women to build these essential networks."

In support of the new initiative the *Irish News* is sending two readers, nominated by their respective business colleagues, to this year's Network Ireland conference in Dublin next month.

The package includes two nights accommodation in the Burlington Hotel, pre-conference dinner on Friday October 9, the conference itself on Saturday October 10, gala dinner attended by the Tanaiste Mary Harney on Saturday night, and Sunday morning brunch in the Burlington.

The conference is entitled "Do we Want an Economy or a Society?" with the sub-heading "Bringing a feminine intelligence to our working and living".

But the organisers are keen to stress that they expect many men to attend

the event, and the *Irish News* welcomes nominations from both sexes in equal numbers.

According to conference organiser Paula Downey, who is keynote speaker for the afternoon session, the conference examines issues from the global to the personal perspective.

First speaker at the conference is Sabina Spencer, a consultant to multinational companies in the area of strategic leadership. She opens the event with a look at the truly global issues pushing change in the world of business.

"Not just environmental issues, but sustainability in every sense," according to Paula Downey.

The second speaker is Irish "futurist" Gerard O'Neill, who will look at national issues facing Ireland: the impact of the internet, the Euro, and the realities of the Celtic tiger economy.

The conference then takes a sideways look at the role of business organisations, through the eyes of a man who has turned the concept on its head.

Andy Law bought out the London advertising agency which he ran for £1 from the parent company and turned it into a trust owned equally by all the employees. He believes advertising is redundant, yet runs one of the most successful agencies in London - he explains the apparent paradoxes.

Next up are two women who wrote a book which was the 90's antidote to 80's yuppieism entitled "Getting a Life - the Downshifter's Guide to Happier, Simpler Living".

In the afternoon the conference explores personal themes, led by Paula Downey who focuses on the importance of communication in organisations.

According to the organisers the conference sub-heading does not imply that only women have the necessary intelligence to address the issues of today, but rather that the "feminine" side in everyone needs to be nurtured.



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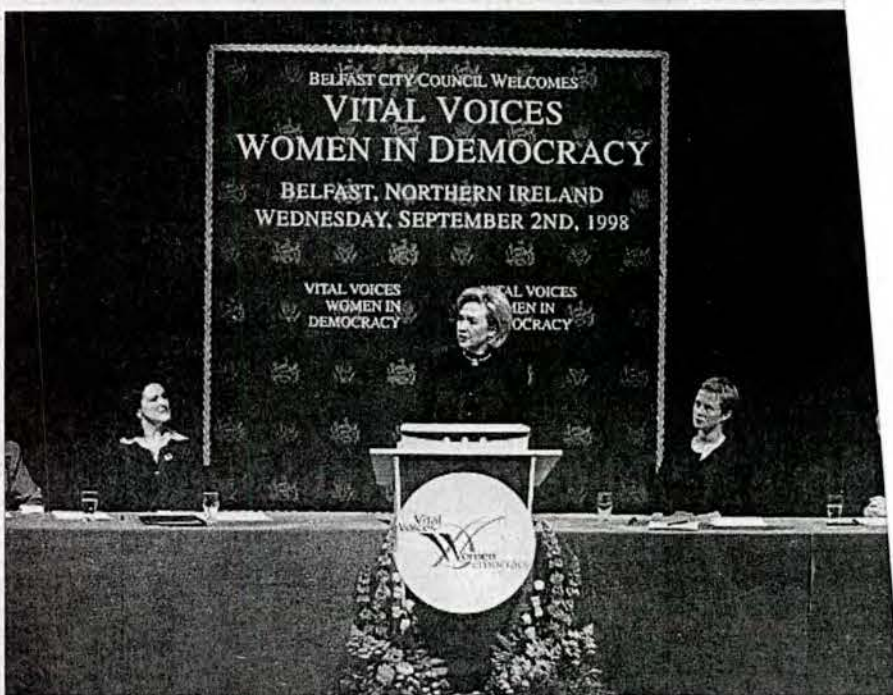
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Fund boost marks president's visit

By Rosie Uffindell

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The \$3.5 million gift from the International Fund for Ireland will be just the latest in a series of investments the scheme has won since it was given the green light in 1994.

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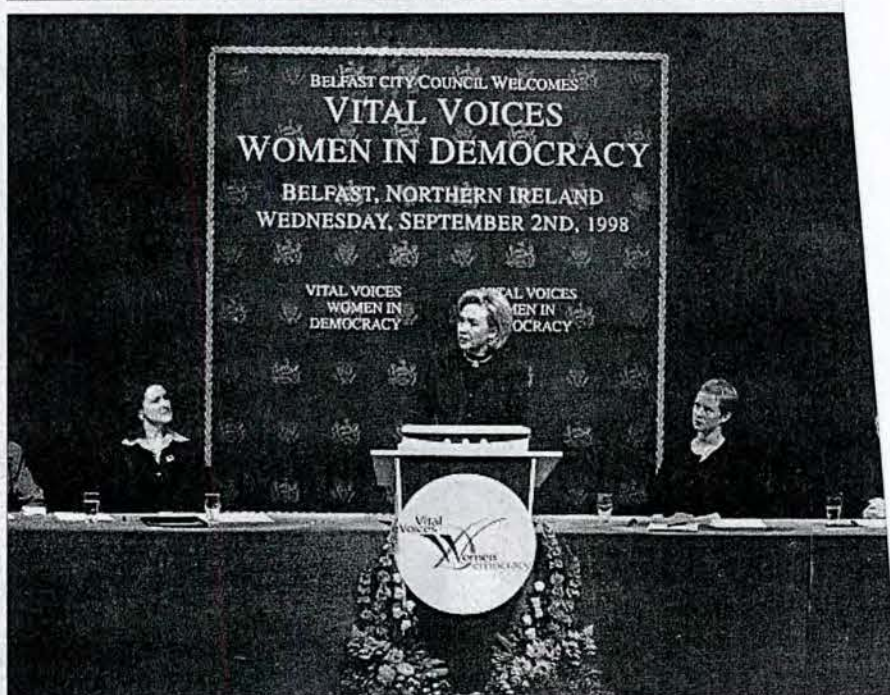
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By Rosie Uffindell

SUPPORTERS of the innovative Springvale educational village will use President Clinton's visit this afternoon to announce millions of pounds of extra funding for the project.

The \$3.5 million gift from the International Fund for Ireland will be just the latest in a series of investments the scheme has won since it was given the green light in April.

President Clinton himself pledged to secure \$5 million in financial backing from the US in May, after he described the project as something that could "bolster the foundations of peace".

And his visit today will lend weight to the

campaign to raise the final few million pounds of funding needed, which supporters hope will come from donors in the US.

The Springvale project was hailed as a vote of confidence in the peace process when it was given the formal go-ahead by Secretary of State Mo Mowlam less than a week after the Good Friday agreement was signed.

The campus, which will straddle the peace line, has attracted broad support from nationalist and unionist politicians as well as from the British government.

The \$70 million initiative will see the University of Ulster and Belfast Institute of Further and Higher Education joining forces in a bid to give those

students traditionally excluded from university the chance to fulfil their academic and vocational potential.

President Clinton is known to be a strong supporter of the scheme and has asked the state information agency to support the project with a full range of educational programs, including a variety of exchange programs to foster links between Springvale and universities in America.

He has already welcomed the fund's donation, which brings its overall support project to \$8.2 million, claiming the fund can play "a vital role in community regeneration creating the conditions for peace to thrive".



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Translating spirit of hope into reality

By Philip Lader

LAST Tuesday, during my visit to Northern Ireland in advance of President Clinton's, I walked the streets of the beautiful cathedral city of Armagh and met men and women whose courage and dedication to peace helped make the Good Friday agreement possible.

In 1995 President Clinton came to Northern Ireland to encourage those who had hope and to tell the merchants of violence that their time was over. That occasion remains a touchstone for him and many others. It was a remarkable moment.

In 1998, the president returns to pay tribute to the people of Northern Ireland for translating that spirit into reality. He will begin by meeting with the new members of the assembly to underscore his support for the Good Friday agreement, which received the support of the overwhelming majority of people throughout the island of Ireland. He will call on all participants to implement it in its entirety.

As George Bernard Shaw reminds us, however, peace is infinitely more arduous than conflict. Difficult challenges remain. Thus a certain theme of his visit will be to show that, just as the United States stood with those who took risks for peace, my country will remain deeply engaged in supporting the peace

process and economic development in Northern Ireland.

The president will also travel to Omagh to convey the American people's sympathy to the victims of the horrific attack. He will witness to their courage in pulling together in the face of tragedy and refusing to be divided by a vicious minority.

This city has welcomed visitors from many times in its long history. The cathedrals which dominate the skyline are reminders of the potential for reconciliation. Their graceful spires call to mind the American poet Walt Whitman's line, "peace is beautiful". We hope the people of Armagh join in the dignified gathering for peace in the Mall this evening.

As the tragedy in Omagh brutally reminds us, the patient, delicate work of reconciliation is needed. In Armagh President Clinton will articulate the American people's commitment to walk down that road with the people of Northern Ireland. Every state and country America owes much to those who came to this land and who built a new nation.

In turn, today we Americans are committed to helping the people of Northern Ireland see the peace and prosperity they deserve.

● Philip Lader is US ambassador to London



● POWERFUL WORDS... first lady Hillary Clinton addresses the Vital Voices Women in Democracy conference at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast yesterday at which she praised the role of women in the search for peace

First lady speaks out with style

A RELAXED Hillary Clinton breezed into Belfast yesterday showing no signs of the scandals which have dogged America's first family.

Making her first public appearance since the Monica Lewinsky story broke, the first lady smiled as she arrived at the Waterfront Hall to address a conference on women's advancement.

Clearly at ease as she stepped from her official limousine, Mrs Clinton smiled and waved to waiting reporters and photographers.

Wearing a stylish navy-blue trouser suit and pearls, Mrs Clinton joined the platform party for the final session of the Vital Voices Women in Democracy conference and said women's voices could no longer be ignored.

It was the first lady's first official speech since her husband admitted his "inappropriate" relationship with White House aide Monica Lewinsky.

And with intense interest focussed on the scandal surrounding her husband, the first lady's every gesture was scrutinised.

But she rose to the occasion and smiled her way through the hour-long conference before delivering a powerful speech on empowering women to meet the challenges of the future.

Mrs Clinton told delegates she was

privileged to see the rebirth of Northern Ireland which she first witnessed during their first trip back in October 1995.

She paid a lengthy tribute to the role of women in the search for peace and said the women's conference provided an opportunity for powerful voices to blend to be part of a new democratic Northern Ireland: "That which people have hoped, lived, died and finally voted for."

Mrs Clinton, who referred to the Omagh bombers as "enemies of peace", warned the road to peace would never be easy.

But she vowed that America would be behind the peace process every step of the way.

"You will only move forward and, as you do, please know that America will stand with you."

America's first lady paid tribute to the unbending resolve of Northern Ireland women to carry on despite years of heartbreak and misery.

But she said that women kept faith and prayed that peace would become a reality.

"It was women's whispers which became a torrent of voices..."

Mrs Clinton, delivering her speech in a clear unflinching style, warned women that the struggle for democracy would not be easy.

"Democracy is hard work. There is no perfect democracy. It depends on the attitudes and values and getting on with people with whom you have profound differences."

But she said that if basic goals were agreed it would give everyone the chance to go forward together.

She spoke movingly about America and the world's will to see Northern Ireland succeed in achieving peace.

But the audience clapped when she spoke of her feelings as she watched Ireland from her private plane flying into the country.

"It is one of the most beautiful places on God's earth... let us pledge that this is only the beginning."

Mrs Clinton told the audience, which included Assembly members and David Trimble's wife Daphne, that the people were now the architects of a new environment.

Summing up her 40-minute speech Mrs Clinton said: "We all know that women's voices played a vital role in the quest for peace."

During the final session Mrs Clinton listened intently as other speakers outlined their reasons for taking part in the Vital Voices conference.

She laughed openly as one of the speakers, summing up her role as a woman, declared: "I'll bend but I will not be manipulated."

Her speech was given a warm welcome by delegates as they left for a reception at Belfast city hall.

SDLP assembly member Brid Rodgers described it as "excellent and very encouraging".

"She stressed the importance of women... she is a very impressive speaker."

Shankill community worker May Blood said the speech was "very emotive".

"She came across well and seemed to mean what she said."

"I thought she looked quite well given what she has been through recently."

"She looked better than ever."

And west Belfast delegate Bridie Hawkins said she was very impressed by the first lady's speech.

"Every word came from the heart. She touched on a lot of subjects and left no relevant issue out."

Mrs Clinton then attended a reception at Belfast city hall where she was given a rapturous reception.

The first lady will fly with her husband, who arrived in Belfast today, to urge all sides to make further political progress.

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● Philip Lader is US ambassador to London



Clinton visit⁵

H NEWS
1998

Armagh to stage giant peace rally for Clinton

PRESIDENT Clinton is tonight expected to round off his Northern Ireland visit at a gigantic peace rally in a city which symbolises the links between Catholics and Protestants on the island.

The US president is expected to take to a massive stage in the centre of Armagh city - Ireland's ecclesiastical capital - to make a heartfelt plea for an end to violence.

In front of an audience of at least 20,000 at the 'Gathering for Peace' rally in the historic Mall area, President Clinton is due to arrive around 7.30pm and is expected to stay in the city until around 9pm.

Irish singing legend Mary Black will attend the event which will also feature a number of groups and artists representing all sections of the community.

Co Tyrone man Paul Donaghy, brother of former Tyrone GAA star Plunkett Donaghy and son of singer Eileen Donaghy, will sing - unexpectedly.

His surprise break came about after he was involved in erecting backdrops for the presidential stage and entertained some of the large American advance team in his home village of Moy.

After hearing him perform they demanded that he appear on stage at the presidential bash.

Sharon Haughey (17) from Keady, who touched the president's heart during his last visit here with a moving peace message, will be the first person to meet Mr Clinton in Armagh - at his request.

Armagh mayor, Robert Turner said the presidential peace rally would help to manifest "a sense of optimism within the community at large".

Peter McKittrick of the

Armagh Marketing Initiative said the venue would open at 5pm and people were advised to come along as early as possible.

He said: "It's a great honour to be hosting the president and certainly the city has not seen anything like this in its long history."

He added that the mood would be generally positive but there would also be a time of reflection for those killed in the Omagh bomb.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Stormont First Minister David Trimble, and his deputy, Seamus Mallon, will also be in Armagh to hear Clinton's historic peace address.

Other entertainers include the Armagh Girls Singers, Armagh Old Silver Boys Band, McGleenan's traditional group and the Combined Cadet Force Pipe Band. There will also be two readers from schools.



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Irish News
9/3/1988



Clinton visit5

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ISH NEWS

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Edition: 38,872

35p (IR & GB 50p)

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Clinton flies in with a brave message of hope

By William Graham
Political Correspondent

THE President of the United States Bill Clinton is due to arrive today with a brave message of hope for the future – that the Good Friday agreement is taking root and that the enemies of peace will be defeated.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair was expected at Belfast International Airport to meet Mr Clinton who was travelling on board Air Force One – First Lady Hillary Clinton had journeyed to Belfast a day earlier on Air Force Two.

This presidential visit will add impetus to the Irish peace process which has already picked up pace as a result of Gerry Adams's signal that violence must be a thing of the past, over, done with and gone.

A huge security operation co-ordinated by the American secret service and the RUC was ready to swing into place and a motorcade prepared to speed Mr Clinton to Parliament Buildings, Stormont.

On the steps of Stormont – a place once described as a Protestant parliament for a Protestant people – Mr Clinton is due to receive a joint greeting by the unionist and nationalist leaders of Northern Ireland's new power-sharing assembly, David Trimble and Seamus Mallon.

The symbolic significance of Mr Clinton first going to meet the 108 assembly members underlines the American president's firm conviction that the Good Friday agreement is the touchstone for political progress into the future.

After the Stormont meetings with all the political parties, Mr Clinton's schedule includes a keynote speech at the Waterfront Hall. He also goes to the site of the new Springvale campus of the University of Ulster in west Belfast, visits Omagh and the site of the bombing which killed 28 people and injured 220 and then in the evening he travels to Armagh for talks with church leaders and to take part in a peace and reconciliation event.

Undoubtedly, the most sombre and moving part of President Clinton's visit will be in Omagh where he will hear from survivors and relatives of the dead.

He will convey to them the condolences of the American people who, along with people throughout the world, were shocked by this terrible bombing which led to the largest loss of life of any single incident in Northern Ireland.

Mr Clinton will also reflect on another terrible act of violence – the burning to death of three children in their Ballymoney home at the height of the Drumcree crisis.

These will be moments of deep reflection for President Clinton but again his message will be a powerful one in that the people of Ireland have the courage to face the future and will not allow the ship of peace – the Good Friday agreement – to sink.

Instead Mr Clinton will advise that the political leaders, while not facing an easy road ahead, have demonstrated that they are risk-takers and the prize must be a peaceful future.

Yesterday, ahead of the president's arrival from Moscow, Hillary Clinton was in Belfast to speak at the Women in Democracy conference.

She said that "when my husband and I go to Omagh we will pay tribute to those who were murdered by the enemies of peace. They were mostly women and children, Catholic and Protestant, unionist and nationalist, young and old. They were people simply living their lives."

Mrs Clinton praised the role of women in the search for peace and spoke about the courage and strength of generations of women.

She added that the United States would continue to do all it could to support Northern Ireland.

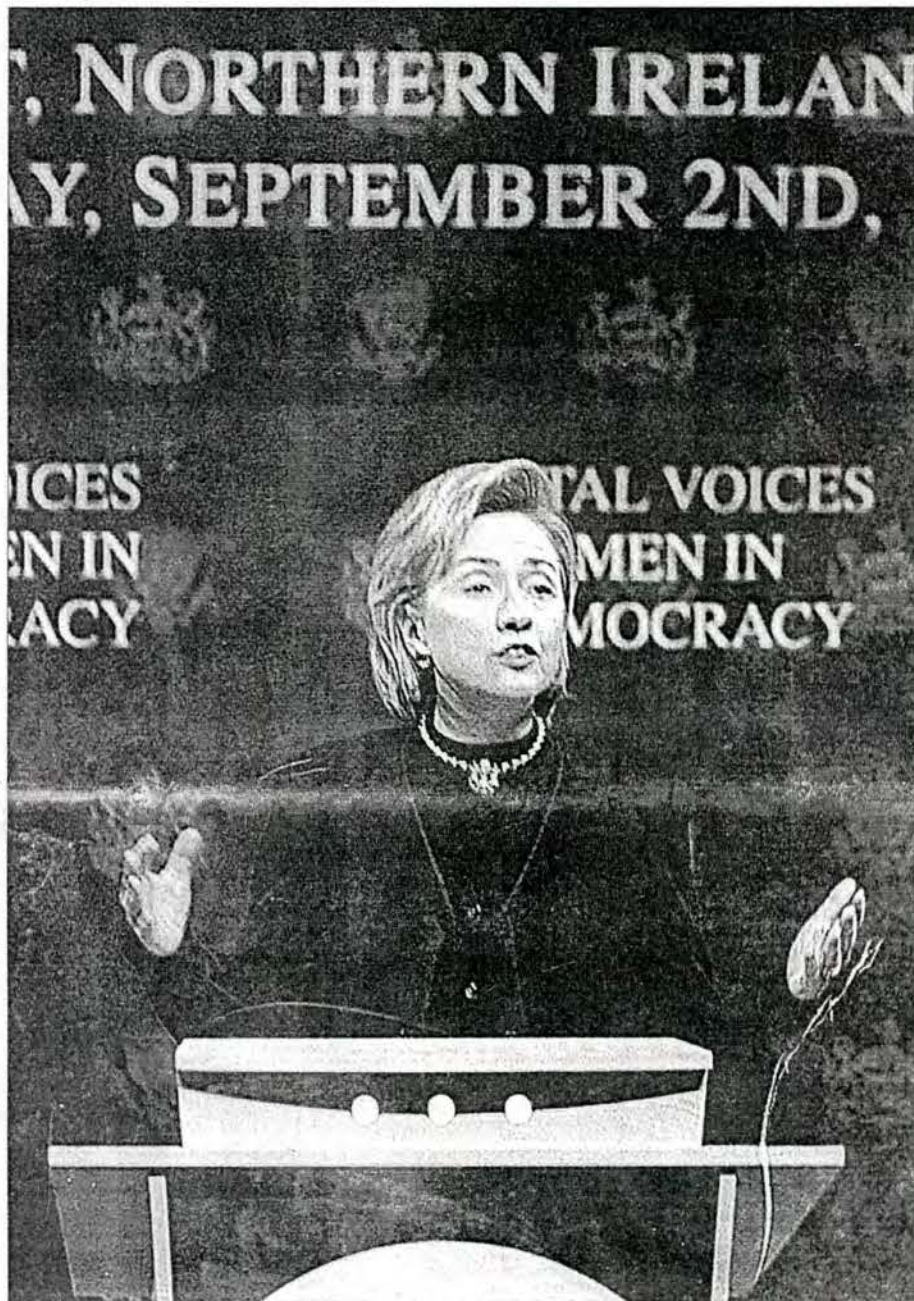
"You will only move forward and, as you do, please know that America will stand with you."

Prime Minister Tony Blair said yesterday that things were now moving in the right direction in Northern Ireland and that the best response to the Omagh bombing was not to abandon the peace accord but to carry it forward vigorously and deny those opposed to the democratic process.

The Dail and the Commons rushed through tough new legislation to deal with dissidents, although there have been strong questions posed about the dangers of human rights abuses.

Taoiseach Bertie Ahern has said that the message to those who carried out the Omagh bombing was that "you cannot hope to take on the people of Ireland and win."

Clearly directing his remarks towards the Real IRA, Mr Ahern said: "These people are about to learn a lesson that will teach them to respect the strength of Irish democracy."



● SHOW OF HANDS ... Hillary Clinton at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast yesterday

Picture: Hugh Russell

The president's schedule

Wake-Up!

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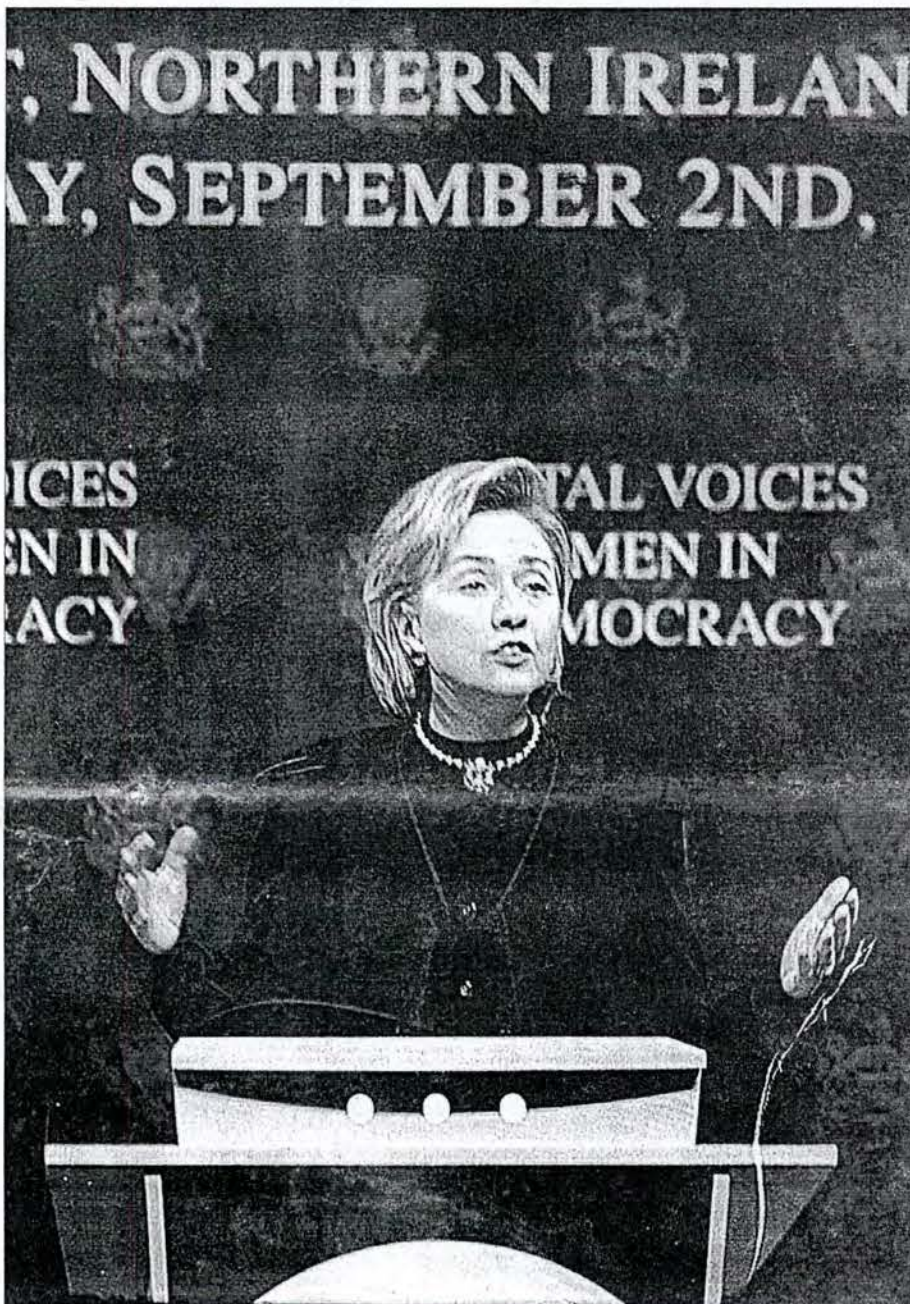
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● SHOW OF HANDS ... Hillary Clinton at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast yesterday

Picture: Hugh Russell

The president's schedule



FIRST LADY FLIES INTO ULSTER

Hillary leads the
advance party for
President's visit

By Janet Devlin

HILLARY Clinton was due to fly into Northern Ireland today for the first leg of a whirlwind Presidential visit.

And the First Lady, who has made her first public appearance since the Monica Lewinsky scandal broke, says she feels "just fine".

Mrs Clinton was due to speak at a major conference in Belfast this

afternoon on the advancement of women.

Before leaving Russia, where she and her husband were lending support to beleaguered leader Boris Yeltsin, she told a reporter who asked her how she had been doing in recent weeks: "I've been doing just fine".

Appearing jet-lagged, but otherwise happy, she deftly parried the first reference to the scandal, which is bound to cast a shadow over the Presidential tour.

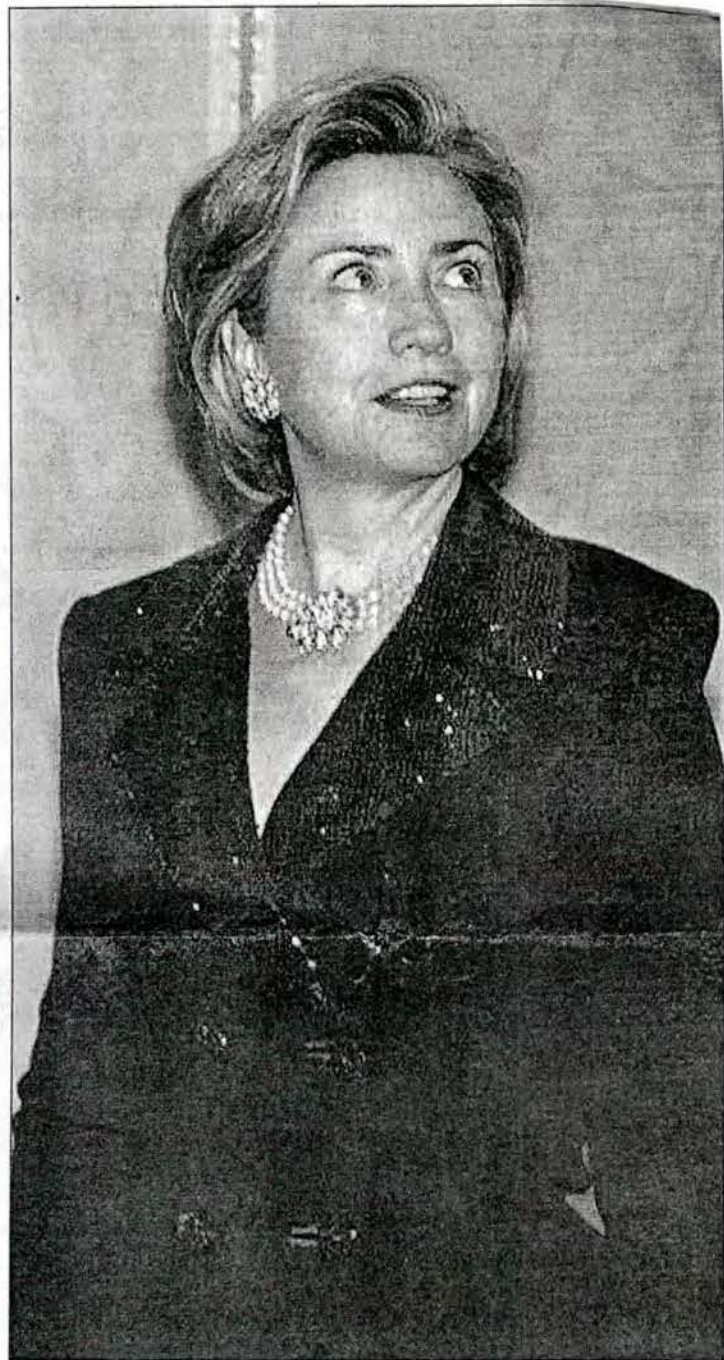
The federal judge in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case yesterday hinted she may hold President Clinton in contempt for failing to tell the whole truth about Ms Lewinsky.

Today's engagement will be first of a number by Mrs Clinton before she is joined by her husband tomorrow.

The President is returning to the city to urge all sides to make political progress. He will also lay a wreath at the site of the Omagh bombing atrocity.

This is Mrs Clinton's third visit to Northern Ireland.

A spokesman for the US administration said: "She has been keeping her eye on the situation here because it's an area where she has a keen interest and, for personal reasons, looks



Hillary Clinton: Making her third trip to Belfast today.

on it with a warm heart."

The President's wife was due to deliver a keynote address at the Women in Democracy conference at Belfast's Waterfront Hall this afternoon, then spend the night at Hillsborough.

Tomorrow she is due to open a playground for Protestant and Catholic children in the greater Belfast area

before meeting up with her husband back at the city's Waterfront Hall where he will deliver his own speech to the people of Northern Ireland.

The address will be transmitted live on big screen television in the grounds of the Waterfront Hall at 11am. Pedestrian access will be available via the entrance to the Dunlough Ewart plc car park at

Queen's Bridge from 9am. Other car parks in the immediate area will remain closed.

It was also confirmed today that Mary Black will play at Armagh's 'Gathering for Peace' tomorrow, and huge crowds are expected for Mr Clinton's peace address.

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Prime Minister Tony Blair is expected in Belfast later tonight and he will personally greet the President when he disembarks from Air Force One tomorrow morning.

See pages 6, 10 and 11; Viewpoint, page 12

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS - RECORDS - CD'S - TAPES -
CARS - BOATS - PLANES - TV'S - VIDEO GAME CONSOLES

NEED CASH?
4 WAYS TO GET CASH,
IT'S AS EASY AS 1,2,3...

OPTION 1
NO
A
BANK

1. ILLEGAL, IMMORAL
2. JAIL A POSSIBILITY
3. EARLY CLOSING

Irish News
9/3/1988

FIRST LADY FLIES INTO ULSTER

Hillary leads the advance party for President's visit

By Janet Devlin

HILLARY Clinton was due to fly into Northern Ireland today for the first leg of a whirlwind Presidential visit.

And the First Lady, who has made her first public appearance since the Monica Lewinsky scandal broke, says she feels "just fine".

Mrs Clinton was due to speak at a major conference in Belfast this

afternoon on the advancement of women.

Before leaving Russia, where she and her husband were lending support to beleaguered leader Boris Yeltsin, she told a reporter who asked her how she had been doing in recent weeks: "I've been doing just fine".

Appearing jet-lagged, but otherwise happy, she deftly parried the first reference to the scandal, which is bound to cast a shadow over the Presidential tour.

The federal judge in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case yesterday hinted she may hold President Clinton in contempt for failing to tell the whole truth about Ms Lewinsky.

Today's engagement will be first of a number by Mrs Clinton before she is joined by her husband tomorrow.

The President is returning to the city to urge all sides to make political progress. He will also lay a wreath at the site of the Omagh bombing atrocity.

This is Mrs Clinton's third visit to Northern Ireland.

A spokesman for the US administration said: "She has been keeping her eye on the situation here because it's an area where she has a keen interest and, for personal reasons, looks



Hillary Clinton: Making her third trip to Belfast today.

on it with a warm heart."

The President's wife was due to deliver a keynote address at the Women in Democracy conference at Belfast's Waterfront Hall this afternoon, then spend the night at Hillsborough.

Tomorrow she is due to open a playground for Protestant and Catholic children in the greater Belfast area

before meeting up with her husband back at the city's Waterfront Hall where he will deliver his own speech to the people of Northern Ireland.

The address will be transmitted live on big screen television in the grounds of the Waterfront Hall at 11am.

Pedestrian access will be available via the entrance to the Dunloewart plc car park at

Queen's Bridge from 9am. Other car parks in the immediate area will remain closed.

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So who's put the smile back on Hillary's face?

PHOTO PRESERVATION



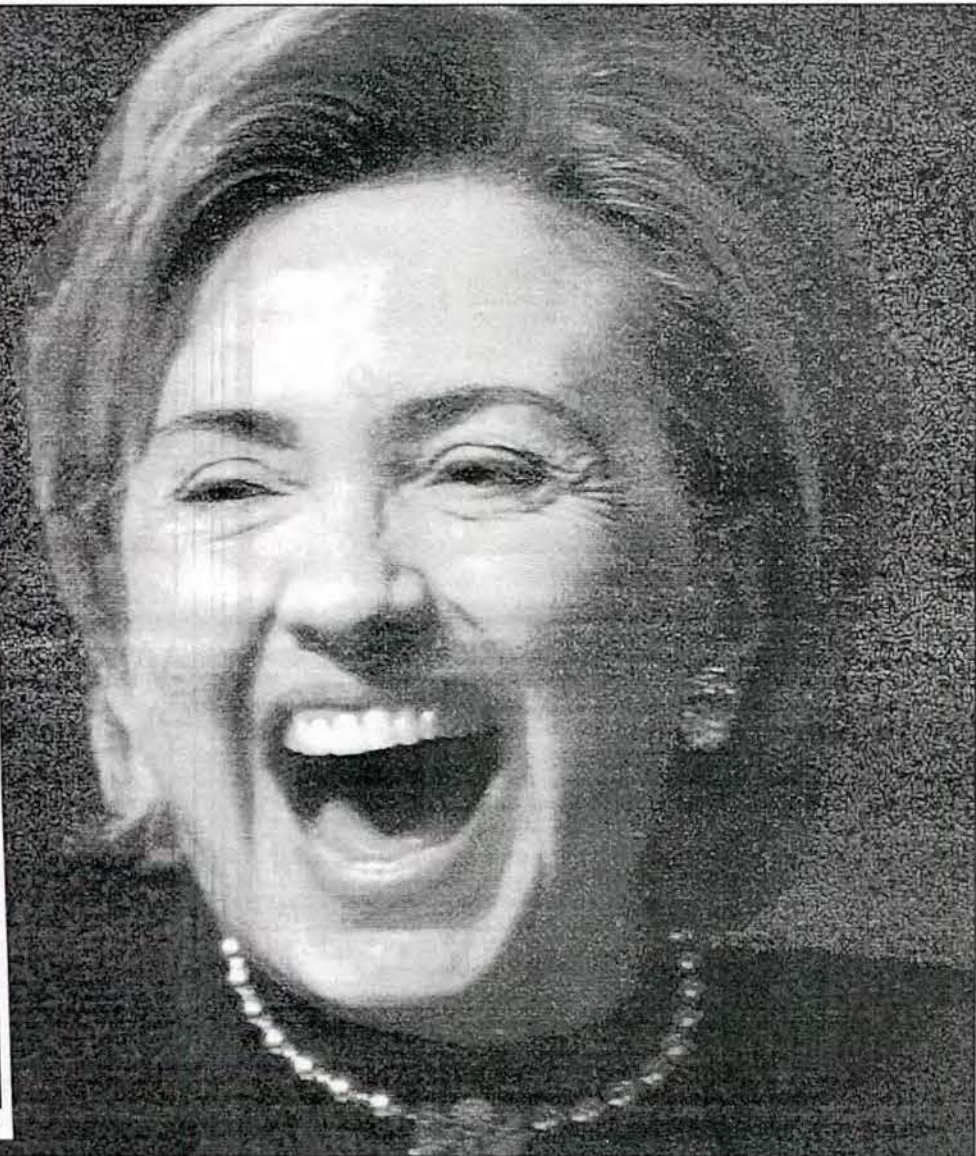
TAKE ONE: Hillary sees the funny side



TAKE TWO: She beams for the crowds



TAKE THREE: The joke must be on Bill



By DON MACKAY
BEAMING Hillary Clinton looked a million dollars as she arrived in Belfast last night.

America's first lady sported a dazzling smile when she stepped from her stretch limo.

But whoever put the grin on her face, it certainly wasn't husband Bill.

She frostily referred to him as a "political partner" when she addressed several hundred women in Moscow earlier in the day.

It was clear that she's still seething over his sex fling with White House

(ONE THING'S CERTAIN .. IT'S NOT BILL)

secretary Monica Lewinsky. Mrs Clinton was on her own when she jetted in to RAF Aldergrove. Clinton will join her in Ireland later today.

But Hillary's warm welcome at the airport was nothing compared to the rapturous greeting she got when her motorcade arrived in the city.

And she really did look a star.

Her blonde bobbed hair was immaculate, the blue trouser suit stunning and her smile as sparkling as her

gold necklace. There was no hint of her heartache as she gave a polished, 40-minute speech to 500 people at a women's Vital Voices conference.

She said women shouldn't be left trailing in the wake of men in today's society.

And she boosted the peace push in the province by saying that women on both sides were sick of burying their husbands and sons.

But it was a very different Hillary

who joined Boris Yeltsin's wife Naina at the discussion meeting in Moscow.

She told the audience she works with Bill on political aims but was ominously silent about her role as a wife.

It made them sound more like business partners.

Quizzed about her marriage, she said: "In many areas we do a lot of work together and we talk constantly about many issues that we

are concerned about. I've done a number of things at his request to work on issues that I care deeply about and he's also committed to."

It was the perfect opportunity to make it clear she had forgiven Bill - but she declined.

The couple had displayed strained smiles during the summit with troubled Yeltsin, a sharp contrast from their usual touchy-feely manner towards each other.

And the rift has brought brisk business for Moscow street traders selling nesting dolls with Clinton's face and Monica inside.

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Movies to replace News at Ten? It's bong-kers

By HELEN WEATHERS

TREVOR McDonald last night dismissed as "rubbish" ITV's plans to axe News At Ten to make way for movie blockbusters.

The anchorman of ITN's flagship and Britain's most popular newsreader said: "The movie argument is rubbish, it's a 10-year-old idea."

ITV wants to clear peak-time schedules to run blockbuster films and feature-length dramas to boost ratings.

Big ITV companies - believed to be Carlton, Granada and United - are unhappy that movies are interrupted by News At Ten and claim they are losing viewers as a result.



RUBBISH: Trevor McDonald

It is the same argument put forward to the ITC (Independent Television Commission) five years ago when the knives were last out for the 31-year-old programme.

"I really can't accept that. You can get movies from Blockbuster for £1.50 for three nights now," said Trevor, who yesterday clinched a new £2.5 million contract with ITN despite the proposals.

"You only have to look at Channel 5 which hasn't had very much success with their 9pm film slot, and how many movies are there anyway?"

"I would disregard the movie argument. That doesn't make any sense - but I have yet to read all the proposals and their reasons in full."

Trevor was persuaded to stay after a relentless "charm offensive" by ITN and ITV bosses to stop the BBC poaching him.

The deal means he will continue as frontman for the flagship news bulletin for the next three years - but crucially his contract does not specify the time.

As a sweetener he will present a 60-minute current affairs show which is expected to go out at 10pm on Wednesdays.

QUEEN OF BELFAST



Delighted crowds take Hillary to their hearts

By DON MACKAY

HILLARY Clinton is not just the First Lady of America.

She became The Queen of Belfast last night in all-smiling, majestic style.

The woman betrayed by her husband arrived in a presidential motorcade with armed police chase cars, personal bodyguards and motorbike outriders.

But when she stepped from her stretch limo she was as far from being a shamed woman as you can get.

Her blonde bobbed hair was immaculate, the blue trouser suit straight from a top designer shop - and the smile was as bright as her gold necklace.

Beamed

It was a smile that beamed and her wave to the crowd outside the city's Waterfront centre was as bold as it could be.

This was a woman fighting back, a mother, putting a young woman and her Delilah delights firmly in her place.

Gone was the embarrassment that your husband has admitted his sexual peccadilloes to the Free World. Instead, there was poise, confidence - and authority.

This was the strength of the woman behind the man - the power behind the US throne - and it won the hearts of the people of Belfast.

SEE PAGE 3

Thursday September 3, 1998

The Mirror

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SEE PAGE 18

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SEE PAGE 3

PHOTO PRESERVATION

Bill's infidelity, and lies: A Christian view

A QUESTION OF MORALS ... JOHN BACH
EXAMINES THE CONTROVERSY OVER BILL
CLINTON'S PRIVATE LIFE FROM A CHRISTIAN
PERSPECTIVE

ARE you tempted to regard President Clinton's visit as a mission of comfort to the victims of those for whom killing does not matter by a man for whom truth does not matter?

If so, and during his visit to Armagh, if he meets the two archbishops, they should give him an ecumenical lecture on basic morality.

Of course they won't - and rightly so: their condemnation would be seen as priggish and pharisaical, and as a stark contrast to the call by Clinton's own Methodist minister in Washington, and others, for his forgiveness.

Meanwhile, welcome, not outrage, is the dominant emotion of southerners as they prepare for his arrival later tonight - somewhat ironic given that Dublin has been rather less fulsome than London in supporting his recent overseas actions.

As to his domestic, or quasi-domestic, embarrassments, the most serious aspect is not his eagerly followed sexual adventure but the "economies of truth" that followed them.

Politically, the inevitable question is whether untruths in that area inflict a mortal wound on his credibility in other areas.

So can Margaret Thatcher's declaration that murder is murder is murder, also apply to lies?

A Christian perspective invites consideration of Our Lord's demanding moral precept in Matthew 5, where anger and lustful thoughts are held to be of the same quality as murder and adultery.

But that can be read as a timeless warning against self-righteousness:

nobody is exempt from the need for divine mercy.

Even if waywardness has a single root, the manifestations of sin, including falsehood, can surely be gradated in their seriousness.

Someone who tells a lie to an unauthorised interrogator knowing that it will save an innocent man's life is clearly at the favourable end of the heinousness scale.

But if the interrogator has a clear right to know - especially if he had entrusted the liar with confidences - the matter is much more serious.

Another important distinction is between a deliberately planned lie and one told on the spur of the moment, specially if in a disturbed state of mind.

Most serious is the encouragement of others to tell deliberate untruths in a bid to save one's own face.

The law is well aware of these distinctions: that is why prosecutions for perjury, while always possible, are, in practice, rare.

And whereas a plea of guilty, inasmuch as it indicates remorse and a desire to save a victim from giving distressing evidence in court can attract a more lenient sentence, conviction after a plea of not guilty is held to be no reason for a supplementary penalty.

If we can thus accept gradations in the culpability of lies, we must apply a similar scale to killing: from fly swatting via self-defence to the encouragement of mass murder.

A feature of credible morality is that it is held in proportion.

■ The writer is Church of Ireland chaplain at the University of Ulster, Coleraine, and a criminologist.

Belfast Telegraph
9/3/1988

NT'S VISIT

How will history judge President Clinton's role in the peace process and on the wider world stage?

Author LIONEL SHRIVER gives her view from New York

Mr Clinton the CHEERLEADER

So just how will history view him?

BESIEGED by scandal, Bill Clinton broods on his place in history. For now, despite admittedly "misleading" (read: "lying to") the public about his sexual infidelity, most Americans still approve of Clinton's job performance.

It is in the service of this performance that he stops in Omagh today. Paying respects to a grieving, bomb-ravaged town is "presidential" — an adjective whose repeated application to Clinton betokens America's modern obsession with the cosmetic. In yesteryear, describing a president as presidential would have sounded self-evident, even witless.

Yet the mystery of Clinton's job-approval ratings is not the fast-forward sophistication of the American people, suddenly willing to overlook private indiscretion and public dishonesty in a politically effective president. The mystery is that a man fortunate enough to take the helm during fair weather is adulated as a brilliant navigator.

Clinton's foreign policy has been rudderless. By applauding it, Americans betray that they simply don't give a toss about foreign policy.

His record on Bosnia was dilatory, and even after the Dayton

Accord, the region remains unstable. The signing of the Middle East's Oslo Accord was a great moment, but Clinton's administration has proved unequal to the fractious follow-up.

Earlier this year diplomatic credit for defusing the crisis over UN arms inspection teams in Iraq went rightly to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. In the face of reprise belligerence from Saddam Hussein this summer, the US has been indecisive, inattentive, even pliant.

Glad-handing visits to Africa and China drew frenzied media coverage. But aside from patting the heads of wide-eyed black children, Clinton has neglected Africa. The most enduring achievement of his China trip was an offended Taiwan.

The Good Friday Agreement is paramount in Northern Ireland. But Ulster is tangential to US interests, and the GFA will constitute a mere footnote to Clinton's presidency. Besides, the real team captains were Blair and Ahern, the crucial players local politicians. Clinton was a cheerleader.

On the home front, Clinton's accomplishments are meagre. Promised revamping of health care and campaign financing are dead in the water.

Surprising successful welfare reforms were primarily the handiwork of his Republican adversaries.

In an area where firm liberal leadership would have been welcome — gays in the military — Clinton's craven compromise of look-the-other-way was designed to please everyone, and so pleased no one.

To date the biggest feather in Clinton's cap is America's vigorous economy. But this vitality may not be to his credit, any more than this last week's Wall Street meltdown, triggered by Asian and Russian recessions, was Clinton's fault. The US economy is too complex and international to be lain solely at a president's door.

At best, Clinton hasn't blown it, like an heir who can't be admired for earning his fortune, but can at least be commended for not frittering his legacy on sports cars.

In Clinton's defence, he's been hobbled by a hostile Congress and dogged by the Special Prosecutor. But in this era of America's global

supremacy and domestic prosperity, he might have exploited a few corresponding opportunities for extraordinary statesmanship.

Instead, Clinton has specialised at show — pomp and smooth talk, glib exhortations to honour that in his personal life he feels no need to heed. He looks and sounds presidential, in contrast to the likes of Jimmy Carter, to whom Americans objected less for his policies or character than for his dress sense.

Sold on politicians by their packaging, Americans no longer seem to care what's inside. If it walks like a president and talks like a president, it's a president.

Clinton's visit to Omagh is decent and warranted. His visit may prove moving, since this is just the sort of ceremony at which he excels.

Yet to whatever fractional degree he is distracting the media from the Lewinsky debacle, or basking in the unqualified admiration that he can only find abroad, Clinton is doing

a disservice to the town. To whatever degree he consoles victims and their families, the gesture well merits one day in his hectic schedule.

Clinton can't lose in Omagh, and so puts little on the line besides his time. Clinton himself urged Northern Ireland to take "risks for peace", but the only risks he's taken in office so far have been with a 21-year-old intern.

Behind his high job-approval rating may lie not sophistication but venality — horror of rocking the boat, a crass concern for perpetuating lucrative returns on mutual-fund investments.

But history demands better than a balanced cheque book. Unless he pulls a rabbit out of a hat in the next two years, Bill Clinton is destined to be remembered not for helping to solve the Irish question, nor for staying the course in an era of economic clear sailing, but for dragging his country's public discourse into the gutter.

■ *Lionel Shriver divides her time between Belfast and New York.*



DISPOSAL

AUCTION

TO THE HIGHEST BIDDERS



THE ROAD TO THE WHITE HOUSE

WILLIAM Jefferson Clinton began life as William Jefferson Blythe IV in Hope, Arkansas, on August 19, 1946.

His name changed to William Jefferson Clinton when his mother married second husband, car dealer Roger Clinton in 1950.

Despite a troubled childhood, the president-to-be overcame the problem of an alcoholic stepfather and emerged as one of the country's brightest academic stars.

This is how he rose to the highest office in the land.

FAMILY: William Jefferson Blythe III and Virginia Kelly. His mother remarried and gave birth to half-brother Roger Jr in 1950.

EDUCATION: Hot Springs High; Georgetown University, Washington DC; Oxford University (as a Rhodes Scholar); Yale University.

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Opposed US involvement in Vietnam while studying in England and Yale.

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Was elected Arkansas attorney-general in 1976.

Became youngest ever Governor of Arkansas in 1978.

Won every two-yearly race for governor until 1980. Was re-elected in 1982 and remained in office until 1990.

Nominated Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis in ill-fated 1988 Democratic Party campaign for Presidency.

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Defeated the Republican incumbent President George Bush in 1992.

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THE PRESIDENT

American at



WORLD STAGE: Some advice for Boris Yeltsin in Moscow yesterday

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THIS WEEK'S PAPER - ON SALE AT NEWSAGENTS

IN THIS
WEEK'S
EDITION

PRICES



NEWS ON THE LATEST BUY-UP SCHEME FOR ULSTERS PIG MEN



The recent poor weather for hay making prompted Glenariff farm James McHenry to transport bales from Phoenix Park, Dublin to meet his needs. Helping him to unload the bales in Antrim are Alistair Reed and Francis O'Boyle.

- The Quality Assurance Potato Scheme gets underway.
- Pig Specialist Paul Gallagher on the colourful history of the Berkshire.
- In the vet's surgery with David McKeown on calf diarrhoea.
- Machinery expert Mike Williams sizes up one of the biggest combine harvesters to hit the market.
- Your farmers go surfing.
- Full picture round up of the Virginia Show.

CLASSIFIEDS:
machinery motors
livestock property
equestrian and lots more

**FARM
TRADER**
ULSTER'S COLOUR FARMING NEWSPAPER

PUTTING THE FARMER FIRST

Michael's been there and seen him already

By Peter McVerry

MICHAEL Mullan talks every day about the time he met Bill Clinton. He even has the video to prove the doubters wrong.

Then a disabled teenager dependent on a walking aid, Michael was almost knocked over by the Press as he tried to catch a glimpse of the President on the Shankill Road in 1995.

As Press, security and eager onlookers jostled for position, the distressed Michael began to cry.

Spotting the tears President Clinton approached Michael and PHAB worker Julie Lester.

Julie said: "He asked Michael if he was crying because he wanted to meet him. But we told he was crying because he was getting pushed about."

Crying turned to joy on Shankill

"The President just looked around and got his bodyguards to move people back and leave room for Michael."

"Then he put his hand on Michael's shoulder and told him everything would be alright. It was such a nice gesture from such a powerful and busy man."

For Michael the tears have now been replaced by a sense of pride.

He said: "I'll never forget that day. Some people give me stick and they don't all believe me."

"But the President of America came over and talked to me one day on the Shankill Road."



Michael has fond memories of the day he chatted with Bill Clinton on the Shankill.

Clinton will use his meetings in Belfast and his visit to Omagh to urge people in Northern Ireland to stand firm against violence.

"This is a bit rich coming from the same person who sent off 80 cruise missiles which killed at least 25 innocent people in Sudan and Afghanistan just a week after the Omagh bombing."

IRSP spokesman Paul Little said: "Clinton's supposed concerns about the rights of small nations can only be seen in the light of the US's continuing refusal to recognise the democratic rights of the Cuban people and its continuing economic embargo is causing death and poverty in that country."

"We are calling on all local politicians to refuse to meet Bill Clinton."

"The people of Ireland should be seen clearly to reject the politics of violence, demonisation and marginalisation — not only in Ireland, but in support of the rights of small nations throughout the world."

Coalisland postmaster is charged with fraud

A FORMER Tyrone postmaster is to stand trial on charges of false accounting involving in the region of £30,000.

Thomas John Slater (62) of Linside, Coalisland, is accused of committing the offences while postmaster at Coalisland in 1996/97.

Slater was granted bail when he appeared at Cookstown Magistrates Court yesterday.

He pleaded not guilty.

What's on tomorrow

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
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THIS WEEK'S PAPER - ON SALE AT NEWSAGENTS

IN THIS
WEEK'S
EDITION

PRICES



NEWS ON THE LATEST BUY-UP SCHEME FOR ULSTERS PIG MEN



The recent poor weather for hay making prompted Glenariff farm James McHenry to transport bales from Phoenix Park, Dublin to meet his needs. Helping him to unload the bales in Antrim are Alistair Reed and Francis O'Soyle.

- The Quality Assurance Potato Scheme gets underway.
- Pig Specialist Paul Gallagher on the colourful history of the Berkshire.
- In the vet's surgery with David McKeown on calf diarrhoea.
- Machinery expert Mike Williams sizes up one of the biggest combine harvesters to hit the market.
- Your farmers go surfing.
- Full picture round up of the Virginia Show.

CLASSIFIEDS:
machinery motors
livestock property
equestrian and lots
more

**FARM
TRADER**

ULSTER'S SOLOMON FARMING NEWSPAPER

PUTTING THE FARMER FIRST

Michael's been there and seen him already

By Peter McVerry

MICHAEL Mullan talks every day about the time he met Bill Clinton. He even has the video to prove the doubters wrong.

Then a disabled teenager dependent on a walking aid, Michael was almost knocked over by the Press as he tried to catch a glimpse of the President on the Shankill Road in 1995.

As Press, security and eager onlookers jostled for position, the distressed Michael began to cry.

Spotting the tears President Clinton approached Michael and PHAB worker Julie Lester.

Julie said: "He asked Michael if he was crying because he wanted to meet him. But we told he was crying because he was getting pushed about."

Crying turned to joy on Shankill

"The President just looked around and got his bodyguards to move people back and leave room for Michael."

"Then he put his hand on Michael's shoulder and told him everything would be alright. It was such a nice gesture from such a powerful and busy man."

For Michael the tears have now been replaced by a sense of pride.

He said: "I'll never forget that day. Some people give me stick and they don't all believe me."

"But the President of America came over and talked to me one day on the Shankill Road."



Michael has fond memories of the day he chatted with Bill Clinton on the Shankill.

Clinton will use his meetings in Belfast and his visit to Omagh to urge people in Northern Ireland to stand firm against violence.

"This is a bit rich coming from the same person who sent off 80 cruise missiles which killed at least 25 innocent people in Sudan and Afghanistan just a week after the Omagh bombing."

IRSP spokesman Paul Little said: "Clinton's supposed concerns about the rights of small nations can only be seen in the light of the US's continuing refusal to recognise the democratic rights of the Cuban people and its continuing economic embargo is causing death and poverty in that country."

"We are calling on all local politicians to refuse to meet Bill Clinton."

"The people of Ireland should be seen clearly to reject the politics of violence, demonisation and marginalisation — not only in Ireland, but in support of the rights of small nations throughout the world."

Coalisland postmaster is charged with fraud

A FORMER Tyrone postmaster is to stand trial on charges of false accounting involving in the region of £30,000.

Thomas John Slater (62) of Linside, Coalisland, is accused of committing the offences while postmaster at Coalisland in 1996/97.

Slater was granted bail when he appeared at Cookstown Magistrates Court yesterday.

He pleaded not guilty.

What's on tomorrow

BELFAST

- ▷ Blood donation sessions, NIBTS headquarters, BCH complex, Lisburn Road, 10am-4.45pm.
- ▷ Enrolment for classes at The Crescent, 10.30am-5pm.
- ▷ City centre & Lagside guided walk, meet outside City Hall, 2pm (finishing Waterfront hall).
- ▷ GROW community mental health self help group, Ballynafeigh Community House, 283 Ormeau Road, 8pm (tel 278181).
- ▷ Walkway drop-in, Walkway community centre, Finvoy Street, 10am-noon.
- ▷ Gamblers Anonymous, 100 Gt Patrick Street, 8pm.

- ▷ Narcotics Anonymous, 84 University Street, 8pm.
- ▷ AIDS Helpline, telephone 0800 137437, 9am-10pm.
- ▷ Senior Citizens Lunch Club, noon-2pm, Morton Community Centre, Lorne Street.

- ▷ CARRICKFERGUS
- ▷ Friendship Centre, Methodist Church Halls, Albert Road, 10am-3pm.

- ▷ COMBER
- ▷ Pet dog training, Ballyrainey Road, 7pm.

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PHOTO PRESERVATION



THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

The day Bill went shopping

List of fruit and flowers for the wife

By Peter McVerry

VIOLET Clarke has served thousands of people over the years in her Shankill Road fruit and veg shop.

But none more memorable than the man who popped in on Thursday November 30, 1995 — William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States of America.

And his shopping list? Four apples, a net of Clementine oranges and a bunch of mixed flowers for wife Hillary.

For Violet, it is a moment which will live long in her memory.

She said: "It was one of the best days we have ever had on the Shankill."

"People up here still talk about it all the time."

"Sometimes they make funny remarks about his current situation in America but mostly everybody just remembers that day with happiness."

The memories of the encounter are kept alive by an array of photographs on the wall commemorating the occasion.

That pictorial record constantly sparks off discussion in the bustling shop.

Violet said: "Every week somebody comes in and mentions it when they see the photographs on the wall."

"They always ask me how it felt to meet the president of the United States. And I tell them it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience."

The regular flow of customers in the Shankill Road business is also supplemented by a large number of curious tourists.

"One of the cab companies must be doing tours of the town for visitors and they usually pull up outside the shop."

"And bus tours slow down as they go past so the driver can point out the place where Bill Clinton called in to buy his fruit."

But despite her fond memories, Violet won't be making the trip to Armagh tomorrow to catch another glimpse of her most famous customer.

She chuckles: "I'll be too busy working."



Happy memory: Violet Clarke of Violet Fruits on Belfast's Shankill Road remembers the day when President Clinton visited her shop for apples, oranges and flowers during his last visit in November 1995.

Picture by Peter Morrison

Clinton facing protests over US air raids

By Claire McGahan

PROTESTS against Bill Clinton's visit to Northern Ireland are planned for Belfast and Londonderry today.

A group calling itself the Clinton Protest Committee, which opposes the American bombing of Sudan and Afghanistan, will stage demonstrations at Belfast's Waterfront Hall — where the US President is due to make a keynote speech — and Londonderry's War Memorial.

The Irish Republican Socialist Party — political wing of the Irish National Liberation Army, which has called a ceasefire — is also to hold a protest.

A Clinton Protest Committee spokesman accused the British and Irish governments of "double standards on terrorism".

He said: "Media reports have indica-



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Hillary Clinton will outlive Monica saga

By Gail Walker

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For the sisterhood, fresh from a major women's conference and loyally closing ranks with Hillary at the City Hall last night, it was the salacious subject that most felt was better left unmentioned.

Mind you, a little gentle prompting, and absolutely everyone seemed to have quite a lot to say on the matter after all.

Forget male bonding. This was female bonding par excellence.

Patricia McKeown, of UNISON, who described the Vital Voices gathering as of "tremendous significance", found the First Lady a wonderful woman in her own right "who does not stand in the shadow of her man."

As for Lewinskygate? "It just shows they are human. I think it's the most appalling thing that people's personal difficulties are made so public. The media should concentrate on other things."

"After all, there's not a man or woman in the world who doesn't have difficulties."

"Hillary Clinton, because of the kind of woman she is and the kind of job she has done, is perfectly capable of taking all this in her stride," she finished, to firm nods of approval from her companions.

'A wonderful woman in her own right'

Belfast SDLP councillor Catherine Molloy echoed those sentiments: "I found her very inspiring and told her how glad I was that she had taken time to include Northern Ireland in her itinerary."

"I think, what I noticed from meeting her personally, is that she is a really strong woman and very self-assured."

Ellen McDonough, a US exile now living in Connemara, was certain Hillary had nothing to fear from the fallout from Monica.

"A woman who has been in politics as long as Hillary can always be happy when polls are at their highest yet for her husband."

Breidge Gadd, of the Probation Board for Northern Ireland, said Hillary was a "great female role model."

But she added: "I would have to say there are a few things Northern Ireland does better than the rest of the world."

Do the Monica revelations take away from the trip?

"Not at all. Women in Northern Ireland are experienced and pragmatic about personal relationships."



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9/3/1988

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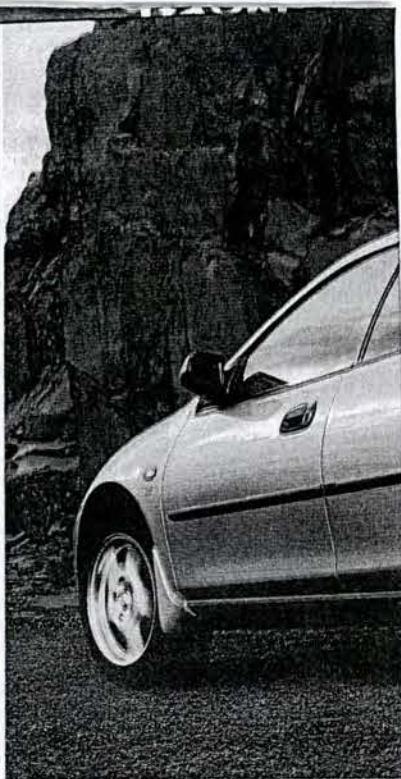
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THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Eloquent First Lady makes her hall mark

By Gail Walker

I AM, said a strident First Lady, not shy.

The comments were not, however, a invitation to any public discussion of errant husband Bill's marital misdemeanours.

Instead, they were a reference to the fact that she would seize any excuse "I can find to come back to Northern Ireland."

But what a difference a few years makes...

November 1995. Oh what a night. The President and Hillary outside Belfast's City Hall amid massive security; tens of thousands of well-wishers stretched out on a cold, starry night as far as the eye could see to welcome them.

Last night, roughly same time, same place, yet a radically different atmosphere surrounding a reception for the First Lady to mark the end of the Vital Voices conference.

There was no ramshackle

Hillary says it's great to be back

had bothered to ring the City Hall to find out details of the visit, said the public relations officer handing out press passes.

Only a few wilting bouquets left in memory of the 28 people murdered in the Omagh atrocity and, more recently, to mark the first anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, hung languidly on the ornate gates to greet that visitor.

Still, the First Lady, her new blonde bob immaculately coiffured as ever and dressed in an elegant navy suit, was — the low-key reception notwithstanding — delighted to be back.

"I feel uplifted and

cult the journey is... bringing a message not only of support and encouragement but also of admiration for what you are doing puts you on the right side of history."

Her words won rapturous applause.

The other big burst of clapping of the evening came when Lord Mayor David Alderdice, introducing the First Lady, reiterated Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams' comments of the previous evening that violence must be "over, done with and gone."

Sadly, as the media were shepherded onto a balcony at the rear of the hall to overlook proceedings, it was impossible to accurately gauge the reaction of Mr Adams to this reference to his soundbite.

Speaking afterwards, the Sinn Féin leader was in fine fettle.

He had found the conference on the advancement of women "very, very important."



The audience at the Great Hall at Belfast City Hall listen intently during Hillary Clinton's address.

Picture by Brian Thompson



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Performed by a cast of five in a two-hour version of the text it is a bold departure, a strident and evocative vision of power, cruelty, and human relations.

Adapted and Directed by Malachi Bogdanov this provocative uncompromising production of a true classic, is at the cutting edge of contemporary world Shakespeare. English Shakespeare Company International presents 'Richard III' Belfast Civic Arts Theatre 14-16 September at 7.30pm

Tickets £8.25

fantastic deal!

...to the White House that day in between meetings with Washington power-brokers, congressman Peter King, Richard Neal, and Senator Edward Kennedy.

Ms McWilliams, a university lecturer, and Ms Sagar, a community worker, had little time to reflect on their growing political clout as they entered the heart of one of the world's most famous buildings.

They stood by a photocopier making small talk with the British Ambassador to

...You expect these people to be like cardboard cutouts and speak a certain way — but now and again it's nice when a human being comes through."

The conversation soon moved from small talk towards the wider political scene. Mrs Clinton, who was clearly well-briefed, wanted to know the Coalition's views on the current political stalemate.

Ms Sagar recalled: "She seemed to have a very clear understanding about Northern Ire-

...boding exercise."

As the First Lady quizzed them further on the abuse, Ms Sagar was unsure Mrs Clinton understood how robust the Coalition could be. She added: "I put it in a way I would normally put it and said 'we've actually got more balls than they have' — she understood that very clearly."

The First Lady laughed heartily.

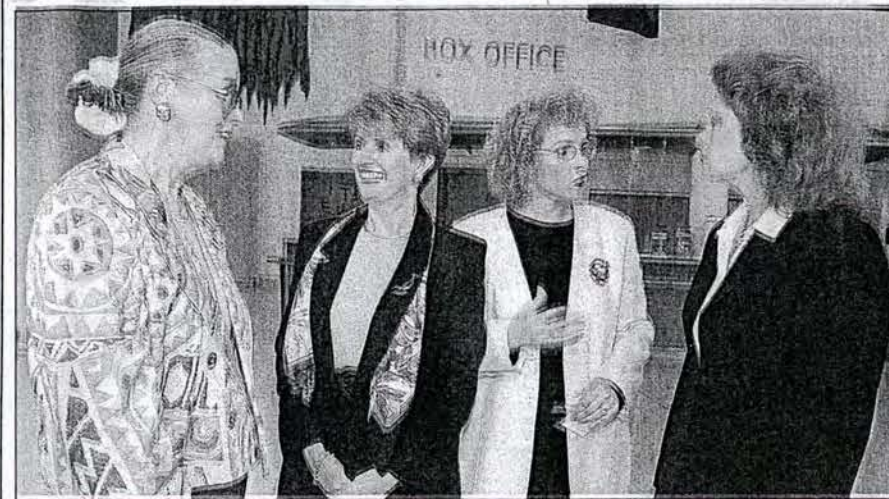
Their 15 minute session extended into an hour as Mrs Clinton asked if the Coalition

...The Coalition invited her to Belfast.

She agreed.

Mrs Clinton kept her promise with State Department officials setting to work on a Vital Voices conference. Ms McWilliams, Ms Sagar and Ms O'Neill were among 400 British, Irish and American women who have spent three days at the conference in Belfast.

Mrs Clinton was due to add her voice to the call for equality today when she made the keynote address.



Networking: Moira Thompson, Mary Yerrick, Nuala McGillan and Connie Hughes at the Waterfront Hall conference yesterday.

Belfast Telegraph MILLENNIUM BRIDE

2000

in association with *Belfast Castle*

THE SEARCH CONTINUES

The Belfast Telegraph is continuing its search for Ulster's Millennium Bride. Our free competition, in association with Belfast Castle, offers a superb prize package worth almost \$20,000. Our lucky Millennium Bride will be flown to Waterford by private plane to personally select Waterford Crystal, linen and china to the value of £2,000.

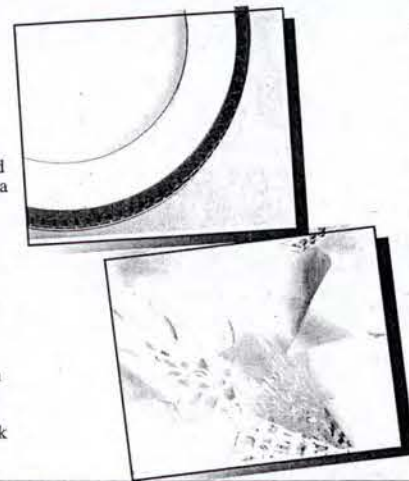


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Complementing Waterford's crystal and china is an exciting new range of fine tablecloths, place mats, table runners and napkins which are made of the finest fabrications of linen, cotton sateen and damask in an array of colours for both traditional and contemporary lifestyles.



How to Enter

Simply write and tell us - in 200 words or less - why you should be selected as the Belfast Telegraph's Millennium Bride. Send your entry, together with a full length and close up photograph (reasonable quality amateur snaps will do), your name, age, occupation and daytime telephone number to:

Belfast Telegraph Millennium Bride Competition, PO Box 2222, Belfast, BT1 1BT. The closing date for the competition is 30 September 1998.

We regret that photographs cannot be returned.

The Rules

The winning couple must be aged 18 years or over on January 1, 2000. Neither party will have been married before. The couple must be engaged to be married when they enter the competition. The wedding must take place on January 1, 2000. In the event that the wedding is called off for any reason, the prize will be forfeited and the couple judged to come second will be declared the winners. The winning couple must participate in any publicity organised by the Belfast Telegraph. The maximum number of guests at the reception will be 130, including bride and bridegroom. The maximum number of bridesmaids will be two. No alternative prize such as cash will be offered. The prize is not transferable. Belfast Telegraph Newspapers Limited will hold full publication rights to any and all photographs or videos taken by our designated photographers at the wedding. The Editor's decision is final in all matters relating to the competition and no correspondence will be entered into. Employees and their immediate families of Belfast Telegraph Newspapers Limited and participating companies are not eligible to enter.

PHOTO PRESERVATION



THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT



Making a point: US State Department official Theresa Loar, director of the Vital Voices initiative, addresses the conference.

Pictures by Robert Ingram

Hillary adds her voice in battle for equality

IT was a drizzly St Patrick's Day in Washington when Monica McWilliams and Pearl Sagar arrived at the White House.

A telephone call that morning had confirmed First Lady Hillary Clinton would meet the two Women's Coalition negotiators for 15 minutes at 4pm sharp.

The meeting was a sign of the fledgling Coalition's growing influence in politics — and a powerful network of women at work.

Mrs Clinton was already aware of the

First Lady Hillary Clinton was keeping a promise to Belfast women when she visited today. **MARTINA PURDY and EILEEN FLEMING report**

Women's Coalition when she received a telephone from Rosemary O'Neill asking if she would meet the two Women's Coalition representatives.

Ms O'Neill, a State Department official, carried considerable clout in Washington, as the daughter of Tip O'Neill, the legendary

speaker of the House of Representatives.

She came to know the Coalition through mutual acquaintances, and made it her business to help out.

"A force to be reckoned with," was how Ms Sagar described her.

Mrs Clinton readily agreed to the meeting.

A lifelong feminist, she had refused the traditional role reserved for the First Lady — hosting teas, redecorating the White House and promoting safe issues.

Like her husband, she was keenly interested in the ongoing political talks at Stormont and was kept informed via the National Security Council (which often had the minutes of the talks even before the delegates.)

Mrs Clinton had already travelled to Belfast twice since 1995, once with her husband and a second time to deliver the Joyce McCartan memorial lecture at the University of Jordanstown.

In her speech, she had singled out the



US officials Alyse Nelson and Joanne Wagner listen intently at the Vital Voice conference. Hillary Clinton was set to make the keynote address today.

Washington when Mrs Clinton emerged from her office with the Secretary of State Mo Mowlam.

They exchanged pleasantries before Mrs Clinton welcomed them to her office.

They sat on a patterned sofa while the First Lady took the armchair. Her assistant, Melanne Vassar,

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Mrs Clinton was even aware of the abuse the Coalition had endured during the lifespan of the Northern Ireland Forum, where the women were told to sit down and shut up — and stick to knitting.

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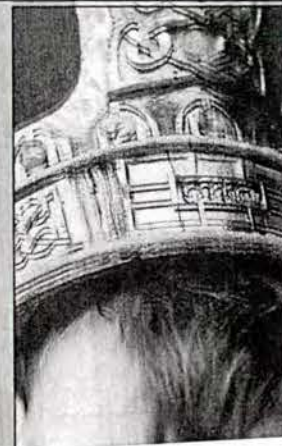
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"We are saying 'no'. The two — political development and women's rights —



2 FOR 1

Richard III at the Arts

The English Shakespeare

Company brings Richard III to Belfast

PHOTO PRESERVATION



THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT



Making a point: US State Department official Theresa Loar, director of the Vital Voices initiative, addresses the conference.

Pictures by Robert Ingram

Hillary adds her voice in battle for equality

IT was a drizzly St Patrick's Day in Washington when Monica McWilliams and Pearl Sagar arrived at the White House.

A telephone call that morning had confirmed First Lady Hillary Clinton would meet the two Women's Coalition negotiators for 15 minutes at 4pm sharp.

The meeting was a sign of the fledgling Coalition's growing influence in politics — and a powerful network of women at work.

Mrs Clinton was already aware of the

First Lady Hillary Clinton was keeping a promise to Belfast women when she visited today. **MARTINA PURDY** and **EILEEN FLEMING** report

Women's Coalition when she received a telephone from Rosemary O'Neill asking if she would meet the two Women's Coalition representatives.

Ms O'Neill, a State Department official, carried considerable clout in Washington, as the daughter of Tip O'Neill, the legendary

speaker of the House of Representatives.

She came to know the Coalition through mutual acquaintances, and made it her business to help out.

"A force to be reckoned with," was how Ms Sagar described her.

Mrs Clinton readily agreed to the meeting.

A lifelong feminist, she had refused the traditional role reserved for the First Lady — hosting teas, redecorating the White House and promoting safe issues.

Like her husband, she was keenly interested in the ongoing political talks at Stormont and was kept informed via the National Security Council (which often had the minutes of the talks even before the delegates.)

Mrs Clinton had already travelled to Belfast twice since 1995, once with her husband and a second time to deliver the Joyce McCartan memorial lecture at the University of Jordanstown.

In her speech, she had singled out the



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The English Shakespeare Company brings Richard III

HILLARY Clinton's arrival in the province was very low-key compared to that of her husband.

The First Lady's DC-10 plane, emblazoned with a United States of America ensignia, touched down on the tarmac at Belfast International Airport at precisely 2.34pm yesterday.

There to greet Mrs Clinton were US Ambassador to the UK Philip Lader, US Consul General for Northern Ireland Ki Fort, Northern Ireland Office minister Paul Murphy and airport chief executive Stanley Thomas.

Passengers in nearby departure lounges mingled with staff eager to catch a glimpse of the First Lady and her entourage as armed security personnel maintained a rooftop vigil.

Inquisitive reporters interested in finding out if Mrs Clinton would be free for a quick chat before her 5pm keynote address at the Waterfront met with no success.

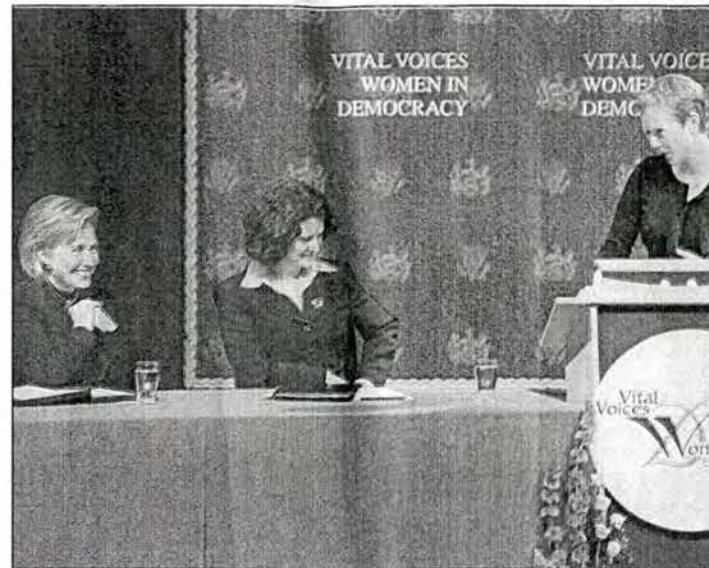
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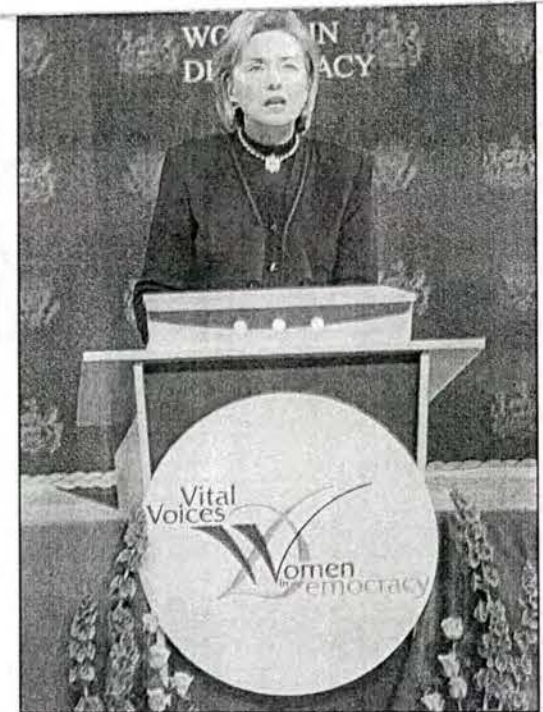
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here. During the province's grimmest hours women held their families together, Mrs Clinton acknowledged.

Ireland can play like children should ... without respect to religion or politics, without stereotyping or name calling, without fear or violence."



Welcoming smiles as one of the speakers addresses Mrs Clinton.



Mrs Clinton pays tribute to the courage of Ulster's women.

Belfast Telegraph
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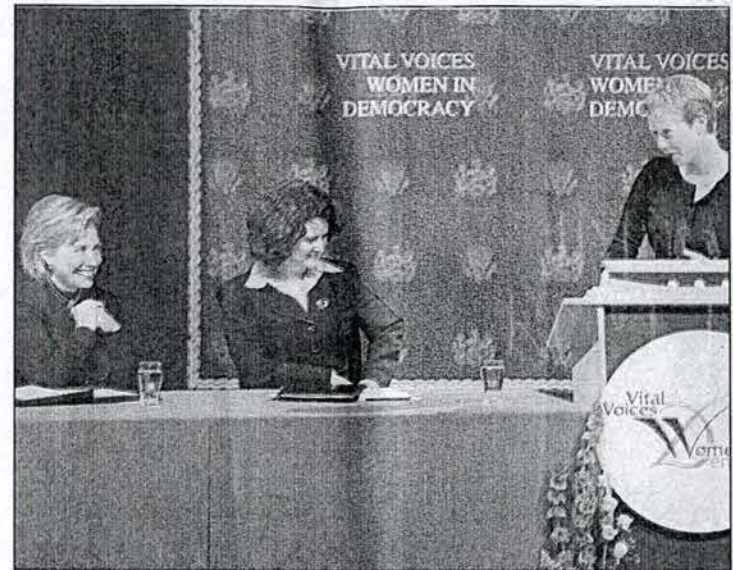
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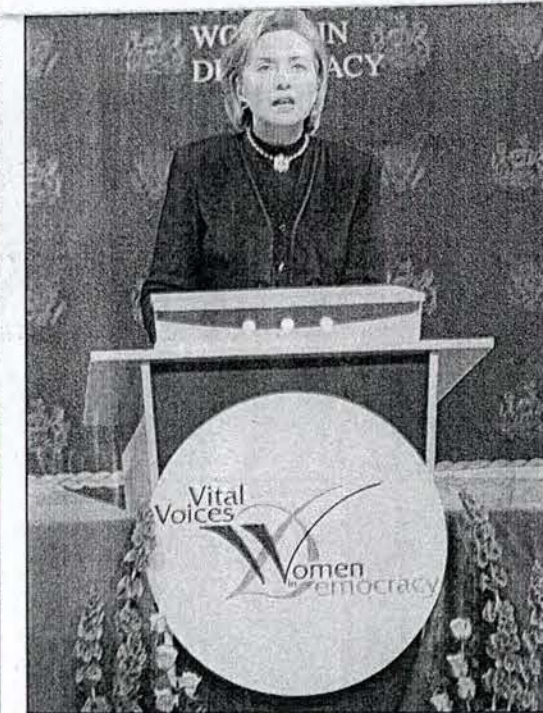
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PRESIDENT'S VISIT

ce challenge



ady arrives at the Waterfront Hall for the Vital Voices

Pictures by Brian Thompson

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"They were people simply living their lives, working at a drapery store, hanging out with friends, buying school uniforms for their children."

"The terrorists targeted the people of Northern Ireland and in response, it was the people — all the people — who bravely stood side by side to say: Hatred and violence will not bring us any longer."

Seven days a week, she said, they "carried on with hope and prayer that the future would be brighter, free of troubles and heart-break".

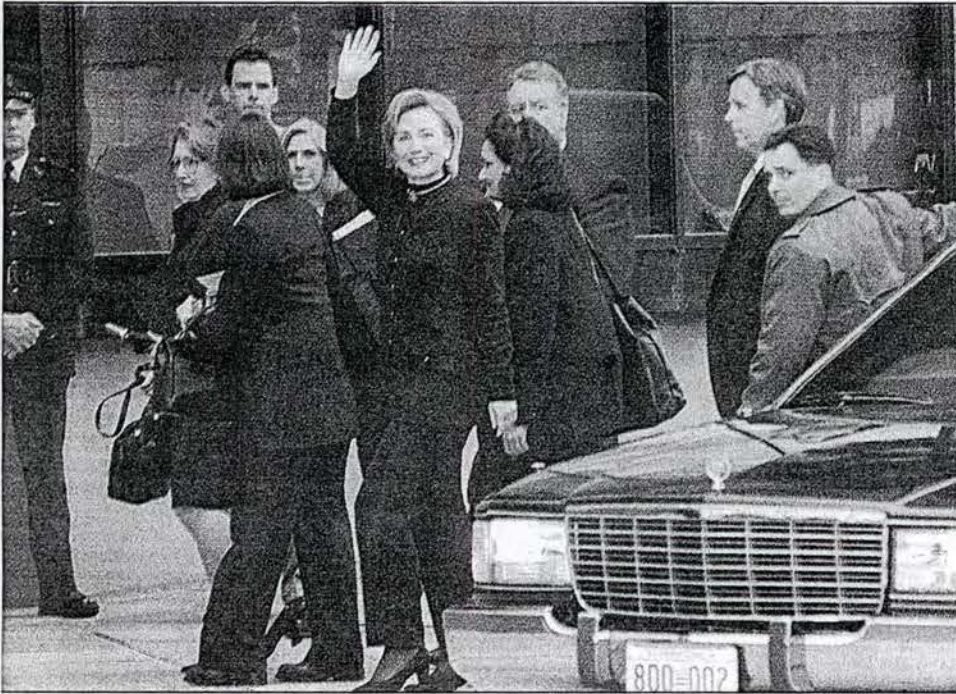
But drawing a parallel with a new green space for children planned by PlayBoard with an American group called KaBOOM, she urged men and women to work together to create a new political environment.

"You are ultimately those who will determine whether the children of this country will have a future."



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Ulster's pe



America's First Lady Hillary Clinton arrives at Belfast International Airport to begin her visit to the province.

Picture by Mervyn Dowling

Each person has role to play

By Dan McGinn

FIRST Lady Hillary Clinton has praised the crucial role played by courageous women in holding Northern Ireland together during the darkest days of the troubles.

She was speaking after a warm reception at the 'Vital Voices' conference at the Waterfront Hall yesterday.

An audience of politicians, civil servants and women and children from a wide spectrum of society heard Mrs Clinton speak of the courage of women in the face of almost 30 years of violence.

She also told an audience — which included Sinn Féin's Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness and the UDP's Gary McMichael — there was an onus on everyone in society to translate the hopes for peace into practical economic and social action.

"The hopes for peace will have to be translated into the hard work of practical action and political compromise, not only in the Assembly, but in every corner of society."

"So the real challenge of this conference starts as we leave. How will each of us work to fulfill the promise of peace?"

"That, of course, will be up to the men and women of Northern Ireland to decide. But, based on what we know about the conditions that promote peace and

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'Speech prep' so no time for chat

By Peter McVerry

Belfast Telegraph
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Glass act: US First Lady Hillary Clinton dons sunglasses on a visit to Lagan Meadows today.

Clinton back to meet 'his' people

PRESIDENT Clinton arrives today to continue his crusade for peace in Ulster and rekindle another special relationship — with its people.

● The most powerful man in the world was given a tumultuous welcome by hundreds of thousands who lined the streets during his first visit in November 1995.

● Bill Clinton can symbolically claim a mixed ancestry across the province's Protestant and Catholic sectarian divide.

Antecedents of his mother, whose family name was Cassidy, were Catholics from Fermanagh while his father's family name of Blyth can be traced back to Ulster Scots roots.

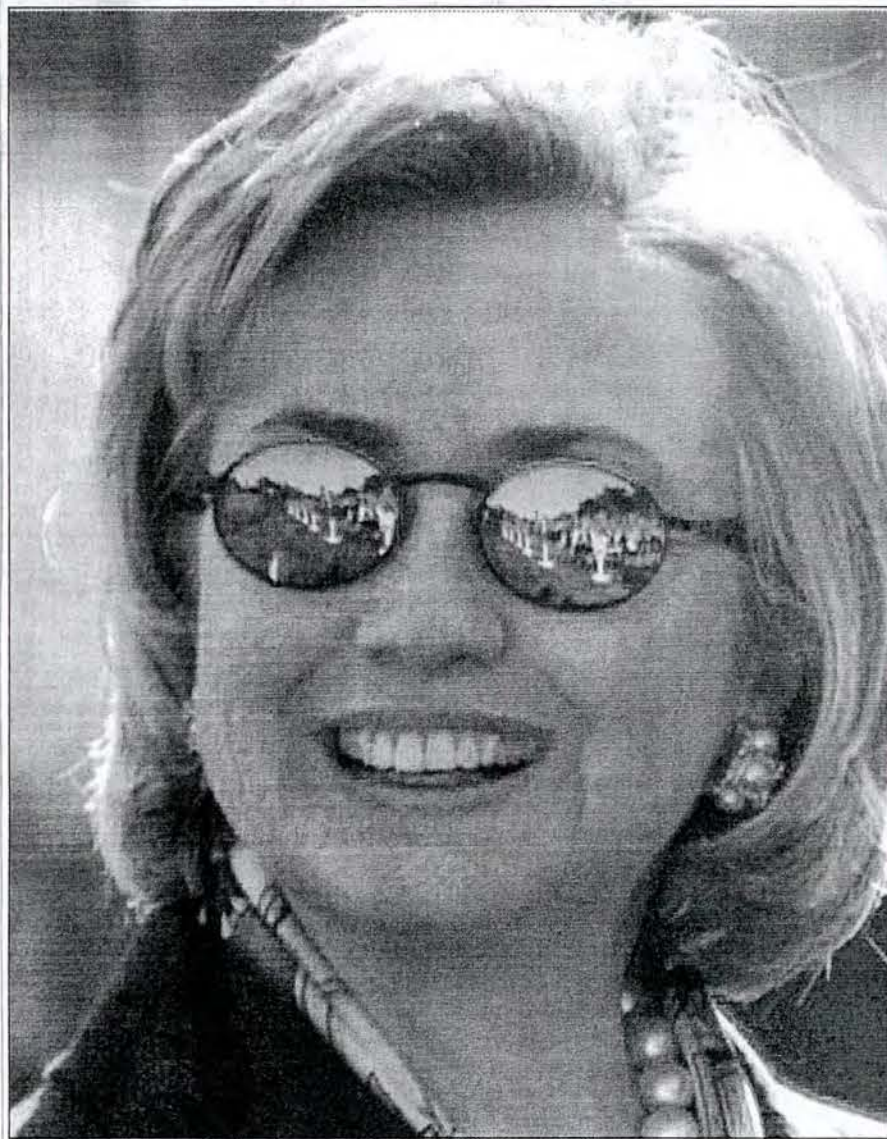
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● At least 12 American presidents have claimed to be descended from Ulster Scots stock, including President Nixon. Ronald Reagan, visited his great grandfather's birthplace in Tipperary, in 1984.

● The President used his first visit to deliver a stinging condemnation of the province's gunmen. He told them: "You are the past, your day is over."

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She came, she saw, and she conquered

By Martina Purdy

"I'd chuck him out," said the freshfaced teenager when asked what she would do if she were Bill Clinton's wife.

While views on her husband were mixed, there seemed to be nothing but sympathy for Hillary Clinton from the 2000-strong guests who packed the Waterfront Hall.

As she stepped onto the stage, Mrs Clinton, wearing a sleek navy suit, chunky gold jewellery, won the first of three standing ovations.

One delegate mused that Hillary was now more powerful than ever following the painful episode with Monica Lewinsky.

"Bill owes her a lot and she's got him over a barrel," said the woman. "He needs her now more than ever — she can crack the whip now!"

Hillary was all charm and smiles however for the Belfast audience. They lapped up her response to 17-year-old Fiona Hughes from Bell-

Rapturous welcome for First Lady

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Ms Hughes, a sixthformer turned to the First Lady, and announced to a delighted audience: "I had to use your name to advantage as well, Mrs Clinton, because I had to be at school today."

The First Lady assured Fiona that there were around a "a thousand of us" who would be glad to provide her with a note.

Ms Hughes was among the speakers who were only given a few hours notice. One Belfast woman declined at the thought of it.

Inez McCormack, vice-president of the ICTU, braved the audience and got a wry chuckle out of Mrs Clinton when she expressed relief she hadn't been given the task of the previous speaker.

"I wasn't asked to talk about my past — thank God!"

Secretary of State Mr Mowlam was supposed to introduce the First Lady — but was delayed at Westminster.

Mrs Clinton paid tribute to the first woman Secretary of State, who was her host at Hillsborough. Referring to a reception Dr Mowlam had held the previous night for the delegates, she said she had reports of Dr Mowlam's "skills as a party hostess and dancer par excellence."

The lighthearted mood turned sombre at times — particularly as Mrs Clinton spoke of Janette Rooney, an Omagh teenager who was taking part in a cross-community project in Washington and watched the television coverage of the bomb in horror when she saw her friends injured.

One of her best friends was killed in the blast.

Mrs Clinton closed with a message of support. "May God bless you . . . and the future you build together."



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People of courage will win battle for peace

By Philip Lader
US Ambassador to
Great Britain and
Northern Ireland

LAST Tuesday, during my visit to Northern Ireland in advance of President Clinton's, I walked the streets of the beautiful Cathedral City of Armagh and met men and women whose courage and dedication to peace helped make the Good Friday Agreement possible.

Opportunity for hope is here

In 1995, President Clinton came to Northern Ireland to encourage those who had hope, and to tell the merchants of violence that their time was over. That occasion remains a touchstone for him and many others. It was a remarkable moment.

In 1998, the President

returns to pay tribute to the people of Northern Ireland for translating that spirit into reality. He will begin by meeting with the new members of the Assembly to underscore his support for the Good Friday Agreement, which received the support of the overwhelming majority of people throughout the island of Ireland. He will call on all participants to implement it in its entirety.

As George Bernard Shaw reminds us, however, peace is infinitely more arduous than conflict. Difficult challenges remain. Thus, a central theme of the President's visit will be to show that, just as the United States stood with those who took risks for peace, my country will remain deeply engaged in supporting the peace process and economic development in Northern Ireland.

The President will also travel to Omagh to convey the American people's sympathy to victims of the horrific attack. He will bear witness to their courage in pulling together in the face of

tragedy and refusing to be deterred by a vicious minority.

Finally, the President will speak from Armagh to the people of Northern Ireland. This city has welcomed visitors from afar many times in its long history. The twin cathedrals which dominate the skyline are reminders of the potential for reconciliation. Their graceful spires call to mind the American poet Walt Whitman's line, "peace is always beautiful".

We hope the people of Armagh will join the President and the Prime Minister in a dignified gathering for peace on The Mall, Thursday evening.

As the tragedy in Omagh brutally reminded us, the patient, delicate work of reconciliation is needed. In Armagh, the President will articulate the American peoples commitment to walk down that road with the people of Northern Ireland.

Every state and county in America owes much to those who came from this island and who built a new nation. In turn, today we Americans are committed to helping the people of Northern Ireland secure the peace and prosperity they deserve.

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PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Simple welcome for a friend and President Morrison

tells of US and Sinn Fein contacts

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"There have been on going contacts between Sinn Fein and the White House all summer and definitely contacts leading up to the visit and what contacts there would be during the visit," he said.

Mr Morrison told Radio 4 that the situation for Mr Clinton's visit was "a good deal more relaxed" now than on his inaugural trip three years ago.

Referring to the President's visit to Springvale, in the West Belfast constituency of Gerry Adams, he said:

"I think a handshake would not be unnatural, having occurred many times in the past."

Mr Morrison said that, after a summer of tragedy in Northern Ireland, there had been a stiffening of resolve to keep faith with the peace process.

"So, the President is blessing that — if that's the word — and encouraging and rewarding that drive for a new arrangement for the people in Northern Ireland."

"I think it's very important but, certainly, it doesn't displace the hard work which the government and the parties have to do."

Mr Morrison — who has a reputation as a key figure on Northern Ireland affairs — said he did not expect decommissioning to occur "in a matter of days or weeks."

"But I think in the months leading up to the two-year timetable things will happen."

The appointment of Martin McGuinness to liaise with the arms decommissioning body was "encouraging."

"I think that the statement that Gerry Adams made is not consistent with long-term retention of weapons on any side in Northern Ireland."



Prime Minister Tony Blair waits alone for the President to arrive at Stormont as Secretary of State Mo Mowlam takes a last glance backwards before entering the building. Picture by Rick Hewitt

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"I think a handshake would not be unnatural, having occurred many times in the past."

Mr Morrison said that, after a summer of tragedy in Northern Ireland, there had been a stiffening of resolve to keep faith with the peace process.

"So, the President is blessing that — if that's the word — and encouraging and rewarding that drive for a new arrangement for the people in Northern Ireland."

"I think it's very important but, certainly, it doesn't displace the hard work which the government and the parties have to do."

Mr Morrison — who has a reputation as a key figure on Northern Ireland affairs — said he did not expect decommissioning to occur "in a matter of days or weeks."

"But I think in the months leading up to the two-year timetable things will happen."

The appointment of Martin McGuinness to liaise with the arms decommissioning body was "encouraging."

"I think that the statement that Gerry Adams made is not consistent with long-term retention of weapons on any side in Northern Ireland."



Prime Minister Tony Blair waits alone for the President to arrive at Stormont as Secretary of State Mo Mowlam takes a last glance backwards before entering the building. Picture by Rick Hewitt



THE

Clinton to meet the families of Omagh

By Rosie Cowan

PRESIDENT Clinton was expected to meet with relatives of the Omagh dead today when he visited the bomb-struck town.

The President, accompanied by First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife Cherie, were due in the Tyrone town by helicopter this afternoon.

The Presidential party was due to be met by council chief executive John McKinney who is to take them to talk to a large number of relatives of the 28 victims and survivors of last month's bomb at Omagh leisure centre.

They are then due to go to the town centre where Mr

President talks of relatives and survivors

Clinton is to unveil a memorial plaque at Market Street near the scene of the blast.

The President is planning to meet members of the emergency services who battled to save lives after the 500lb blast, which also injured 220 people on August 15, and to lay a wreath at the High Street shops which lost staff in the explosion.

He is also due to receive a letter from Omagh

Chamber of Commerce president Michael Gaine urging him to encourage US business leaders to consider the town as a possible investment location.

Speaking last night at the Vital Voices 'Women in Democracy' conference, Mrs Clinton said she and her husband were going to Omagh to "pay tribute to those murdered by the enemies of peace".

She continued: "They were mostly women and children, Catholic and Protestant, unionist and nationalist, young and old. They were people simply living their lives."

The presidential party will then fly on by helicopter to Armagh.

Double protest down at Waterfront

PRESIDENT Clinton's arrival at the Waterfront was marked by two separate protests.

A dozen protesters from the Socialist Workers Party held placards denouncing the President for the recent bombings in Sudan and Afghanistan.

A spokesman said: "Bill Clinton and Tony Blair are hypocrites. A week after the bombing in Omagh, Bill Clinton broke all the UN resolutions and killed 26 people."

On the other side of the street another dozen people from the recently-formed Justice For Protestants group protested against the visit.

DUP councillor Jack McKee said that it was time Mr Clinton recognised there are two communities in Northern Ireland.

He said: "Mr Clinton has warmed himself to the republican identity but he has to remember that there are more than just republicans in the province."

First Lady pays surprise visit to blast injured

By Nigel Gould

THE First Lady visited some of the Omagh bomb victims today during a surprise trip to the Royal Victoria Hospital.

Mrs Clinton, accompanied by Cherie Blair, toured the hospital's accident and emergency wing and the burns unit.

She chatted to both blast victims and their families during a 45-minute visit.

A Royal spokeswoman said: "She also spoke to staff who had helped in the aftermath of the blast."

"They felt it was recognition of the work they like many other medical staff across the province had done."

"They really appreciated the visit."

"She was genuinely interested in our health service and spoke to both our chief executive and chairman about the health service's overall structure."

The visit was not part of Mrs Clinton's official itinerary — and no media were invited.

The First Lady travelled to the Royal after an hour-long visit to Lagan Meadows in the Stranmillis area of Belfast where she met both Protestant and Catholic primary schoolchildren.

The visit was arranged by PlayBoard — the lead agency for children's play in Northern Ireland.

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On the Waterfront: President Clinton, flanked by Lord Mayor David Alderdice, arrives at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast.

Don't stop work on reforms Yeltsin told

ENDING a two-day summit before climbing aboard his plane for Belfast, the President assured Russian President Boris Yeltsin that he could count on new offers of economic aid if Russia remained committed to free-market reforms.

"The answer is to finish the job that has been begun, not to stop it in midstream or to reverse course," Clinton said late yesterday at a joint news conference with Yeltsin at the Kremlin.

"America and the international community are, I am convinced, ready to offer further assistance if Russia stays with the path of reform," Clinton said.

Marking his first venture on the world stage since acknowledging an affair with a young White House volunteer, Clinton also urged Yeltsin and his political foes to find common ground on

Russia gets offer of aid

reform. Russia has been in crisis since August 23, when Yeltsin fired Sergei Kiriyenko as prime minister and named Victor Chernomyrdin, who previously held the post for five years, as acting premier.

The already ailing economy has since been devastated. The rouble has lost more than half its value and some Russians are lining up daily to get their shrunken savings out of ailing banks. Earlier this week, parliament rejected Chernomyrdin's nomination.

While speaking bluntly of Moscow's differences with Washington over Nato and other security issues,

Yeltsin said his country was determined to "conclude our reforms" and recognised that, in the end, it was up to Russia itself to make the right decisions.

"What we need from the United States is political support to the effect that the United States is in favour of reforms in Russia," Yeltsin said. "This is what we really need, and then all the investors who would like to come to the Russian reformed market will do so."

Clinton sounded a similar theme in a meeting with some two dozen members of the communist-led Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament, and regional leaders at the residence of US ambassador James Collins.

Those in attendance ranged from Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov and Alexander Lebed, the hard-line former general from Siberia, to Grigory Yavlinsky, leader of the liberal Yabloko bloc.

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Belfast Telegraph, Thursday, September 3, 1998

NEWS

5



THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Open house at Armagh for Bill

By Peter McVerry

THOUSANDS of people were expected to pack into the centre of Armagh today to welcome President Bill Clinton.

Armagh was chosen as the venue for the President's only public address because of its position as the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland.

Mr Clinton was expected to evoke Armagh as a symbol of the reconciliation and spiritual renewal necessary to ensure peace in the province.

Prime Minister Tony Blair, First Minister Designate David Trimble and Deputy First Minister Designate Seamus Mallon were expected to join Mr Clinton and his wife Hillary on the platform in

Everyone invited to Gathering for Peace

the city's historic Mall.

Mayor of Armagh Robert Turner has issued an open invitation for people from across the province to come to Armagh to express their desire for peace.

He said: "It is with hope for the future that we invite all the people of Northern Ireland to join us in this historic Gathering for Peace."

The public will be able to get into the Mall from 5pm and anyone planning to go has been urged to arrive as soon as possible.

Mr Clinton was expected to address the crowd shortly after 7.30pm.

He was then due to have a brief meeting with the leaders of the four main Churches before flying to Dublin.

The programme of events planned for the rally includes musical reflection and a performance from a local cross-community choir.

International singing star Mary Black was due to perform for the crowd, along with the Armagh Girl Singers, Armagh Old Boys Silver Band, McGleenan's traditional group and the Combined Cadet Force Pipe Band.

Local schoolchildren were also to give a number of readings.

Among those handpicked to

greet the President as he arrives by helicopter from Omagh was Keady teenager Sharon Haughey.

Sharon, a student at Our Lady's Grammar School in Newry, wrote to Mr Clinton before his last visit to the province.

He was so impressed he read her letter to the crowd at Belfast City Hall, quoting Sharon's view that "both sides have been hurt and both sides have to forgive."

White House officials said that although it was hard to predict how many people would turn up, they were confident they could accommodate the crowd.

Anyone seeking up-to-date traffic information should call the special hotline on 01861-521160.



Stormont approach: The Presidential cavalcade passes the statue of Lord Carson on its way to Parliament Buildings at Stormont.

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First Lady Hillary Clinton signs autographs for children during a visit to Lagan Meadows in Belfast today.

Wives send peace balloons soaring

By Nigel Gould

PROTESTANT and Catholic primary school children together released 100 white peace balloons after meeting up with America's First Lady today.

Hillary Clinton, accompanied by Tony Blair's wife Cherie, greeted around 40 children during a visit to Lagan Meadows in Belfast, organised by the charity PlayBoard.

The children were aged

between nine and ten and were P6 pupils of neighbouring Stranmillis and St Bride's Primary Schools.

During her hour-long visit Mrs Clinton revealed a new partnership between PlayBoard and KABOOM!, an American community development organisation.

In her speech the First Lady said that KABOOM! would help PlayBoard to get the equipment it needed for a unique environmental play area exclusively for children.

The Play Space initiative aims to provide an environ-

Hillary reveals new help for children

mental haven for children to play with a series of natural elements such as a waterfall or river and animal life.

The Lagan Meadows site was chosen for today's

meeting as an ideal example. Antoinette McKeown, PlayBoard's chief executive, said she was delighted that the First Lady was demonstrating her support for the charity.

"Undoubtedly, children are the most adversely affected victims of the Troubles in Northern Ireland."

"We must not forget that three generations of children have been exposed to traumatic acts of political and sectarian violence within their communities."

"Children represent our

future and play has a crucial role in the healing process."

For more than an hour before the visit police using metal detectors carried out an extensive security sweep of the area.

A team of presidential security personnel also accompanied the entourage.

Mrs Clinton and Mrs Blair were expected to make a private visit to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast later today.

It is understood that Mrs Clinton wanted to visit the Omagh bomb victims.

GET AHEAD ... BELFAST TELEGRAPH, NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

InkFinder

Ulster's
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PHOTO PRESERVATION



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Catherine Hamill, who met President Clinton in 1995 and has visited the White House, goes back to school at St Louise's Comprehensive on the Falls Road, Belfast. She was also due to be at the Waterfront today.

Picture: Robert Ingram.

Catherine recalls how she stole the show at Mackies

By Dan McGinn

IT was the enduring image of the 1995 Clinton visit — a Catholic schoolgirl hand in hand with a Protestant schoolboy in a plea for a permanent peace.

Catherine Hamill and David Sterritt stole the show when the President visited Mackies on November 30, 1995.

The children's account of how the Troubles affected them not only touched the President and the First Lady but the rest of the world.

Catherine and David became symbols of the new Northern Ireland the President was trying to promote — a society devoid of sectarianism, comfortable with cultural diversity, wedded to the future and not the past.

On the eve of the President's second visit to Northern Ireland, those ideals are still dear to Catherine's heart.

"The message David and I brought to Mackies that day

holds true today. We want the peace to last."

The Clintons were so moved with Catherine's account of her father Patrick's death at the hands of the UFF in 1987, that they remained in contact with her family over the past two-and-a-half years.

Since appearing with President Clinton at Mackies, she has received letters and Christmas cards from the Clintons and visited them at the White House in 1995 where she switched on the Christmas lights.

She was also on hand with David Sterritt to greet the First Lady at Aldergrove when she returned to Belfast last October.

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Catherine's mum Laura is amazed by the way her daughter has handled all the attention.

"Catherine was a wee bit shy when she was eight and I have to admit, I couldn't believe it that day in Mackies how she dealt with the whole situation."

"Since then, there's been an awful lot of media attention from Northern Ireland, the Republic, Britain, other parts of Europe and the United States but she's handled it really well and got on living the kind of life all children try to lead."

But while Catherine is impressed by her meetings with the Clintons, they take second place to one thing — meeting Boyzone.

"Meeting Bill and Hillary Clinton was fantastic but meeting Ronan Keating was my biggest thrill. Why? Because

Clinton fails to impress Citybus driver

By Frances
McDonnell

IT could have been just any other stop for the driver of the No 22 Citybus calling at Stormont and Queen's Bridge today.

Last minute preparations may have been under way for the imminent arrival of one of the world's most powerful leaders, but as far as the Citybus driver was concerned he wasn't waiting.

Oblivious to the hoards of media swarming around and the extra large security presence, the Citybus driver stopped briefly, looked around and then drove on as if President Clinton's visit was the last thing on his mind.

Hectic last minute sweeps by Belfast City Council cleaners had ensured Stormont was looking its best for the President's visit.

Even the sun decided to make a watery appearance to add to the day's event.

Security was tight around Parliament Buildings with the media shepherded into narrow holding bays, one marked UK-Euro, the other American media, for those who couldn't remember who they were.

When President Clinton finally arrived with his impressive entourage of 15 cars, led by four motorbike riders, he swept up to the entrance of Parliament Buildings in his limo and waited just a few minutes before getting out.

He was greeted by a smiling Tony Blair who had arrived just minutes before him with the Northern Ireland Secretary of State, Dr. Mo Mowlam.

A hearty handshake from President Clinton to Tony Blair signalled the start of the proceedings and then the arrival of First Minister David Trimble and his deputy Seamus Mallon really got the Stormont show on the road.

The four men nimbly executed the steps to the Parliament Buildings door and then there was time for just a brief chat as David Trimble pointed out a few notable landmarks to Mr Clinton.

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William McCarter: Further funding

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The £71.7m Springvale project aims to provide around 1,500 third level university places with a further 1,500 educational opportunities in the first phase.

The proposal comprises three main elements:

● an Outreach Centre, which will act as a hub for developing access and participation across the area;

● a campus with course provision better designed to match need and employment opportunities; and

● an Applied Research Centre which will become a centre of excellence in bio-engineering, multi-media and medical informatics.

Springvale campus gets White House seal of approval

By Gary Grattan
Education
Correspondent

PRESIDENT Clinton and Tony Blair were due to officially dedicate the site of the new west Belfast Springvale campus of the University of Ulster today.

The two leaders were expected to be joined by teenagers from Catholic and Protestant areas in breaking the first sod at the £70m site, which will also house the Belfast Institute of Further and Higher Education.

Around 150 guests, including First Minister David Trimble and Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon, have applauded the start of work.

West Belfast MP Gerry Adams was due to welcome President Clinton at the site ahead of a private meeting.

The first phase of the "educational village" — a community outreach centre — is expected to be completed in two years.

Professor Patrick Murphy, the director of BIFHE, said: "Today we begin the new Northern Ireland."

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Mr McCarter said: "This further contribution emphasises the Fund's commitment to this particularly imaginative project."

"The creation of an inner city campus in west Belfast, which has endured so much of the violence of the Troubles, will prove to be a major regenerative engine and will contribute directly to reconciliation in the area."

In his letter to Mr McCarter, President Clinton wrote: "You should know that my view of the Fund is that it has played, and will continue to play, a vital role in community regeneration,



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Further funding

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The £71.7m Springvale project aims to provide around 1,500 third level university places with a further 1,500 education opportunities in the first phase.

The proposal comprises three main elements:

- an Outreach Centre which will act as a hub for developing access and participation across the area;

- a campus with course provision better designed to match need and employment opportunities; and

- an Applied Research Centre which will become a centre of excellence in biotechnology, multi-media and medical informatics.

Wives

By Nigel Gould

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Hillary Clinton, accompanied by Tony Blair's wife Cherie, greeted around 100 children during a visit to Lagan Meadows in Belfast organised by the charity PlayBoard.

The children were aged



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GET AHEAD ... BELFAST TELEGRAPH

JobFirm

WE'VE GOT IT COVERED IN THE

Belfast Telegraph
9/3/1988

Springvale campus gets White House seal of approval

By Gary Grattan
Education
Correspondent

PRESIDENT Clinton and Tony Blair were due to officially dedicate the site of the new west Belfast Springvale campus of the University of Ulster today.

The two leaders were expected to be joined by teenagers from Catholic and Protestant areas in breaking the first sod at the £70m site, which will also house the Belfast Institute of Further and Higher Education.

Around 150 guests, including First Minister David Trimble and Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon, have applauded the start of work.

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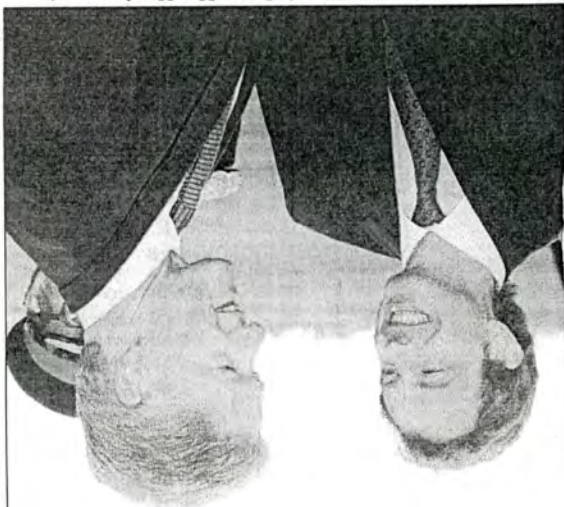
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PHOTO PRESERVATION

Jaunty salute opens a hectic day

By Claire McGahan

PRESIDENT Clinton touched down at Aldergrove this morning to renew his personal stamp on Northern Ireland's peace process.

The President emerged from Airforce One after his four-and-a-half hour flight from Moscow early today to start a hectic day of appointments and meetings hoping to strengthen the seal on Ulster's peace process.

Airforce One came into view at Aldergrove through grey skies from the east into pale sunshine and landed at 8.34am.

All normal flights came to a halt at the airport as the massive jumbo screamed along the runway eventually coming to a halt in front of the main terminal building.

Security was tight as a high-profile welcoming party made their way across the apron to greet the President.

Twenty five minutes after touching down in Belfast, President Clinton emerged from the plane to be greeted by Prime Minister Tony Blair, who arrived an hour earlier, Secretary of State Mo Mowlam, Political Development Minister Paul

Visit aims to give peace new impetus

Murphy and the Lord Lieutenant for Co Antrim, the Right Honourable Lord O'Neill.

Also among the welcoming party was Philip Lader, US Ambassador to the UK.

As Mr Clinton emerged from the plane at 8.58am he waved and smiled broadly and gave the welcoming party a jaunty salute before spending some minutes chatting with the assembled dignitaries.

The President was then handed a copy of the Independent newspaper — detailing reports of an impending face-to-face meeting between David Trimble and Gerry Adams — and he spent several moments examining the front page before entering the presidential limousine.

He then joined his 45-vehicle cavalcade and made a hasty departure for his first appointment — at Stormont — along an empty M2 and into Belfast.

Leaders meet on Stormont's steps

By Noel McAdam

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Tony Blair were met on the steps of Stormont by First Minister Designate David Trimble and his deputy Seamus Mallon.

They met half-way, Mr Clinton and the Prime Minister walked up the historic steps at the front of Parliament Buildings.

They shook hands and then walked to the top of the steps where the four men turned and waved to the assembled Press corps.

Mr Clinton admired the view in the bright sunshine, and Mr Trimble seemed to be telling him how far it stretches.

Then they went inside where Mr Clinton was due to meet members of the Assembly in their party groups. He was not due to formally address them.

A party of around 30 Congressional members, including the former Stormont Talks



Seamus Mallon: Historic moment.

chairman George Mitchell, then followed the President inside.

Afterwards, the Presidential cavalcade and the Assembly members were driven together directly down to the Waterfront Hall.

Just inside the main door, Mr Clinton was greeted by Presiding Officer Designate Lord Alderdice and then the President went to sign his visitors book just outside the main hall.

The first item of business was a private meeting with Mr

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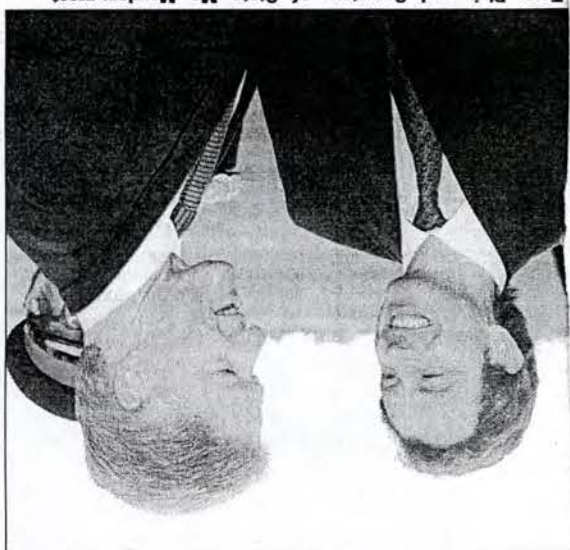
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Windows along the front of the Gallery had been opened, and the hubbub of chatter spread across the Stormont lawns.

There was applause again from Assembly members when the President left. Some members, among them Progressive Unionist David Ervine, came out on to the veranda to watch the entourage depart.

Mr Clinton emerged flanked by Mr Trimble and Mr Mallon and stood in the sunshine for a few minutes together.

The First Minister and Deputy then walked together to their car in the cavalcade, and Mr Clinton got into his limousine alone. Seconds later they were whisked around Sir Edward Carson's statue and away.



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THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT



Ulster touchdown: President Clinton waves to wellwishers on leaving Air Force One after his arrival in Northern Ireland this morning.

Picture: Peter Morrison.



Welcoming party: Prime Minister Tony Blair and Secretary of State Mo Mowlam greet President Clinton on his arrival in Ulster.

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with Adams

By Desmond
McCartan

DAVID Trimble is preparing for the prospect of face-to-face talks Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams, possibly early next week.

The move is the latest political step involving Sinn Fein to coincide with the visit of President Clinton.

However, it is expected that the ground-breaking exchange, would be categorised in the context of Mr Trimble's official role as First Minister designate rather than UUP leader.

And it is understood that Seamus Mallon, the deputy First Minister designate, will also be present, if the meeting goes ahead.

No public handshake is anticipated and the meeting, if it is understood, would be private.

Mr Trimble is expected to consult members of his party before undertaking such a step.

Sources at Westminster last night suggested

But no public handshake expected

development.

Officials believe it may ease some of Mr Trimble's difficulties of how to reconcile publicly his aim to make progress with his party's attitude towards Sinn Fein.

Mr Blair remains guarded about fuelling expectations that, after the sudden flurry of activity coinciding with President Clinton's visit, further progress will be either swift or dramatic.

The Prime Minister, referring to the Sinn Fein move, said it was a "practical and important step forward" and again stressed the vital element in the Good Friday accord of a weapons handover within two years.

"I hope the process begins as soon as possible."

Acknowledging that further difficulties lay ahead, he went on: "I have no doubt that things are on the move and we are moving in the right direction."

Mr Trimble told MPs that, while he welcomed Sinn Fein's move, the party had to "take the next necessary step of decommissioning".

Arms body chief is hopeful of progress

THE head of the decommissioning body today cast doubt on the prospects of a total handover of terrorist arsenals.

But, welcoming Sinn Fein's move to name Martin McGuinness as the party's link with the international body, General John de Chastelain said he was optimistic about progress on the arms issue.

The general said that, within the context of the Belfast Agreement, the Commission hoped — and expected — to see weapons handed in.

Of the new role for Mr McGuinness, he said

he believed it was "significant".

General de Chastelain, asked if some of the IRA's big arms dumps would be disclosed publicly, replied: "I can't answer that. That would be a decision for leaders within the IRA."

"I, frankly, would doubt it, but again that's not my business."

Meanwhile, First Minister David Trimble has urged the IRA to take the next step in decommissioning — and begin to disarm.

The Ulster Unionist leader also held out the prospect of a bi-lateral meeting with Sinn Fein in the weeks ahead.

Roll of Honour

McKEAG, ROBERT (Sgt.) — Killed in Action, RAF. — Remembered with pride, Harry, Lily and May.

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Belfast Telegraph
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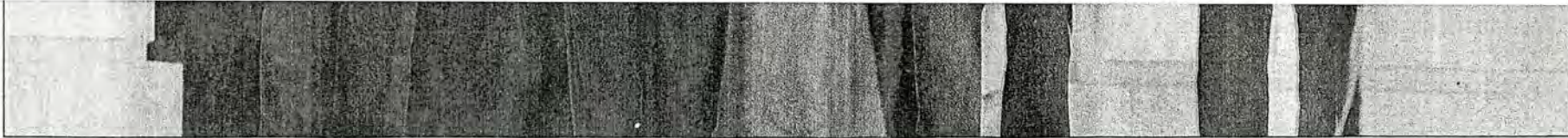
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Standing together: President Clinton waves to the assembled media on the steps of Stormont with from left; David Trimble, Seamus Mallon and Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Picture: Rick Hewitt.

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PRESIDENT Clinton today told the people of Northern Ireland they had the chance of a lifetime to grasp peace.

And during a keynote speech in front of 2,000 guests at the Waterfront Hall he urged the people of Northern Ireland not to allow the chance of permanent peace and political stability to slip away.

"It may not come again in our lifetime," he said.

He also said people must work "to build a more just society where human rights are birth rights, where every citizen receives equal protection and equal treatment under the law."

"These must be the benchmarks of the new Northern Ireland."

Before he spoke the fulsome backing he got from Prime Minister Tony Blair surprised even Mr Clinton, bringing tears to his eyes.

"There is no President of the United States of America that has done more for peace than have you," Mr Blair said.

Earlier, immediately after arriving at Aldergrove on Air Force One, the President paid a symbolic visit to Parliament Buildings. It was the first engagement on his three-day visit to Ireland.

At Stormont, Mr Clinton stood shoulder to shoulder with the leaders of Northern Ireland's two main traditions. First Minister David Trimble and his deputy, Seamus Mallon.

By Staff Reporters

Joined by Prime Minister Tony Blair, the four waved and smiled in bright sunshine before passing through the revolving door and into the historic building.

There they greeted members of Northern Ireland's new Assembly who had gathered in the Long Gallery inside the restored Parliament.

Mr Clinton was not expected to have talks with Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams until later during a visit to his west Belfast constituency.

'Don't let this chance of peace slip away'

Trimble and Mr Adams.

And the long awaited garda crackdown on the self-styled Real IRA, which was responsible for the Omagh bomb outrage, was due during the presidential trip.

But the President also made sure there was plenty of time to meet ordinary people.

Thousands of wellwishers were expected to pack into the centre of Armagh to hear Mr Clinton deliver a keynote speech.

But the euphoric scenes that greeted him in 1995 were tempered this time by memories of the Omagh bomb.

He was due to be joined by his wife Hillary for the most sombre part of the trip, when they were to travel to the town to meet survivors of the

bomb, relatives of the dead and members of the emergency services who battled to save the injured.

Three of the injured were today discharged from hospital in time to meet the Clintons.

The couple were also due to attend a simple ceremony to unveil a memorial plaque near the scene of the explosion.

Mr Clinton arrived at Aldergrove on Air Force One after his flight from Moscow.

He looked relaxed as he stepped off the aircraft, clearly glad to

be in Ireland after the strains of his visit to Russia and the Monica Lewinsky affair.

As he stood on the runway, the President was handed a copy of The Independent newspaper and spent several minutes reading a story headlined "Trimble agrees to meet Adams for peace talks".

He then joined his 45-vehicle cavalcade which sped off along an empty M2 for his first appointment at Stormont.

Shortly after 11am the presidential cavalcade and the Assembly members left Stormont for the Waterfront Hall.

Scores of people gathered outside and a big cheer went up as the presidential cavalcade swept up to the Waterfront complex.

Belfast Lord Mayor David Alderdice greeted the President and Mr Blair before they headed inside.

When Mr Clinton eventually arrived in the hall he was greeted with a standing ovation. And after his speech he took time to shake hands and speak to some members of the audience.

Before leaving he also went outside to speak to the crowd that had gathered to welcome him.

THE CLINTON VISIT

Full coverage on pages 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 17; Viewpoint: Page 16

BELFAST TELEGRAPH REPORTING TEAM

Chris Thornton, Claire McGahan, Dan McGinn, Frances McDowell, Gary Grattan, Ian McTear, Janet Devlin, Lindy McDowell, Marie Foy, Martina Purdy, Nigel Gould, Gail Walker, Noel McAdam, Peter McVerry, Rosie Cowan, Una Bradley, William Allen and Enda McClafferty

TV AND RADIO P39; FINANCE P14; LETTERS P16; CROSSWORD P16; HOROSCOPES P19; SPORT P35, 36, 37, 38 & 40

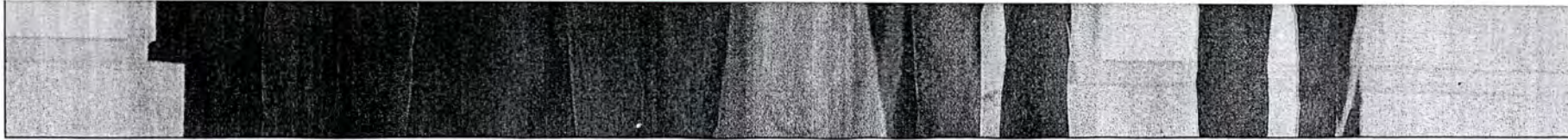
Weather Outlook

GREATER BELFAST AREA: A generally dry end to the day with some decent sunny spells. There will be some clear periods at first tonight, but cloud will increase and, as the southeast wind strengthens, rain will spread from the west. Min temp 11-12C. SEE BACK PAGE



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Standing together: President Clinton waves to the assembled media on the steps of Stormont with from left; David Trimble, Seamus Mallon and Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Picture: Rick Hewitt.

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PRESIDENT Clinton today told the people of Northern Ireland they had the chance of a lifetime to grasp peace.

And during a keynote speech in front of 2,000 guests at the Waterfront Hall he urged the people of Northern Ireland not to allow the chance of permanent peace and political stability to slip away.

"It may not come again in our lifetime," he said.

He also said people must work "to build a more just society where human rights are birth rights, where every citizen receives equal protection and equal treatment under the law."

"These must be the benchmarks of the new Northern Ireland."

Before he spoke the fulsome backing he got from Prime Minister Tony Blair surprised even Mr Clinton, bringing tears to his eyes.

"There is no President of the United States of America that has done more for peace than have you," Mr Blair said.

Earlier, immediately after arriving at Aldergrove on Air Force One, the President paid a symbolic visit to Parliament Buildings. It was the first engagement on his three-day visit to Ireland.

At Stormont, Mr Clinton stood shoulder to shoulder with the leaders of Northern Ireland's two main

By Staff Reporters

traditions. First Minister David Trimble and his deputy, Seamus Mallon.

Joined by Prime Minister Tony Blair, the four waved and smiled in bright sunshine before passing through the revolving door and into the historic building.

There they greeted members of Northern Ireland's new Assembly who had gathered in the Long Gallery inside the restored Parliament.

Mr Clinton was not

'Don't let this chance of peace slip away'

expected to have talks with Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams until later during a visit to his west Belfast constituency.

Mr Clinton's whistle-stop tour came at a time of hectic political activity as the British and Irish Governments brought in tough new anti-terrorist legislation and Sinn Fein made significant decommissioning moves.

Historic face-to-face talks may take place next week, possibly on Tuesday, between Mr

Trimble and Mr Adams.

And the long awaited Garda crackdown on the self-styled Real IRA, which was responsible for the Omagh bomb outrage, was due during the presidential trip.

But the President also made sure there was plenty of time to meet ordinary people.

Thousands of wellwishers were expected to pack into the centre of Armagh to hear Mr Clinton deliver a keynote speech.

But the euphoric scenes that greeted him in 1995 were tempered this time by memories of the Omagh bomb.

He was due to be joined by his wife Hillary for the most sombre part of the trip, when they were to travel to the town to meet survivors of the

bomb, relatives of the dead and members of the emergency services who battled to save the injured.

Three of the injured were today discharged from hospital in time to meet the Clintons.

The couple were also due to attend a simple ceremony to unveil a memorial plaque near the scene of the explosion.

Mr Clinton arrived at Aldergrove on Air Force One after his flight from Moscow.

He looked relaxed as he stepped off the aircraft, clearly glad to

THE CLINTON VISIT

Full coverage on pages 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 17; Viewpoint: Page 16

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be in Ireland after the strains of his visit to Russia and the Monica Lewinsky affair.

As he stood on the runway, the President was handed a copy of The Independent newspaper and spent several minutes reading a story headlined 'Trimble agrees to meet Adams for peace talks'.

He then joined his 45-vehicle cavalcade which sped off along an empty M2 for his first appointment at Stormont.

Shortly after 11am the presidential cavalcade and the Assembly members left Stormont for the Waterfront Hall.

Scores of people gathered outside and a big cheer went up as the presidential cavalcade swept up to the Waterfront complex.

Belfast Lord Mayor David Alderdice greeted the President and Mr Blair before they headed inside.

When Mr Clinton eventually arrived in the hall he was greeted with a standing ovation. And after his speech he took time to shake hands and speak to some members of the audience.

Before leaving he also went outside to speak to the crowd that had gathered to welcome him.

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PRESIDENT CLINTON IN ULSTER



TOGETHERNESS



PHOTO PRESERVATION

The Vital Voice of women

Seminar told of role to play in quest for peace

By Neil Blaney

WOMEN must lead the way in delivering lasting peace in Northern Ireland, political leaders told a major Belfast conference yesterday.

Hundreds of delegates attending the Vital Voices seminar at the Waterfront Hall heard Deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon say the Good Friday agreement was the beginning and not the end.

He said Northern Ireland was a society in which words killed but said words must now be used to heal.

He said: "Even as we sit in this building, some vital voices echo from the immediacy of the past tragic weeks. That of Rev William Bingham when, after the tragic turning to death of three young brothers at Ballymoney, he posed the moral question to those involved in the Drumcree standoff 'Is any march worth a single death?' That voice was vital, it was courageous, thankfully it was heard."

He told the delegates: "You join us as we set forth on possibly the most awesome journey that has ever been undertaken in the history of this island. Our vision, and opportunity reflect something afforded to few societies - the chance to begin again."

However Mr Mallon said the process faced a series of challenges. Political parties had to make space for each other, while the agreement provided a statutory obligation for equality of opportunity.

"My vision is that we will not just make it work but that we will make of the agreement an outstanding model of governance, our own shining city on the mountain."

"It has been said that the new executive and assembly will be the most closely scrutinised and most commented upon polity of its size in the world. Indeed it will; but let our aspiration be that over time people will look to Northern Ireland to learn how we have used this unprecedented opportunity for renewal and rebirth."

The deputy first minister said it was unacceptable that women only held nine per cent of top jobs in the Civil Service and amounted to only 22 per cent of members on the boards of



● **WOMEN'S SPEECH...** First Minister David Trimble addresses the Vital Voices conference in the Waterfront Hall yesterday watched by Seamus Mallon and Mo Mowlam

public bodies.

First Minister David Trimble said despite the slaughter of so many women, men and children in Omagh the community was not in despair and had not lost faith in the future.

"Acts which were intended to divide and destroy, have in fact united communities and strengthened that solidarity that has been a feature of civil society here."

"Many of the mothers, wives and daughters of Northern Ireland have been tenacious voices for peace, and it is fitting that this conference recognises just how vital those voices can be in building a Northern Ireland at peace with itself."

Mr Trimble said the conference was taking place at a unique time in the history of Northern Ireland when the majority of people wanted the godfathers of violence consigned to the rubbish bin of history.

The concerns, energy and vision of women was

essential to the creation of a new form of local governance, he said.

"One immediate issue of gender access is that of the serious under-representation of women in public life in Northern Ireland. The agreement provides opportunities not only to reshape public administration in ways that will not only command greater public confidence, but also broaden participation."

"That only 14 of the 108 assembly members are women is clearly less than satisfactory."

Secretary of State Mo Mowlam said the conference illustrated how powerful women in Northern Ireland are.

The participation of women in the political process showed there was "more to unite us than divide us".

She said: "Women have been there in the community and voluntary groups, in the political

parties, trade unions and business helping to build up in the community the respect for each other needed to make peace possible. It is no coincidence that 75 per cent of women in Northern Ireland voted for the agreement."

The three-day conference - Vital Voices, Women in Democracy - focuses on the promotion of women in all aspects of life.

Director Theresa Loar said: "Women from the top of the business world or starting their own companies, women beginning or continuing their public lives, women who have fought the battles for peace, for hope - in their communities, their churches, their schools - are coming together at the Waterfront Hall to seize this moment to build for the future."

American First Lady Hillary Clinton will address the conference tomorrow.

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NEWS LETTER

Hectic schedule for First Lady



VIP VISITOR: US First Lady Hillary Clinton

HILLARY Clinton is set to fly into the Province tomorrow afternoon to renew old acquaintances.

It will be her third visit to the Province as First Lady.

She is due to speak at the conclusion of a three-day conference at the Waterfront Hall.

The conference, Vital Voices: Women In Democracy, is being co-sponsored by the United States Government.

The Belfast meeting was announced by President Clinton on May 7 as part of the US government's initiatives in support of the peace process.

Mrs Clinton is the keynote speaker at the conference, which will provide workshops and opportunities to adopt concrete follow ups on women's participation in public life.

Then in the evening Mrs Clinton is guest of honour at a reception for all the delegates at the City Hall hosted by the Lord Mayor, David Alderdice.

The evening will be for the 400 people who took part in the Vital Voices Conference and will give the First Lady an opportunity to discuss the issues further.

After the reception Mrs

By JULIE O'CONNOR

Clinton will be spending the evening at Hillsborough Castle as guest of Secretary of State, Mo Mowlam.

A spokesman for the First Lady said she was looking forward to the visit.

She said: "Mrs Clinton loves visiting Northern Ireland and this visit is no exception."

"She has been looking forward to it for some time."

Then on Thursday morning the First Lady will be making a joint public appearance with Prime Minister's Blair's wife, Cherie.

The two will be meeting with parents and children who have been affected by violence.

A venue for the event has yet to be confirmed.

After the meeting Mrs Clinton and Mrs Blair will be meeting up with the President and the Prime Minister in the Waterfront Hall before moving on to the Springvale site of the new university campus in Belfast and the rest of the day's engagements.



THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Bill takes 25 steps into history books

By Claire McGahan

THE great blue and silver bird that is Air Force One broke through leaden clouds into shimmering, pale autumn sunshine.

On board, the 42nd President of the United States on his unprecedented second trip to Northern Ireland in less than three years.

The crowds of VIPs and press had spent an hour milling around waiting for Bill Clinton's touchdown.

Secretary of State Mo Mowlam stood on the tarmac chatting to her Political Development Minister Paul Murphy, the US Ambassador to the UK, Philip Lader, and RUC Chief Constable Ronnie Flanagan.

They were soon joined by an upbeat Tony Blair, who had flown in a short time earlier.

Even those much-heralded secret service men in raincoats and shades took time out to swap pleasantries with RUC officers as they waited for the eagle to land.

The President's four-and-a-half hour flight from Moscow was running at least 10 minutes late, and with deadlines and a tight schedule in mind organisers and observers were becoming just a little edgy.

But as Air Force One screeched along the runway of Belfast International Airport, there was an air of hushed awe and anticipation.

As the mammoth jet taxied to a halt, the President's cavalcade formed up in preparation for his arrival.

Forty-five vehicles waited for the President and his considerable entourage, snaking its way

Hushed awe at Aldergrove as Air Force One touches down

around the airfield in order of importance.

First, naturally, the Presidential limousine; then came a blacked out Range Rover — reputed to carry nuclear detonation codes — then came shiny Jaguars and Mercedes-type models, all the way down to a collection of trusty Flexibuses bringing up the rear.

As the welcoming party surged forward, airport staff craned from every window to catch a glimpse of the President who, setting a relaxed tone for the rest of the day, took 25 minutes to emerge from the plane.

He could be seen taking time to finish his coffee, and as he descended the 25 steps to tread on Ulster ground again, he smiled broadly, waved to nobody in particular, and directed a jaunty salute at the line of dignitaries waiting to meet and greet him.

Taking time to have a long hard look at a newspaper headlined 'Trimble agrees to meet Adams for peace talks' — set beside a picture of his smiling wife — Mr Clinton seemed in no rush to climb into his limousine.

But the security men and aides in black suits who swarmed around him like ants had time on their mind.

And soon the cavalcade beat a hasty departure, en route to start a day many hope will be long remembered as another milestone on the road to peace.



Front page news: The President holds a copy of a paper featuring a picture of his wife in Belfast as he walks to his limousine at Aldergrove.

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WASHINGTON

Clintons expect peaceful visit to Ireland

By Richard Willing
and Mimi Hall
USA TODAY

President Clinton, tossed like a cork in a sea of world and personal problems, arrives today in Northern Ireland, of all places, for a welcome respite.

Clinton's welcome, while more subdued than the outpouring of warmth that greeted him when he visited in December 1995, is likely to be friendly and free of references to the falling ruble, fallen interns and other problems that recently have beset him.

"He deserves to be greeted as the best friend this province has ever found outside these islands," said the *Belfast Telegraph*, in an editorial prepared for the eve of Clinton's arrival.

Both Catholic and Protestant politicians in the divided province credit Clinton with applying the political and economic pressure that has brought both sides close to forming a power-sharing government.

"He steered a middle course; we owe him a lot," said

Malachi Curran, a pub owner of Catholic and Protestant descent who helped negotiate the power-sharing agreement last April. A coalition government based on the agreement is scheduled to begin meeting this month.

Clinton arrives on the heels of good news that he helped create. On Wednesday, David Trimble, chief officer of the new government and leader of the largest Protestant party, issued an unprecedented invitation to Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams to join talks aimed at organizing the government.

Adams, whose party is affiliated with the Irish Republican Army, had been cut out of previous face-to-face meetings because of Trimble's objections to Adams' IRA connection.

A day earlier, Adams had denounced political violence as a "thing of the past, over, done with and gone."



Clinton: On third visit to N. Ireland

Clinton is scheduled to meet with Trimble, deputy chief officer Seamus Mallon and British prime minister Tony Blair. He'll give speeches to Northern Ireland's new governmental assembly, elected after the April accord, to a citizens' group in Belfast and to reconciliation workers in Armagh.

Arriving a day ahead of her husband, Hillary Rodham Clinton on Wednesday called Northern Ireland's women a quiet catalyst for the Belfast peace agreement but said they must play a bigger role in politics for real reconciliation to take root.

"It was women whose whispers of 'Enough' became a torrent of voices that could no longer be ignored," she told 600 women's activists, community workers and politicians at a conference called *Vital Voices: Women in Democracy*.

"It is up to you, the women of Northern Ireland, speaking out whenever injustice arises, to point out opportunities, to face up to challenges and to speak for those who are still voiceless," she said.

After her speech, Hillary Clinton attended a reception in her honor in Belfast City Hall along with the outgoing U.S. ambassador to Ireland, Jean Kennedy Smith.

She was staying overnight at Hillsborough Castle southwest of Belfast as a guest of Mo Mowlam, Britain's first female secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Today, the first lady planned to open a playground for Protestant and Catholic children in an underprivileged part of Belfast, then appear with her husband for his keynote speech.

The Clintons will also help dedicate a memorial to 28 people killed in Omagh on Aug. 15 by a renegade element of the IRA. The first lady said the visit would be to "pay tribute to those who were murdered by the enemies of peace."

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BBC Breakfast News (T) 67628 9.00

Bill Clinton's Visit Coverage as the
American premier and his wife

Hillary arrives in Ireland on the start
of a three-day visit. 2382512 **1.00 One**

O'Clock News; Weather (T) 60715

1.30 Bill Clinton's Visit Coverage of
the American premier and his wife's

visit to the country. 9324154

6.00 SIX O'CLOCK NEWS;

Weather (T) 77

6.30 BILL CLINTON'S VISIT

Further coverage of the
American premier's visit to
the country. 26241

Belfast Telegraph

9/3/1988

Belfast Turns Spotlight on Mrs. Clinton

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BELFAST — Hillary Rodham Clinton, opening a playground for Northern Ireland's youngest generation, said schoolchildren here and in the United States were learning difficult lessons about dealing with violence.

"In America, we have many children who, like children of Northern Ireland, also have seen friends and relatives gunned down, because of gang wars or drug problems," Mrs. Clinton said, speaking to Protestant and Roman Catholic pupils seated in the grassy field. "So, they, too, need to learn from what has been done here in Northern Ireland in dealing with the problems of violence."

Mrs. Clinton and Cherie Blair, wife of Prime Minister Tony Blair, embraced each other amid the crowd of children from a Catholic elementary school and from a state school whose students are predominantly Protestant.

Since arriving Wednesday ahead of her husband, Mrs. Clinton has not commented on personal strains caused by the Monica Lewinsky scandal, a fact noted in a front-page headline of a newspaper President Bill Clinton was handed at the airport Thursday when he arrived. "Hillary avoids state of Clinton union," the Independent said.

Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Blair later sat in the front row of Belfast's Waterfront Hall as their husbands addressed a gathering that included Northern Ireland's new cross-community Assembly and senior politicians from all sides. Mr. Clinton was warmly praised by Mr. Blair and other leaders for his support of the Northern Irish peace process.

In a keynote speech, Mr. Clinton mentioned his wife's name several times and referred to her appearance as star speaker at a women's conference on Wednesday.

"I salute the women, who have been such a powerful force for peace," he said. "Hillary had a wonderful day yesterday at the conference."

The Irish Times carried a front-page picture of a smiling Mrs. Clinton, rather than the president, in its Thursday issue.

Mrs. Clinton has been increasingly out of the public eye as the pressure grows on the president over his confession on Aug. 17 to an affair with the former White House intern.

But this week's trip to Moscow and to Northern Ireland has provided an opportunity for the couple, who have been holed up at a holiday home in Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts, to return to the public scene, while escaping domestic politics. (AP, AFP)

Belfast Telegraph
9/3/1988

Belfast
Telegraph
9/3/1988

strategy of ignoring the pressure

Recent disclosures have placed Hillary Clinton in an uncomfortable situation. **Róisín Ingle** watched the First Lady's progress from Belfast to Dublin

HILLARY CLINTON held her husband's hand as she waved goodbye from a rain-soaked Dublin Airport almost three years ago. Journalists recorded this development from behind a security cordon, some of them exchanging smiles. It was a feel-good kind of moment that spoke eloquently for itself. No body language experts need have applied.

On her last visit she made a speech which was music to ears of *Mná na hEireann*. Women, she told her audience, were the great untapped resource of the world.

Now we observe Hillary through different eyes. As she toured Ireland this week she walked in the shadow of an unsavoury scandal and it is her reaction to it, not her gender empowerment skills, that intrigue.

Bill Clinton's infidelity has become the barometer by which Hillary Clinton is measured. Every grin, grimace and wave is dissected until a satisfactory judgment call can be made about her state of mind.

Monica Lewinsky has managed to keep a low personal profile since the scandal erupted but Hillary has had no such opportunity. The First Lady's Oscar-winning performances from Moscow to Belfast suggest she refuses to be cast as victim in this tacky American soap opera that has left a bad impression with everyone.

She could not have been more pleased, one imagines, at the headlines on the morning that followed her first night in Belfast. She had grinned and waved and looked the model of the tough 1990s woman the country was so impressed with back in 1995.

She spoke to the Women in Democracy Conference in Belfast on Wednesday: "If you listen you can hear the voices of women who withstood jeers and threats to make themselves heard in a political world once reserved primarily for men."

Later they walked together through Omagh and at the peace gathering in Armagh that night Hillary sat and smiled as her husband spoke. Later she told Sharon Haughey, the young woman who delivered the welcome speech to the President, that she was very proud of her.

Offstage one observer remarked that there was no discernible tension between the two. A source said they appeared close as they chatted privately about the arrangements for the next day.

"They seemed physically close and very much together," they said.

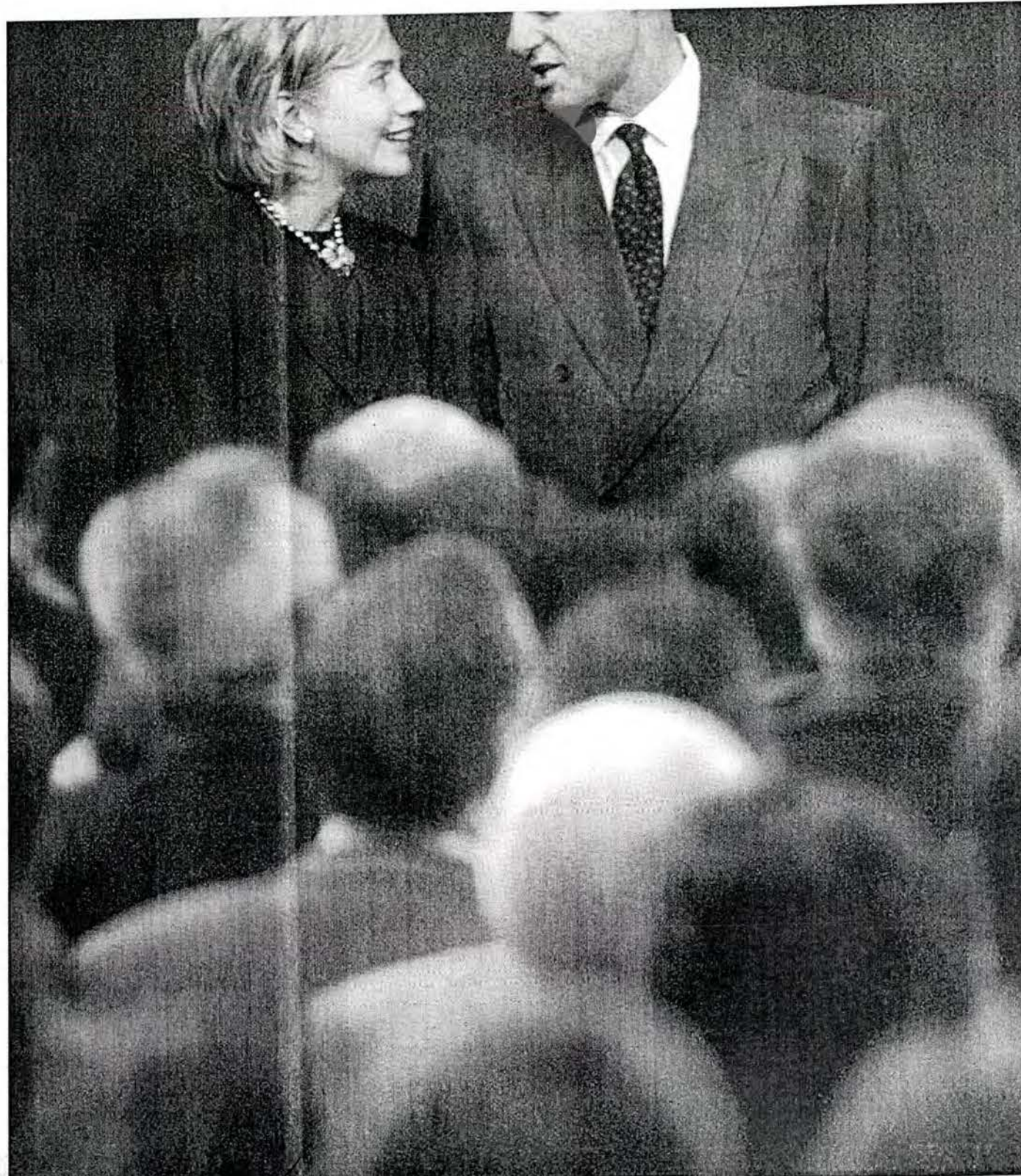
This contradicts stories that followed the couple to Dublin. There is talk that the atmosphere in the presidential car has been decidedly icy. Conversation, according to the inevitable rumours, is practically non-existent, suggesting a thaw has yet to arrive.

Outwardly, at least, none of this seems to affect Hillary. She swept confidently out of her car for the reception at the Royal College of Surgeons yesterday "all loud voice and loud jewellery", as one observer put it.

Earlier that morning, Bertie Ahern's partner, Celia Larkin, accompanied Mrs Clinton to Trinity College where they spent half an hour perusing the Book of Kells. She said it was a subject she was particularly interested in and that it was a personal wish that she should see the college.

At the House of Ireland on Nassau Street she cooed over the Waterford Crystal and Belleek Pottery and made some mystery purchases. "She enjoyed a private shopping visit here," said a spokeswoman, who refused to reveal exactly what Mrs Clinton had bought.

And so she had adopted the role of ordinary tourist yesterday with no formal engagements, disappointing many across the country who have been on full-time Hillary watch. The question of why she is playing Tammy Wynette to the philandering Bill



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THE CLINTON VISIT

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Ireland joins US in \$5m marine research project

By Lorna Siggins,
Marine Correspondent

IRELAND and the United States are to
co-operate in a \$5 million marine
research programme, President Clinton
has announced. The programme, lasting
five years, will involve collaboration between
this State's Marine Institute and the US
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Adminis-
tration (NOAA).

The initiative comes three years after the
signing of a joint marine research accord dur-
ing Mr Clinton's last visit to Ireland in De-
cember 1995.

Under the programme, Irish and US sci-
entists will conduct research and surveys on
the Continental Shelf from NOAA research
ships and the Marine Institute vessel, *Celtic
Voyager*.

The programme will concentrate on ocean
monitoring, assessment and modelling, ocean
forecasting and climatology; seabed habitat
mapping; and resource management in fish-
eries, aquaculture, and on the coastal zone.

Commenting on the announcement, the
Minister for the Marine and Natural
Resources, Dr. Wanda, said:

Irish Times
9/5/1988

First Lady adopts a strategy of ignoring the pressure

Recent disclosures have placed Hillary Clinton in an uncomfortable situation. **Róisín Ingle** watched the First Lady's progress from Belfast to Dublin

HILLARY CLINTON held her husband's hand as she waved goodbye from a rain-soaked Dublin Airport almost three years ago. Journalists recorded this development from behind a security cordon, some of them exchanging smiles. It was a feel-good kind of moment that spoke eloquently for itself. No body language experts need have applied.

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Monica Lewinsky has managed to keep a low personal profile since the scandal erupted but Hillary has had no such opportunity. The First Lady's Oscar-winning performances from Moscow to Belfast suggest she refuses to be cast as victim in this tacky American soap opera that has left a bad impression with everyone.

She could not have been more pleased, one imagines, at the headlines on the morning that followed her first night in Belfast. She had grinned and waved and looked the model of the tough 1990s woman the country was so impressed with back in 1995.

She spoke to the Women in Democracy Conference in Belfast on Wednesday. "If you listen you can hear the voices of women who withstood jeers and threats to make themselves heard in a political world once governed primarily for men."

Her chosen tack — the head up, chin out, winning smile strategy she has had to cultivate as spouse of Bill Clinton — appears to have worked. One newspaper awarded her a title ("Queen of Belfast") straight out of the dictionary of Diana. Others declared that she was yesterday's victim and tomorrow's heroine.

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Later they walked together through Omagh and at the peace gathering in Armagh that night Hillary sat and smiled as her husband spoke. Later she told Sharon Haughey, the young woman who delivered the welcome speech to the President, that she was very proud of her.

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"They seemed physically close and very much together," they said. This contradicts stories that followed the couple to Dublin. There is talk that the atmosphere in the presidential car has been decidedly icy. Conversation, according to the inevitable rumours, is practically non-existent, suggesting a thaw has yet to arrive.

Outwardly, at least, none of this seems to affect Hillary. She swept confidently out of her car for the reception at the Royal College of Surgeons yesterday "all loud voice and loud jewellery", as one observer put it.

Earlier that morning, Bertie Ahern's partner, Celia Larkin, accompanied Mrs Clinton to Trinity College where they spent half an hour perusing the Book of Kells. She said it was a subject she was particularly interested in and that it was a personal wish that she should see the college.

At the House of Ireland on Nassau Street she cooed over the Waterford Crystal and Belleek Pottery and made some mystery purchases. "She enjoyed a private shopping visit here," said a spokeswoman, who refused to reveal exactly what Mrs Clinton had bought.

And so she had adopted the role of ordinary tourist yesterday with no formal engagements, disappointing many across the country who have been on full-time Hillary watch. The question of why she is playing Tammy Wynette to the philandering Bill Clinton is no clearer than when she first arrived.

Growing speculation that at some point within the next 10 years Hillary Rodham Clinton will divorce her husband and run for presidential office herself could have everything to do with why she has chosen to ride out this turbulent wave.

If, as is suspected, she is in politics for the long haul, then she can only benefit by being close to the seat of power for as long as possible.

In reality, whether they are holding hands or walking yards apart when they leave for Washington tomorrow the state of their union is unlikely to be uncovered until President Clinton goes back to being plain old Bill. And maybe not even then — if the First Lady intends becoming the first lady President of the United States.

QUOTES OF THE VISIT

It's great to be back in Dublin — even though there's a little rain here, it's always bright and sunny for me here.
— Bill Clinton.

Ireland is fast becoming the technological capital of Europe.
— Mr. Clinton at the Gateway 2000 computer factory in Dublin.

I'm glad that worked out OK.
— Bertie Ahern, relieved that the "smart card" electronic signing at the Gateway 2000 computer company passed without incident.

I make the pledge here today. No actions of any organisation will quench the Good Friday candle of peace.
— Taoiseach Bertie Ahern.

The helping hand of the United States was always there in the hour of need... And there were many such hours. Dark hours.
— Mr Ahern praising the role of the United States.

Mr Clinton blows up people without knowing or caring who they are — just like the Real IRA.
— Patricia McKenna, Green Party MEP.

Dublin crowds waited in rain and in vain

By Margaret E. Ward

Huddled under umbrellas, a small crowd waited in vain for a glimpse of President Bill Clinton's arrival at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Gardaí kept the crowds at either the junctions of Harcourt and Cuffe Streets or Grafton Street and St Stephen's Green.

His arrival was delayed by over 40 minutes until 12.35 p.m., leaving a largely international crowd waiting in the rain outside the

American air strikes in Sudan and Afghanistan came in for particular criticism. "It happened at the same time as the scandal, I wonder if the whole thing is a fix. It got him off the front pages. It's disgraceful, especially after the Omagh bombing. There was no need for an air strike," she said.

A lone American businessman protesting against US policies in Arab countries, held aloft a placard saying "American troops out of Persian Gulf now!" Initially identifying himself as "Irae American" (Belfast News-Bee).

was leaving China shortly after a in Beijing and we made tentat a farewell drink and vivacious 32-year-old, Nat-ying to make a name for herself nian network. I remember also her in Shanghai in June during nton's visit when she told me icement that she had got a ng the previous day — an inter- disgraced communist official ng.

ang her mobile number on week a recorded voice said in hinese. "Sorry, the subscriber is

he subscriber was in jail. On p to 14 Chinese security police atalie Liu's apartment. They r two hours and seized her photographs, cassette tapes, d notebooks.

only managed to convey this o her husband Zhai Haizheng is Maryland, near Washington, s as a businessman. She did so self in the bathroom and call- mobile phone.

as handcuffed and led off and es aged three and five put in ur grandmother. The police used no search warrant or arges.

dy guess why the Chinese au- is on the eve of Mary Robin- isipated first visit to China as is Human Rights Commis- sioner 6th to 15th. Almost 2 to do with Ms Liu's travel booked a ticket to the United day to rejoin her husband and her usually make their move of favour is about to leave.

ew with Mr Bao may have the problem. Foreign news ad been warned off from talk- who spent seven years in jail y the pro-democracy protes to continues to advocate de-

a, a Chinese passport-holder resident rights in the US who in 1989 and studied journal- ork, had been working as a alist at a foreign bureau- citizens are not allowed to do, at accredited as a journalist Ministry.

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message to aspiring C raises questions about western news agency nothing could be more Mrs Robinson, who ar row, that China has a l ing the right to a free O

She is being pres media groups to raise i vidual detentions are i Mrs Robinson's agenda tainly focused on fact- signs of progress on a bro

Much has been mac which has replaced confit for the first time since th crackdown — in the exe rights between China and world. President Clinton speak openly on Chinese te importance of human rigi and economic freedom

Beijing in June, and US off said they hoped the begin heralded a trend toward m dom in the communist coun

The Chinese have also bul of human rights achieve- democracy, improved educat standards, new laws and beti the judiciary — as proof that about human rights, and the upon Mrs Robinson's impo "Asian values".

A senior Beijing human Wu Jianmin, laid these out at in August, saying that cou jointly promote the internat rights cause through "strengthe

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year as UN Human Rights Commission n has left a trail of angry despots in her w Paul Cullen, Development Corresponden

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is to China and biggest challenge a main defender of e is likely to look t year as a hard e the shack-in of international and the UN — on a good day, is still passing motions.

"How much can one person do? She needs the political support of state, and a hel- governments around the world, but a track record in far too often this hasn't been forth-

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But for the most part the world continues to be an unsafe place for those who stand up for their rights. The butchers continue to butcher, the thugs are still at their thuggery and the UN — on a good day, is still passing motions.

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The Algerie off such critic drive. Their as accused her boundaries of attacking the of his country.

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One Genev inson's real i area of intere been remark

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Irish Times
9/5/1988

Irish Times
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United Nations Human Rights Commissioner from September 6th to 15th. Almost certainly it had to do with Ms Liu's travel plans. She had booked a ticket to the United States for Monday to rejoin her husband and the security police usually make their move as someone out of favour is about to leave.

The interview with Mr Bao may have been part of the problem. Foreign news organisations had been warned off from talking to Mr Bao, who spent seven years in jail for encouraging the pro-democracy protests in 1989 and who continues to advocate democracy.

Also Ms Liu, a Chinese passport-holder with permanent resident rights in the US who had left China in 1989 and studied journalism in New York, had been working as a freelance journalist at a foreign bureau, which Chinese citizens are not allowed to do. She was also not accredited as a journalist with the Foreign Ministry.

There may be other reasons that we do not know. The incident certainly sends a

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After a year as UN Human Rights Commissioner Robinson has left a trail of angry despots in her wake
Paul Cullen, Development Correspondent

NO ONE ever said it was going to be easy. If Mary Robinson ever does take rest — and it isn't clear that she does — she may this week reflect on the end of an eventful, if somewhat disappointing, first year as United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

As she travels to China and Thailand, and the biggest challenge yet for the world's main defender of human rights, she is likely to look back on the past year as a hard apprenticeship in the shark-infested waters of international politics.

Robinson brought with her a reputation as an inspirational and eloquent head of state, and a brilliant lawyer with a track record in fighting human rights abuses. But the organisation she inherited in Geneva was sclerotic, wasteful and at war with itself.

A year later the High Commissioner has left in her wake a trail of angry and affronted despots, and not a few peeved UN diplomats. She has raised the profile of human rights and streamlined her organisation.

But for the most part the world continues to be an unsafe place for those who stand up for their rights. The butchers continue to butcher, the thugs are still at their thuggery and the UN — on a good day — is still passing motions.

"How much can one person do? She needs the political support of governments around the world, but far too often this hasn't been forthcoming," says Martin McPherson, the senior A official dealing with Robinson's mission.

Several fit Robinson her hostile general July her field Rwanda after the UN mission's renewal of its dan mission's ion, at one t than 80 peopl Throughout has enjoyed a relationship with general, Kofi A. Annan.

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Another tris agreement on i test human rig measure, whic 13 years untill the cause, will profile cerene December, on i of the Unives Human Rights McPherson ceeded in empl tance of eco rights, and th ment. But the i ric in develop been offset by t she is more il for human rig West.

Thus, when Sudan was at there was no High Commis

Recent disclosures have placed Hillary Clinton in an uncomfortable situation. Róisín Ingle watched the First Lady's progress from Belfast to Dublin

HILLARY CLINTON held her husband's hand as she waved goodbye from a rain-soaked Dublin Airport almost three years ago. Journalists recorded this development from behind a security cordon, some of them exchanging smiles. It was a feel-good kind of moment that spoke eloquently for itself. No body language experts need have applied.

On her last visit she made a speech which was music to ears of Mairéad Ní Mhealláin. Women, she told her audience, were the great untapped resource of the world.

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His arrival was delayed by over 40 minutes until 12.35 p.m., leaving a largely international crowd waiting in the rain outside the St Stephen's Green Shopping Centre. Much to their dismay, he was not visible when he emerged from a limousine to enter the building.

Ms Heike Lasarzewski, from the Black Forest region of Germany, said: "There's no reason to see him, we're only waiting to go into the park."

Aisle from Galway, who didn't want to give her last name, had strong words for President Clinton. "I think he's getting away with murder. People think he's brilliant, personally, I don't."

American air strikes in Sudan and Afghanistan came in for particular criticism. "It happened at the same time as the scandal, I wonder if the whole thing is a fix. It got him off the front pages. It's disgraceful, especially after the Omagh bombing. There was no need for an air strike," she said.

A lone American businessman protesting against US policies in Arab countries, held aloft a placard saying "American troops out of Persian Gulf now!" Initially identifying himself as "Joe America", Boston-born Ron Bagnadio, who lives in London, said: "This is the only way people can say something because the American media is so biased."

Mr Bagnadio was asked to take the sign down by a garda identifying himself as Sgt Joe Keane. "It is against the law," he asked.

Sgt Keane responded: "Yes, and if you don't take it down we'll take it down for you."

Mrs Pat Corcoran, on holiday from Laguna Beach, California, said: "I think he's a good President and he's trying to aid the peace process in Ireland."

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Preside

10 a.m.: Makes speech followed by walk Late morning/early US audience.
2.30 p.m.: Plays for Dick Spring, Mr C Brian McCarthy.
8.50 p.m.: Leaves home.

(All times a

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As part of our commitment to providing you with the fastest, most efficient and reliable customer care possible, we will be carrying out essential upgrading on our phone and computer systems this weekend.

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PHOTO PRESERVATION

President Clinton and his wife, Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton, talk to each other before a reception with business and community leaders at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin yesterday. Photograph: Doug Mills/AP

Taoiseach announces Mitchell scholarship

By Andy Pollak,
Education Correspondent

THE Government will contribute £2 million to set up an Irish-American endowment fund to allow highly qualified US postgraduate students attend Irish universities, the Taoiseach announced during the College of Surgeons reception in Dublin.

Mr Ahern said the scholarships awarded would be similar to the Rhodes scholarships at Oxford University, and would "bring world-class students from the United States into our world-class universities. ... As a lasting monument to his contribution to the agreed peaceful future on this island, the scheme will be known as the George Mitchell Scholarships."

Each US student will receive free fees, accommodation and travel for a postgraduate course at a university in the Republic. The scholarships will be worth around \$25,000 each.

The fund will be administered by the US-Ireland Alliance, a new Washington-based organisation headed by Ms Trina Vargo, former foreign policy adviser to Senator Edward Kennedy.

Mr Ahern also announced that the Government would provide £1 million over three years for Project Citizens, a programme to bring together schools and youth groups on both sides of the Border. The scheme will be run by Co-operation Ireland.

Earlier President Clinton had pledged the same amount to the project. Discussions are continuing with the British government to make it a tripartite project.

The Taoiseach also announced a grant of \$800,000 to the Irish Festival at the Kennedy Centre in Washington, which will take place next March to May.

Earlier, the Minister for Education and Science, Mr Martin, and the US Secretary of Education, Mr Richard Riley, met to discuss areas of mutual interest such as special education, information and communications technology in schools, education for the disadvantaged and advanced skills training.

Later the two men launched UCDC's Centre for American Studies at Newman House in St Stephen's Green in Dublin.

President Clinton's schedule TODAY

Limerick city and Ballybunion
Takes speech in O'Connell Street area of Limerick, may
by walkabout.
ing/early afternoon: Records weekly radio message for
ez.
Plays four-ball at Ballybunion Golf Club with Mr
ng, Mr Charlie McCreery and the club captain, Mr
Carthy.
Leaves Ballybunion for Shannon airport and the flight
If times approximate and subject to change).

and the Government when it is relatively unexplored, Dr Woods said.
He looked forward to working with US Commerce Secretary Daley on implementation of the programme.

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£2 MILLION



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- You can win a prize in both draws and the Special Extra Draw will have a guaranteed Jackpot of £500,000. An additional £500,000 will be divided among Match 5 + Bonus, Match 5, 4 and 3 + Bonus Number winners.
- If the Special Extra Draw Jackpot is not won, this £500,000 will be shared by the Match 5 + Bonus and Match 5 winners in the Special Extra Draw.
- Remember, the winning numbers drawn for the regular LOTTO draw and the Special Extra Draw are separate. Your number selection can win prizes in both draws.



IT COULD BE YOU

Irish Times
9/5/1988

THE CLINTON VISIT

Ireland joins US in \$5m marine research project

By Lorna Siggins,
Marine Correspondent

IRELAND and the United States are to co-operate in a \$5 million marine research programme, President Clinton has announced. The programme, lasting five years, will involve collaboration between the State's Marine Institute and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The initiative comes three years after the signing of a joint marine research accord during Mr Clinton's last visit to Ireland in December 1995.

Under the programme, Irish and US scientists will conduct research and surveys on the Continental Shelf from NOAA research ships and the Marine Institute vessel, *Celtic Voyager*.

The programme will concentrate on ocean monitoring, assessment and modelling, ocean forecasting and climatology, seabed habitat mapping, and resource management in fisheries, aquaculture, and on the coastal zone.

Commenting on the announcement, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, Dr Woods, said the combined results of the work would help the sustainable development of our marine resource, which had the potential for "an additional 7,000 jobs and a 1450 million contribution to the economy over the next five years".

NOAA has the largest marine research fleet in the world, with 26 vessels and 15,000 staff. It is responsible for fisheries research, the US national weather service, management of marine sanctuaries and resource assessment.

It has a substantial database and is particularly experienced in resource mapping.

The agreement mirrors an initiative by the former US president, John F. Kennedy, three decades ago when he sent a US research team to Ireland on the invitation of the Taoiseach, Mr Seán Lemass.

The resulting survey of the fishing sector, known as the Glude Report, is regarded as one of the most influential consultancy studies to date.

However, its recommendations for development never got the support of any Irish government — a situation which did not help Ireland's case in negotiating its fisheries deal on access to the European Union.

Ireland has the second largest and most advanced marine sector in the world.



President flies in to honour victims of Omagh atrocity

CLINTON TRIBUTE



EMOTIONAL VISIT: President Bill Clinton

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton will pay his own personal tribute to the people of Omagh when he visits the shattered town this afternoon.

On what is certain to be an emotional occasion, the President and his wife Hillary will meet survivors of the blast and the families of those murdered when the 600lb bomb tore through the centre of the town nearly three weeks ago.

It is understood Mr Clinton will unveil a plaque to the bomb victims and meet members of the emergency services who battled to rescue survivors.

The visit is scheduled to take place after the couple perform a number of engagements, including a visit to the proposed University of Ulster site at

By **RICHARD
SHERRIFF**

Springvale. They will be accompanied throughout the day by Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife Cherie.

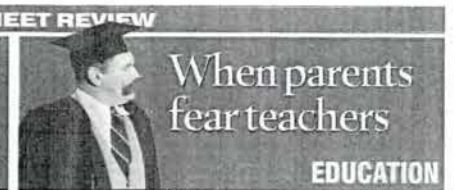
Mr Blair will greet the President on his arrival in the Province a day behind Mrs Clinton, who yesterday said she and her husband would be paying tribute to those who were "murdered by the enemies of peace".

Speaking at a Women in Democracy conference in Belfast's Waterfront Hall, she paid tribute to the work done by women in the search for a lasting peace, claiming: "You will only move forward and as you do please know that America will stand with you."



APPLAUDED: Hillary Clinton pays tribute to women's work in the search for peace in Northern Ireland

See Pages 10, 11, 12 and 13



Trimble agrees to meet Adams for peace talks

BY ANDREW GRICE AND DAVID MCKITTRICK

THE NORTHERN Ireland peace process moved into a new phase last night as it emerged that the Ulster Unionist leader and First Minister, David Trimble, was ready to meet the Sinn Féin president, Gerry Adams, for face-to-face talks.

The unprecedented meeting would follow next Monday's talks between Mr Trimble and other party leaders in Northern Ireland, including Mr Adams, about the workings of the proposed new Assembly. Reliable sources said last night that the one-to-one talks could take place as early as next week.

Although Mr Trimble might avoid the public handshake sought by the Sinn Féin president, the planned meeting is highly significant. As First Minister, Mr Trimble is expected to hold a series of separate sessions with the individual party leaders in the new forum. He will meet



Gerry Adams (left) and David Trimble, who are to meet, although a public handshake is highly unlikely

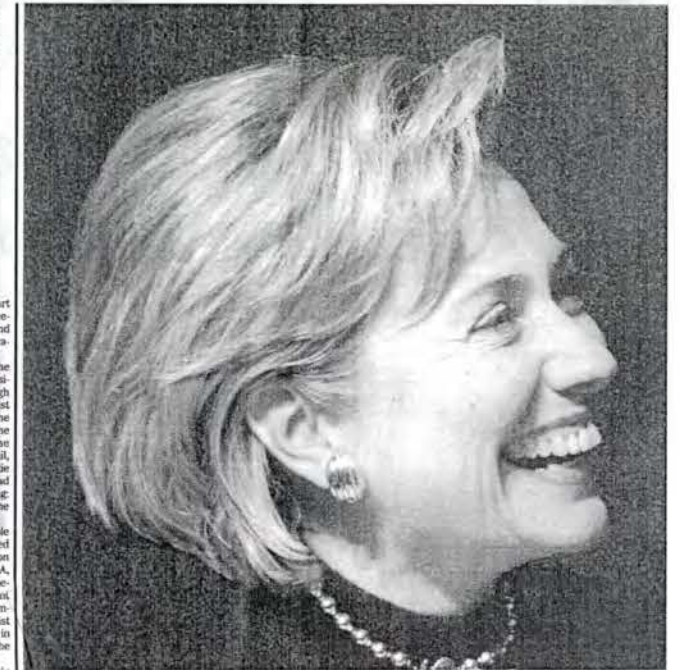
INSIDE

Omagh's legacy of sadness and hope, page 6
Relief and anger greet releases, page 7
Leading article, Review, page 3

them. That trust can only start to be built by the commencement of decommissioning and an ending of all forms of paramilitary violence.

In London and Dublin, the Commons and the Dail met simultaneously to rush through the far-reaching anti-terrorist legislation aimed at ending the activities of the Real IRA, the group responsible for the Omagh bombing. In the Dail, the Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern, said the Real IRA had disgraced themselves, adding: "You cannot hope to take on the people of Ireland and win."

In the Commons, Mr Trimble warned Mr Blair that he feared the measures to crack down on groups such as the Real IRA, might prove ineffective. He believed the Irish government might then opt for the internment without trial of terrorist suspects, a power retained in Dublin but not included in the British legislation.



Tony Blair has privately encouraged such a meeting, which he believes would give further momentum to the peace process. But the Prime Minister suffered a set-back last night when 16 Labour MPs voted against a government motion to cut short the Commons debate on its anti-terrorist measures after protests that the legislation was being railroaded through Parliament. As MPs sat late into the night, a second rebellion was expected by Labour backbenchers worried about infringements of civil liberties.

On a day of major developments in the peace process, Sinn Féin finally agreed to appoint a contact with the international body overseeing the decommissioning of arms. This is to be the party's chief negotiator, Martin McGuinness.

governments. Mr Blair claimed it was "a practical and important step forward" and said the decommissioning of terrorist weapons within two years was a vital part of a lasting settlement. "I hope the process begins as soon as possible," he said.

Mr Blair told MPs that there would be many more difficulties along the way, but added: "I have no doubt things are on the move and we are moving in the right direction."

British officials are surprised by the progress that has been made in the peace process so soon after last month's Omagh atrocity which claimed 28 lives and, sources said yesterday, it is hoped Mr McGuinness's appointment will reassure Unionist opinion because it is "a firm deed rather than playing word games".

ment should be seen as a sign of an IRA willingness to start disarming. But it said it hoped it would push the peace process forward with increased speed.

The Irish government described the appointment of Mr McGuinness as a further important step in the implementation of the Good Friday agreement and a significant initiative. It described as a "landmark" Tuesday's statement from Mr Adams that violence should be "a thing of the past".

Mr Trimble welcomed the appointment of Mr McGuinness but said that he would urge Republicans in next week's talks to "take the next necessary step of actual decommissioning". He warned: "Republicans can play no part in Northern Ireland's government if Unionists do not trust

low suit if internment were introduced in the Irish Republic. But he believes such a move by Dublin is unlikely.

In another development the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam, yesterday ordered the release of two Scots Guards, James Fisher and Mark Wright, who had been serving life sentences for the murder of a Catholic teenager in north Belfast in 1992. Her action was condemned by the family of the 18-year-old, and by Sinn Féin.

President Bill Clinton flies into Belfast today for a short stay which will include a visit to Omagh with Mr Blair. United States pressure is believed to have been important in bringing about the flurry of activity which began with Mr Adams's statement on Tuesday.



Hillary Clinton paying tribute to the 'courage and strength of generations of women' who had helped in the Irish peace process. Speaking yesterday in Belfast to nearly 600 delegates at the Vital Voices - Women in Democracy conference, she reiterated the United States' firm stance on terrorism

Dan Chang/Reuters

Police in 12 countries swoop on Internet child sex ring

AN INTERNATIONAL child pornography "club" run on the Internet has been smashed by British police officers after a chance discovery at a house on the south coast.

About 50 men from 12 countries were arrested and more than 100,000 images, including sexually explicit pictures of girls and boys as young as two, have been recovered during a series of raids. Police believe

BY JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

they have uncovered a paedophile and pornography network, known as the Wonderland Club, in which the requirement for membership is to have at least 10,000 explicit pictures of children stored on computer.

Detectives managed to crack the Internet club, protected by passwords and codes, which

members used to exchange sexually explicit images of children. In at least one case in Britain, a man had been filming himself having sex with children and swapping the pictures with club members.

Two of the men arrested in England were found to have nearly 90,000 pornographic photographs of children, described by the officer in charge of the operation as "stomach churning".

School teachers were among those arrested worldwide. The network was discovered by chance after a police officer visited a house in St Leonards, near Hastings, East Sussex, late last year after a tip-off by United States customs officers who were investigating a separate porn ring.

In one of the biggest co-ordinated international operations, 105 addresses throughout

the world were raided early yesterday morning. Eleven men were arrested in Britain after raids on 14 addresses in London, Sussex, Oxford, Berkshire, Kent, Gloucestershire, Midlands and Norfolk.

In the US, where the club originated, there were 22 raids; there were 18 in Germany and 16 in Italy. There were also raids in Australia, Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Norway,

Portugal, and Sweden. Police will attempt to trace the abused children and offer them counselling.

Detective Superintendent John Stewardson, who led the operation by the National Crime Squad, said children had been abused on a massive scale to produce material to feed the international ring. "The children abused were of both sexes and some, it would appear,

were as young as two, although we don't know because we don't know who these children are yet. The content would turn the stomach of any right-minded person."

The case highlights growing concern about the use of the Internet by paedophiles to swap information and images.

There has been a succession of warnings that paedophiles are exchanging names and ad-

resses of children to abuse as well as linking up with fellow offenders throughout the world. Bob Packham, the deputy director general of the National Crime Squad, said: "I am unaware of another police operation that has ever pulled together so many law enforcement agencies world-wide to effect simultaneous raids and arrests."

Seaside clue, page 2

INSIDE FULL CONTENTS PAGE 2 TODAY'S TV REVIEW, PAGE 23	HOME Tony Blair declared his strong opposition to ITV's plans to abolish its flagship News at Ten programme PAGE 3	HOME Teachers will fight plans by ministers to introduce performance-related pay in schools PAGE 4	POLITICS A chief constable has paid £10m to four men who accused police of malicious prosecution, MPs heard PAGE 8	FOREIGN The Malaysian Prime Minister has sacked his Finance minister and one-time political heir PAGE 13	BUSINESS Volkswagen has renewed attempts to court BMW with an offer to buy up to 25 per cent of the company PAGE 16	SPORT Tim Henman beat Scott Draper in straight sets to reach the second round of the US Open PAGE 28	 9 770951 946542
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Are you ready to challenge convention ?



The Independent
9/3/1988

Peace process will remain at centre stage

By DOMINIC CUNNINGHAM

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton is expected to urge political parties in the North to redouble their efforts to keep the peace process on track during his high-profile visit today.

Amid a massive security operation Mr Clinton is due to meet the politicians at Stormont and will underscore his administration's commitment to the Good Friday Agreement and the proposed new structures of government at several other locations during the day-long visit.

Mr Clinton is likely to make much of the two gestures in succeeding days this week by Sinn Féin — effectively declaring the war was over plus the appointment of a representative to the decommissioning body — as evidence of sincerity and movement by republicans.

He may call for reciprocal confidence-building gestures by unionists although the President is aware that UUP leader and First Minister Designate David Trimble will face increased opposition within his party if he tries to move too quickly.

FACE TO FACE

So far Mr Trimble has resisted republican calls for face to face talks with Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams, but the two men are likely to address each other directly during preliminary talks at the Assembly on Monday next.

DUP leader Rev Ian Paisley said he would not be attending the special session called by Mr Trimble but was branded a hypocrite by the Ulster Unionists as his party sits in an assembly committee with Sinn Féin members.

There are also some reports that Mr Adams and Mr Trimble may be included in a photocall for Mr Clinton's visit to the Assembly around mid-morning today.

Mr Clinton will be accompanied by his wife Hillary who flew into Belfast ahead of the Presidential party yesterday to address the closing session of a conference on Women in Democracy when he travels to Omagh this afternoon.

DRAINS SEALED

America's First Citizens will be joined by British prime minister Tony Blair on their visit to the Co Tyrone town where Mr Clinton will unveil a plaque in honour of the 28 men, women and children who died in the atrocity less than three weeks ago.

A blanket of security will be thrown over the North today during Mr Clinton's stay and hundreds of RUC officers and British soldiers are being backed up by scores of heavily armed US secret service agents.

Snipers with high-powered rifles yesterday moved into positions around all the venues the Clintons will visit throughout their stay.

Bill unlikely to tame Kerry links

By NOEL SMITH

PRESIDENT Clinton will have to improve his golf game if he is to have any hope of taming the Ballyunion links on Saturday.

One of the world's top-rated courses made famous by US superstar Tom Watson could prove to be a nightmare for the president who, only a year ago, appeared in Time magazine under the heading: "A free golf lesson for the Duffin-in-Chief".

Time called in some experts for their advice on the Clinton swing.

TV golf commentator Gary McCord told the First Gelfer: "Strengthen your grip, swing more outside — and keep your left heel down in the backswing."

A Ballyunion local said yesterday: "The President has a lot of things on his mind — but he'd better forget them fast on this course or he'll be heading for golfing oblivion."

First keep cool face snap adm

By MARTIN

WHO would | that the day | Hillary Clinton | speech was sad | and the stand | graciously acks |

And it was | fall at that. | worker Nancy | so determined | photo taken wi | Lady that she | pulling her off |

A posse of | service minders | horror as Nan | Hillary by the | nearly brought | into a sea of ad |

But the Lea | Free World's | the sort of pres | that must come | camera-happy el |

She recovered | and croul | on stage at Belfa | front Hall so th | was virtually | Nancy's, five feet |

DAZZLING S |

Then she flashe | zling smile, a gr | belied her gravit | contortions, and N | her photograph.

The American | weren't long hust | lary away after th | ever. Never mind s | crazies, their charg | danger of being a | death.

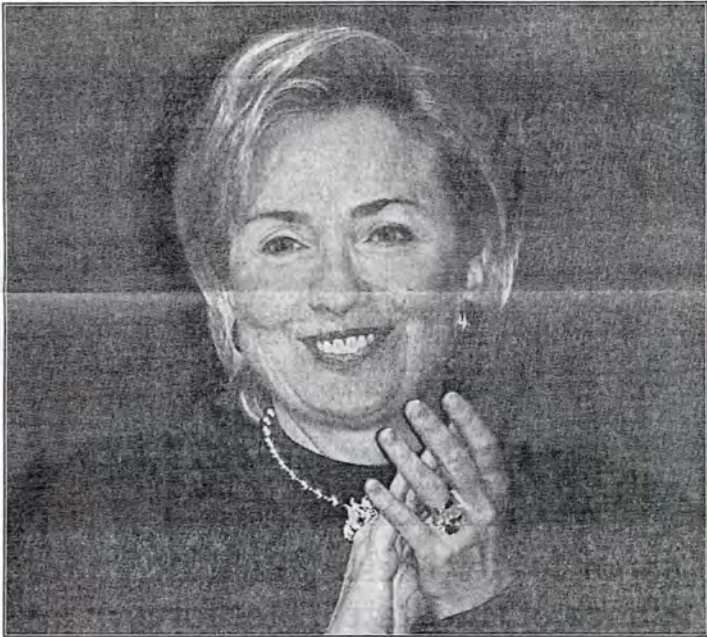
But Hillary | moved by the wa | her welcome — she | after her speech | strained upwards t | her hand.

Nancy, from Dr | rick, even managed | a Tyrone Crystal sh | on her which | opened and admired | passing it on to an |

"I'm a pushy | devil," admitted | "I'm surprised the | service men didn't sh | away.

"I'm a great fan | — she has her pr | and still she takes th | to come here."

Hillary was | from shaking hands | Waterfront to more | same at a reception | fast's City Hall. But | she started to work | down the line of dignit | she very wisely climbe | the stage — her enco | with Nancy had not be | vain.



● America's First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton smiles and applauds with enthusiasm while attending the "Vital Voices Women in Democracy" conference in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast last night.

Relaxed first lady shows she's no fashion victim

By KATHLEEN O'CALLAGHAN

awaited her presence at the Vital Voice conference.

Hillary was greeted with a warm and welcoming standing ovation. She looked relaxed and comfortable in a designer French-navy, three-piece ensemble. The outfit comprised of a Chanel-style cardigan with gold buttons on the pocket worn over a

sleeveless, fine-knit top and matching shapely trousers.

Her blonde hair which has seen so many changes has now found its signature style that hasn't changed despite the recent personal traumas. The sleek style is parted to the side and swept behind the ears. In a conference stressing the importance of female confidence, power and progress she was the picture of self-esteem and composure.

PHOTO PRESERVATION

The Irish Independent
9/3/1988

Peace process will remain at centre stage

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keeps her cool in face of snap crazy admirers

By MARTINA DEVLIN

WHIO would have guessed that the day's pitfall for Hillary Clinton lay after her speech was safely delivered and the standing ovations graciously acknowledged?

And it was a literal pitfall at that. For campaign worker Nancy Gracey was so determined to have her photo taken with the First Lady that she came close to pulling her off the stage.

A posse of twitchy secret service minders watched in horror as Nancy gripped Hillary by the hand and nearly brought her toppling into a sea of admirers.

But the Leader of the Free World's wife showed the sort of presence of mind that must come in useful at camera-happy election rallies.

She recovered her balance and crouched down on stage at Belfast's Waterfront Hall so that her head was virtually level with Nancy's, five feet below.

DAZZLING SMILE

Then she flashed a dazzling smile, a grin which belied her gravity-defying contortions, and Nancy had her photograph.

The American agents weren't long hustling Hillary away after that, however. Never mind snipers or crazies, their charge was in danger of being adored to death.

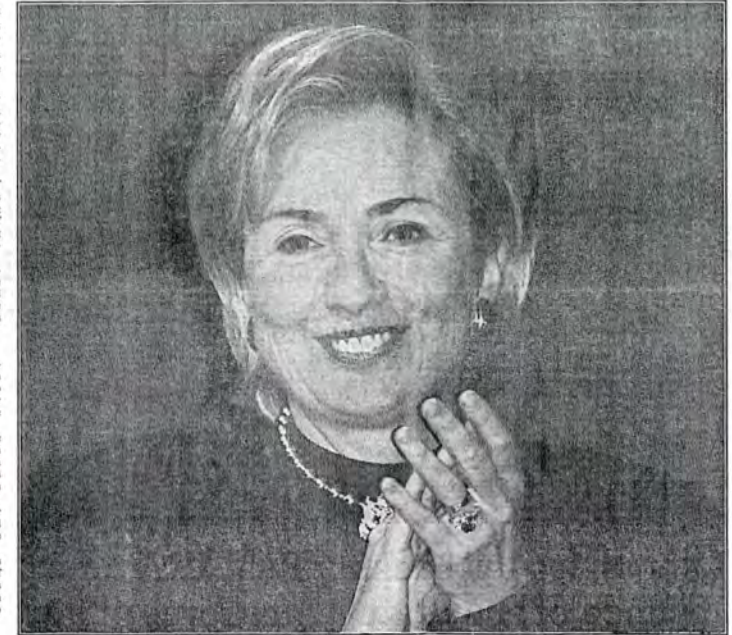
But Hillary seems moved by the warmth of her welcome — she lingered after her speech as people strained upwards to shake her hand.

Nancy, from Downpatrick, even managed to press a Tyrone Crystal shamrock on her which Hillary opened and admired before passing it on to an aide.

"I'm a pushy little devil," admitted Nancy. "I'm surprised the secret service men didn't shove me away."

"I'm a great fan of hers — she has her problems and still she takes the time to come here."

Hillary was whisked from shaking hands at the Waterfront to more of the same at a reception in Belfast's City Hall. But before she started to work her way down the line of dignitaries, she very wisely climbed off



● America's First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton smiles and applauds with enthusiasm while attending the "Vital Voices Women in Democracy" conference in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast last night.

Relaxed first lady shows she's no fashion victim

By KATHLEEN O'CALLAGHAN

AS Hillary Clinton flew in from Moscow over the healing landscape of Northern Ireland she thought to herself: "This is the most beautiful place on God's Earth."

She shared that personal thought with the large audience gathered to hear her in Belfast.

Hillary was greeted with a warm and welcoming standing ovation. She looked relaxed and comfortable in a designer

sleeveless, fine-knit top and matching shapely trousers.

Her blonde hair which has seen so many changes has now found its signature style that hasn't changed despite the recent personal traumas. The sleek style is parted to the side and swept behind the ears. In a con-

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9/3/1988



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Radiant First Lady Hillary gets a standing ovation

A RELAXED and smiling Hillary Clinton delivered a keynote speech to hundreds of women in Belfast last night and showed no sign of any strain.

Mrs Clinton spoke for 40 minutes about the rights and achievements of women and afterwards received a standing ovation from the 450-strong audience in the Waterfront Hall.

It was Mrs Clinton's first speech since her husband admitted his "inappropriate" relationship with Monica Lewinsky and it was delivered in a strong, unflinching style.

Poised and relaxed in a smart blue

trouser suit, she told the Women in Democracy Conference that it was women's voices which could not be ignored.

"If you listen you can hear the voices of women who withstood jeers and threats to make themselves heard in a political world once reserved primarily for men."

With intense interest focused on the scandal surrounding her husband, the First Lady's every gesture was being scrutinised.

But if she has her troubles, she was keeping them to herself in Belfast - her smile never wavered, her composure never faltered.

By MARTINA DEVLIN

She radiated confidence, she radiated serenity, she radiated a woman who's just had her blonde bob styled to within an inch of its life and who knows she's looking good.

Hillary mentioned the H-word - "my husband" - three times. Completely straight-faced each time.

And as First Ladies go, she was positively presidential, which was the consensus among delegates at the conference.

"She could be president herself - in fact she should be," said one woman.

Hillary's entourage certainly shrank

VIP: Five motorbike outriders signalled her arrival, followed by a cavalcade of cars.

Security men were tripping over themselves to open the door of her stretch limousine. "How many people does it take to help one woman out of a car?" wondered a watcher.

Indoors at the Waterfront, the audience was overwhelmingly female and male politicians stood out like sore thumbs among the power-dressed women.

"The last time I was in such female dominated company was at the maternity ward," said ex-Belfast Lord Mayor, Alban Maginness. And that's a place he

has visited eight times with his wife.

"It's intimidating", admitted UDP leader Gary McMichael, looking around the room in a break from signing autographs for schoolgirls. Then he realised this could be misconstrued and hastily added that there should be more women in politics.

But Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness claimed he was used to being surrounded by females because there were so many in his party. "We're very progressive," he said with a twinkle. Or it could have been the reflection of so much jewellery in the room.

Mrs Clinton drew cheers when she

Continued on Page 13

Clinton
faces busy
schedule
during his
North trip

By MARESE
McDONAGH

PRESIDENT Clinton is due at Belfast Aldergrove Airport this morning at about 8.30am for a hectic day-long visit to the North which will include engagements in Omagh and Armagh.

After being greeted by British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Northern Secretary Mo Mowlam, Mr Clinton travels to Stormont for a meeting with First Minister David Trimble, and deputy Seamus Mallon. He is expected to spend about 90 minutes in Stormont meeting the Northern Ireland Assembly members.

From there, the president will travel to Belfast city centre where he will join First Lady Hillary Clinton at the Waterfront

He will then address the 100,000

Trimble and Adams in face to face talks

By DAVID McKITTRICK

A NEW phase in the peace process came into focus last night as it emerged that Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble is to meet Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams for face-to-face talks.

The unprecedented meeting will follow on from next Monday's gathering of the new Belfast assembly. Reliable sources said the one-to-one talks could take place as early as next week.

Although Mr Trimble may avoid the public handshake sought by the Sinn Féin president, the proposed meeting is highly significant.

As the North's First Minister, Mr Trimble is expected to hold a series of separate sessions with the individual party leaders. He will also include Mr Adams in that session.



50 arrests
as child
internet
porn club
smashed

AN international child pornography "club" run on the Internet has been smashed by British police officers after a chance discovery at a house on the south coast.

About 50 men from 12 countries were arrested and more than 100,000 images, including sexually explicit pictures of girls and boys as young as two, have been recovered during a series of raids.

Police believe they have uncovered a paedophile and pornography network, known as the Wonderland Club, in which the requirement for membership is to have at least 10,000 explicit pictures of children stored on computer.

Detectives managed to crack the secretive Internet

PHOTO PRESERVATION

PHOTOGRAPHY: THE IRISH PRESS
watch two local children
laying the sod for a new
University of Ulster cam-
pus.

Mr Clinton will travel to
Omagh in the afternoon
and will have a private
meeting with the relatives
of those who lost their lives
in the recent bombing
atrocities.

His last engagement in
the North is in Armagh
where he will attend a
"Gathering for Peace" at
about 7.30pm.



● The path to peace.
Reports and news
analysis on the latest
developments as the
 Clintons visit: Pages
Nine, Ten, 11, 12 and 13

THE announcement was
welcomed by the Irish and
British governments. A
formal Government
statement described Martin
McGuinness's nomination
to liaise with Canadian
General John de Chastelain
on arms disposal as a
further important step in
implementing the peace
pact. It went on to say that
decommissioning of arms
was "indispensable".

In London, Tony Blair
claimed it was "a practical
and important step
forward" and said the
decommissioning of
terrorist weapons within
two years was a vital part
of a lasting settlement. "I
hope the process begins as
soon as possible," he said.

The British premier
warned that there would be
many more difficulties
along the way, but added:
"I have no doubt things are
on the move and we are
moving in the right
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British officials said they
hoped Mr McGuinness's
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reassure unionist opinion
because it was "a firm deed
rather than playing word
games".

Sinn Féin refused to be
drawn on whether the
appointment should be
seen as a sign of an IRA
willingness to start
disarming but said it hoped
it would speed up the peace
process.

Meanwhile, the Dail
and the British parliament
met simultaneously to rush
through far-reaching new
anti-terrorist legislation
aimed at ending the
activities of the Real IRA,
the group responsible for
the Omagh massacre.



● Pleased to meet you... First Lady Hillary Clinton in sparkling form on her arrival in
Belfast yesterday when she attended a Women in Democracy conference.
Picture by Justin Kernaghan

children.
Eleven men were
arrested in the UK. In the
US, where the club origi-
nates, there were 32 raids;
Germany saw 18 and
Italy 16. There were also
raids in Australia, Aus-
tria, Belgium, Finland,
France, Norway, Portu-
gal, and Sweden. Police
will attempt to trace the
abused children and offer
them counselling. ● Full
report: Back Page



● David Trimble...
historic meeting

However, there was a
setback for Mr Blair last
night when his attempts to
reassure Labour MPs
about the anti-terrorist
measures were rebuffed.
Sixteen backbenchers voted
against a government
motion to cut short the
Commons debate.

In the Dail, Taoiseach
Bertie Ahern said the Real

IRA had disgraced
themselves, adding: "You
cannot hope to take on the
people of Ireland and win."

Chris Glennon writes:
There is a build-up of
momentum towards
disposal of IRA arms —
but with no certainty yet
when it will begin,
according to a Government
assessment in Dublin.

Analysts said it would
be overstating the position
to predict the first step
would happen soon.

They viewed the
republican movement as
"engaged in the process" of
implementing the Good
Friday peace pact but
accepted there was
"nothing in the bag" on
arms decommissioning.

A lot will depend, they
said, on the progress of
talks involving David
Trimble and Gerry Adams.

The Provos are
reckoned to have more
than 100 tons of explosives,
arms and ammunition

scattered in dumps in
various places north and
south of the Border.

Government analysts in
Dublin believe that some of
the explosives will be
destroyed in the first
gesture towards
decommissioning.

With the arrival of US
President Bill Clinton
giving the whole peace
process a boost — he flies
into Belfast today — there
was agreement in Dublin,
London and Belfast that
the Good Friday pact was
entering a new phase.

In both Dail and House
of Commons there were
complaints by
backbenchers that they
were being asked to
rubber-stamp draconian
legislation.

To meet some of the
complaints in the Dail, the
Government agreed to
shorten the lifespan of the
Offences Against the State
Act by six months and
allow it die in mid '99.

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De Bruin appeals four-year swimming ban

MICHELLE de BRUIN yesterday
lodged an appeal to the Court of Arbi-
tration in Sport in Switzerland against
her four-year ban from swimming.

The appeal was lodged by de Bru-
in's solicitor, Peter Lennon, who has
had detailed discussions with the triple
Olympic champion over the wording of
the detailed appeal.

The appeal has been lodged exactly
four weeks after FINA imposed a
four-year ban on de Bruin, having

By TOM O'RIORDAN

found her guilty of tampering with a
sample which she provided on January
10 last.

Within the next couple of weeks
CAS, who have their headquarters in
Lausanne, will request all the docu-
mentation from the three-man FINA
doping panel which decided on the ban.

Lennon said he was hopeful that
CAS would give him and his client a
hearing on the issue sometime next
month.

It is understood the appeal is based

on the claim the burden of proof that
de Bruin tampered with the sample
rested with FINA and it had not done
so beyond any reasonable doubt.

CAS has, in the past, been sympat-
hetic towards certain sporting competi-
tors who may have fallen foul of their
federations and indeed voted in favour
of the Irish swimmer at the Atlanta
Olympics when the American objected
against the legality of her entry and
qualifying times for the 400m Free-
style in which she won the second of
her three gold medals.

Russia 'just like 1917' warning: Page Seven. How
jittery markets are coping: The Business Pink

The Irish Independent
9/31/1988

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Sunday 6th Sept. 12noon - 6pm

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Thomas Ryan R.H.A.,
James English, Padraig Lynch,
Rosita Mahan, Carl
Strickland, Desmond Carrick
R.H.A., Maev Taylor, George
Walsh, James Nolan R.H.A.,
George Gillespie, Liam Treacy,
Brett McEntagart R.H.A.,
Pauline Scott, Desmond Hickey,
David Hume R.H.A., Charles
Lamb R.H.A., Harrie McManus,
Marky Robinson, Lari Best,
Peter Collins R.H.A., Cecil
Maguire R.U.A., Alan Kenny,
Deirdre O'Donnell etc.

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PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

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Merrion Square Area
St. Stephen's Green Area (inc. Earlfort Terrace, Adelaide Road, Charlemont Street)

All on-street parking will be prohibited on these routes from Thursday 3rd September at 17.00 hrs to Friday 4th September at 16.00 hrs. Traffic will be severely restricted along these routes from 08.30 hrs to 16.00 hrs on Friday 4th September. Traffic will generally be permitted to cross the South Circular Road/Grand Canal route except at Ranelagh Bridge and Mount Street Bridge.

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Phoenix Park
Ashtown Gate
Navan Road - Ashdown to M50
M50 - from Navan Road to M1 interchange
Coolock Lane
M1 from M50 to Dublin Airport

All on-street parking will be prohibited from 19.00 hrs on Thursday 3rd September to 21.00 hrs on Friday 4th September. Traffic will be severely restricted on these routes from 13.00 hrs to 21.00 hrs on Friday 4th September.

Motorists are advised that there will be major traffic disruption in the areas affected by these traffic restrictions. They are advised to avoid any unnecessary journeys in the affected areas at the times stated. People travelling to Dublin Airport should note that long delays are likely particularly in the afternoon/evening period of Friday 4th September. Motorists are advised to allow plenty of time for such journeys.

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The Irish Independent
9/3/1988

THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,706 THURSDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 1998 *** (IRSOp) 45p

NEWS SECTION  Just William's long lost chum NEWS, PAGE 3	BROADSHEET REVIEW  The South Coast tiger COVER STORY	 When parents fear teachers EDUCATION
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Trimble agrees to meet Adams for peace talks

By ANDREW GRICE AND DAVID MCKITTRICK

THE NORTHERN Ireland peace process moved into a new phase last night as it emerged that the Ulster Unionist leader and First Minister, David Trimble, was ready to meet the Sinn Féin president, Gerry Adams, for face-to-face talks.

The unprecedented meeting would follow next Monday's talks between Mr Trimble and other party leaders in Northern Ireland, including Mr Adams, about the workings of the proposed new Assembly. Reliable sources said last night that the one-to-one talks could take place as early as next week.

Although Mr Trimble might avoid the public handshake sought by the Sinn Féin president, the planned meeting is highly significant. As First Minister, Mr Trimble is expected to hold a series of separate sessions with the individual party leaders in the province. He will now include Mr Adams in that series. Tony Blair has privately en-



Gerry Adams (left) and David Trimble, who are to meet, although a public handshake is highly unlikely

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Omagh's legacy of sadness and hope, page 6
Relief and anger greet releases, page 7
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The announcement was welcomed by the British and Irish governments. Mr Blair claimed

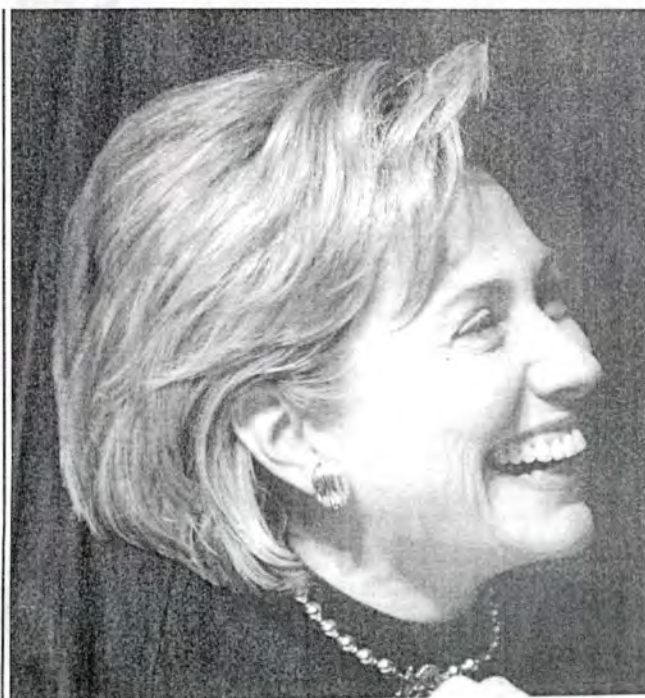
Sinn Féin refused to be drawn on whether the appointment should be seen as a sign

them. That trust can only start to be built by the commencement of decommissioning and an ending of all forms of paramilitary violence."

In London and Dublin, the Commons and the Dail met simultaneously to rush through the far-reaching anti-terrorist legislation aimed at ending the activities of the Real IRA, the group responsible for the Omagh bombing. In the Dail, the Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern, said the Real IRA had disgraced themselves, adding:

"You cannot hope to take on the people of Ireland and win." In the Commons, Mr Trimble warned Mr Blair that he feared the measures to crack down on groups such as the Real IRA, might prove ineffective. He believed the Irish government might then opt for the internment without trial of terrorist suspects, a power retained in Dublin but not included in the British legislation.

Mr Blair replied that Britain "could act without delay" to loi-



9/3/1988
Irish Independent

couraged such a meeting, which he believes would give further momentum to the peace process. But the Prime Minister suffered a set back last night when 16 Labour MPs voted against a government motion to cut short the Commons debate on its anti terrorist measures after protests that the legislation was being railroaded through Parliament. As MPs sat late into the night, a second rebellion was expected by Labour backbenchers worried about infringements of civil liberties.

On a day of major developments in the peace process, Sinn Fein finally agreed to appoint a contact with the international body overseeing the decommissioning of arms. This is to be the party's chief negotiator, Martin McGuinness.

It was "a practical and important step forward" and said the decommissioning of terrorist weapons within two years was a vital part of a lasting settlement. "I hope the process begins as soon as possible," he said. Mr Blair told MPs that there would be many more difficulties along the way, but added: "I have no doubt things are on the move and we are moving in the right direction."

British officials are surprised by the progress that has been made in the peace process so soon after last month's Omagh atrocity which claimed 28 lives and, sources said yesterday, it is hoped Mr McGuinness's appointment will reassure Unionist opinion because it is "a firm deed rather than playing word games".

of an IRA willingness to start disarming. But it said it hoped it would push the peace process forward with increased speed. The Irish government described the appointment of Mr McGuinness as a further important step in the implementation of the Good Friday agreement and a significant initiative. It described as a "landmark" Tuesday's statement from Mr Adams that violence should be "a thing of the past".

Mr Trimble welcomed the appointment of Mr McGuinness but said that he would urge Republicans in next week's talks to "take the next necessary step of actual decommissioning". He warned: "Republicans can play no part in Northern Ireland's government if Unionists do not trust

introduced in the Irish Republic. But he believes such a move by Dublin is unlikely. In another development the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Mowlem, yesterday ordered the release of two Scots Guards, James Fisher and Mark Wright, who have been serving life sentences for the murder of a Catholic teenager in south Belfast in 1992. Her action was welcomed by the family of the 17-year-old, and by Sinn Fein.

President Bill Clinton flew into Belfast today for a visit which will include a vigil at the site of the 1998 Omagh with Mr Blair. US States pressure is believed to have been important in the decision about the flurry of releases which began with Mr Adams' statement on Tuesday.



Bill Clinton paying tribute to the 'courage and strength of generations of women' who had helped in the Irish peace process. Speaking yesterday in Belfast to nearly 600 delegates at the Vital Voices - Women in Democracy conference, she reiterated the United States' firm stance on terrorism. Dan Chang/Reuters

Police in 12 countries swoon on Internet child sex ring

AN INTERNATIONAL child pornography "club" run on the Internet has been smashed by British police officers after a chance discovery at a house on the south coast.

About 50 men from 12 countries were arrested and more than 100,000 images, including sexually explicit pictures of girls and boys as young as two, have been recovered during a series of raids. Police believe

members used to exchange sexually explicit images of children. In at least one case in Britain, a man had been filming himself having sex with children and swapping the pictures with club members. Two of the men arrested in England were found to have nearly 90,000 pornographic photographs of children, described by the officer in charge of the operation as "stomach-churning".

School teachers were among those arrested worldwide yesterday morning. Eleven men were arrested in Britain after a police raid on 14 addresses in London, Sussex, Oxford, Berkshire, Hastings, East Kent, Gloucestershire, Middlesex and Norfolk. In the US, where the club was based, there were 32 raids; 13 in Germany and 10 in Italy. There were also raids in Australia, Austria, Belgium, 105 addresses in France, Norway,

Portugal, and Sweden. Police will attempt to trace the abused children and offer them counselling. Detective Superintendent John Stewardson, who led the Crime Squad, said children had been abused on a massive scale to produce material to feed the international ring. "The children abused were of both sexes and some, it would appear,

were as young as two, although we don't know because we don't know who these children are. The content would turn the stomach of any right-minded person." The case highlights growing concern about the use of the Internet by paedophiles to swap information and images. There has been a succession of warnings that paedophiles are exchanging names and addresses of children to abuse as well as linking up with fellow offenders throughout the world. Bob Packham, the deputy director general of the National Crime Squad, said: "I am uncertain that has ever pulled together so many law enforcement agencies world-wide to effect simultaneous raids and arrests."

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Are you ready to denge convention ?

PHOTO PRESERVATION

THE CLINTON VISIT

First Lady adopts a strategy of ignoring the pressure

Recent disclosures have placed Hillary Clinton in an uncomfortable situation. **Róisín Ingle** watched the First Lady's progress from Belfast to Dublin

HILLARY CLINTON held her husband's hand as she waved goodbye from a rain-soaked Dublin Airport almost three years ago. Journalists recorded this development from behind a security cordon, some of them exchanging smiles. It was a feel-good kind of moment that spoke eloquently for itself. No body language experts need have applied.

On her last visit she made a speech which was music to ears of *Mná na hÉireann*. Women, she told her audience, were the great untapped resource of the world.

Now we observe Hillary through different eyes. As she toured Ireland this week she walked in the shadow of an unsavoury scandal and it is her reaction to it, not her gender empowerment skills, that intrigue.

Bill Clinton's infidelity has become the barometer by which Hillary Clinton is measured. Every grin, prance and wave is dissected until a satisfactory judgment call can be made about her state of mind.

Monica Lewinsky has managed to keep a low personal profile since the scandal erupted but Hillary has had no such opportunity. The First Lady's Oscar-winning performance from Moscow to Belfast suggest she refused to be cast as victim in this tacky American soap opera that has left a bad impression with everyone.

She could not have been more pleased, one imagines, at the headlines on the morning that followed her first night in Belfast. She had grinned and waved and looked the model of the tough 1990s woman the country was so impressed with back in 1995.

She spoke to the Women in Democracy Conference in Belfast on Wednesday. "If you listen you can hear the voices of women who withstood jeers and threats to make themselves heard in a political world once reserved primarily for men."

Later they walked together through Omagh and at the peace gathering in Armagh that night Hillary sat and smiled as her husband spoke. Later she told Sharon Haughey, the young woman who delivered the welcome speech to the President, that she was very proud of her.

Offstage one observer remarked that there was no discernible tension between the two. A source said they appeared close as they chatted privately about the arrangements for the next day.

"They seemed physically close and very much together," they said.

This contradicts stories that followed the couple to Dublin. There is talk that the atmosphere in the presidential car has been decidedly icy. Conversation, according to the inevitable rumours, is practically non-existent, suggesting a thaw has yet to arrive.

Outwardly, at least, none of this seems to affect Hillary. She swept confidently out of her car for the reception at the Royal College of Surgeons yesterday "all loud voice and loud jewellery", as one observer put it.

Earlier that morning, Bertie Ahern's partner, Celia Larkin, accompanied Mrs Clinton to Trinity College where they spent half an hour perusing the Book of Kells. She said it was a subject she was particularly interested in and that it was a personal wish that she should see the college.

At the House of Ireland on Nassau Street she cooed over the Waterford Crystal and Belleek Pottery and made some mystery purchases. "She enjoyed a private shopping visit here," said a spokeswoman, who refused to reveal exactly what Mrs Clinton had bought.

And so she had adopted the role of ordinary tourist yesterday with no formal engagements, disappointing many across the country who have been on full-time Hillary watch. The question of why she is playing



Ireland joins US in \$5m marine research project

By Lorna Siggins,
Marine Correspondent

IRELAND and the United States are to co-operate in a \$5 million marine research programme, President Clinton has announced. The programme, lasting five years, will involve collaboration between this State's Marine Institute and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The initiative comes three years after the signing of a joint marine research accord during Mr Clinton's last visit to Ireland in December 1995.

Under the programme, Irish and US scientists will conduct research and surveys on the Continental Shelf from NOAA research ships and the Marine Institute vessel, *Celtic Voyager*.

The programme will concentrate on ocean monitoring, assessment and modelling, ocean forecasting and climatology, seabed habitat mapping and resource management in fisheries, aquaculture, and on the coastal zone.

Commenting on the announcement, the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources, Dr Woods, said the combined results of the work would help the sustainable development of our marine resources, which had the potential for "an additional 7,000 jobs and a £450 million contribution to the economy over the next five years".

NOAA has the largest marine research fleet in the world, with 26 vessels and 15,000 staff. It is responsible for fisheries research, the US national weather service, management of marine sanctuaries and resource assessment.

It has a substantial database and is particularly experienced in resource mapping.

The agreement mirrors an initiative by the former US president, John F. Kennedy, three decades ago when he sent a US research team to Ireland on the invitation of the Taoiseach, Mr Seán Lemass.

The resulting survey of the fishing sector, known as the Glenc Report, is regarded as one of the most influential consultancy studies to date.

However, its recommendations for development were not the subject of any Irish government — a situation which did not help Ireland's case in negotiating its fisheries deal on accession to the European Union.

Ireland has the second-largest and most advanced marine sector in the world. It has

beaming smile strategy she has had to cultivate as spouse of Bill Clinton — appears to have worked. One newspaper awarded her a title ("Queen of Belfast") straight out of the dictionary of Diana. Others declared that she was yesterday's victim and tomorrow's heroine.

When her husband arrived in the North the next day, he was said to be pleased that Hillary had received such positive publicity in the nation's press. It has also been reported that he was anxious to know how her speech to the conference had gone.

Her reaction to the part of her husband's speech to the Assembly in which he said he wanted to "salute the women" is not recorded — though one British commentator said her eyes opened and closed "like a lizard's".

Clinton is no clearer than when she first arrived.

Growing speculation that at some point within the next 10 years Hillary Rodham Clinton will divorce her husband and run for presidential office herself could have everything to do with why she has chosen to ride out this turbulent wave.

If, as is suspected, she is in politics for the long haul, then she can only benefit by being close to the seat of power for as long as possible.

In reality, whether they are holding hands or walking yards apart when they leave for Washington tomorrow the state of their union is unlikely to be uncovered until President Clinton goes back to being plain old Bill. And maybe not even then — if the First Lady intends becoming the first lady President of the United States.

QUOTES OF THE VISIT

It's great to be back in Dublin — even though there's a little rain here, it's always bright and sunny for me here.
— Bill Clinton.

Ireland is fast becoming the technological capital of Europe.
— Mr Clinton at the Gateway 2000 computer factory in Dublin.

I'm glad that worked out OK.
— Bertie Ahern, relieved that the "smart card" electronic signing at the Gateway 2000 computer company passed without incident.

I make the pledge here today: No actions of any organisation will quench the Good Friday candle of peace.
— Taoiseach Bertie Ahern.

The helping hand of the United States was always there in the hour of need... And there were many such hours. Dark hours.
— Mr Ahern praising the role of the United States.

Mr Clinton blows up people without knowing or caring who they are — just like the Real IRA.
— Patricia McKenna, Green Party MEP.

Dublin crowds waited in rain and in vain

By Margaret E. Ward

Huddled under umbrellas, a small crowd waited in vain for a glimpse of President Bill Clinton's arrival at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland. Gardaí kept the crowds at either the junctions of Harcourt and Cuffe Streets or Grafton Street and St Stephen's Green.

His arrival was delayed by over 40 minutes until 12.35 p.m., leaving a largely international crowd waiting in the rain outside the St Stephen's Green Shopping Centre. Much to their dismay, he was not visible when he emerged from a limousine to enter the building.

Ms Heike Lasarzewski, from the Black Forest region of Germany, said: "There's no reason to see him, we're only waiting to go into the park."

Aislinn from Galway, who didn't want to give her last name, had strong words for President Clinton. "I think he's getting away with murder. People think he's brilliant, personally, I don't."

American air strikes in Sudan and Afghanistan came in for particular criticism. "It happened at the same time as the scandal, I wonder if the whole thing is a fix. It got him off the front pages. It's disgraceful, especially after the Omagh bombing. There was no need for an air strike," she said.

A lone American businessman protesting against US policies in Arab countries, held aloft a placard saying "American troops out of Persian Gulf now!" Initially identifying himself as "Joe America", Boston-born Ron Bagnulo, who lives in London, said: "This is the only way people can say something because the American media is so bigoted."

Mr Bagnulo was asked to take the sign down by a garda identifying himself as Sgt Joe Keane. "Is it against the law?" he asked. Sgt Keane responded: "Yes, and if you don't take it down we'll take it down for you."

Mrs Pat Corcoran, on holiday from Laguna Beach, California, said: "I think he's a good President and he's trying to aid the peace process in Ireland."

President Clinton and his wife, Mrs Hillary Rodham Clinton, talk to each other before a reception with business and community leaders at the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin yesterday. Photograph: Doug Mills/AP

Taoiseach announces Mitchell scholarship

By Andy Pollak, Education Correspondent

THE Government will contribute £2 million to set up an Irish-American endowment fund to allow highly qualified US postgraduate students attend Irish universities, the Taoiseach announced during the College of Surgeons reception in Dublin.

Mr Ahern said the scholarships awarded would be similar to the Rhodes scholarships at Oxford University, and would "bring world-class students from the United States into our world-class universities... As a lasting monument to his contribution to the agreed peaceful future on this island, the scheme will be known as the George Mitchell Scholarships."

Each US student will receive free fees, accommodation and travel for a postgraduate course at a university in the Republic. The scholarships will be worth around \$25,000 each.

The fund will be administered by the US-Ireland Alliance, a new Washington-based organisation headed by Ms Tina Varga, former foreign policy adviser to Senator Edward Kennedy.

Mr Ahern also announced that the Government would provide £1 million over three years for Project Citizen, a programme to bring together schools and youth groups on both sides of the Border. The scheme will be run by Co-operation Ireland.

Earlier President Clinton had pledged the same amount to the project. Discussions are continuing with the British government to make it a tripartite project.

The Taoiseach also announced a grant of \$300,000 to the Irish Festival at the Kennedy Centre in Washington, which will take place next March to May.

Earlier, the Minister for Education and Science, Mr Martin, and the US Secretary of Education, Mr Richard Riley, met to discuss areas of mutual interest such as special education, information and communications technology in schools, education for the disadvantaged and advanced skills training.

Later the two men launched UCED's Centre for American Studies at Newman House in St Stephen's Green in Dublin.

President Clinton's schedule TODAY

Limerick city and Ballyunion

10 a.m.: Makes speech in O'Connell Street area of Limerick, may be followed by walkabout.

Late morning/early afternoon: Records weekly radio message for US audience.

2.30 p.m.: Plays four-ball at Ballyunion Golf Club with Mr Dick Spring, Mr Charlie McCreery and the club captain, Mr Brian McCarthy.

8.50 p.m.: Leaves Ballyunion for Shannon airport and the flight home.

(All times approximate and subject to change).

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IT COULD BE YOU

pledged, Dr Woods said. He looked forward to working with US Commerce Secretary Dole on implementation of the programme.

Where words matter

the IRISH NEWS

Thursday September 3 1998

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★★★

TODAY



A mother's torment as killers are freed

Secretary of State Mo Mowlam last night apologised to the father of Peter McBride for not informing him personally that his son's killers were being released.

Dr Mowlam said she regretted that the dead teenager's father, also named Peter, had heard on radio of the release of gunmen James Fisher (20) and Mark Wright (23).

The soldiers were freed from prison on Tuesday night after serving six years of their life sentences for the murder of 15-year-old Peter McBride in north Belfast.

The dead teenager's mother Jean, above, yesterday vowed to launch a campaign to have the two soldiers removed from the army - and she hoped to enlist the help of US President Bill Clinton.

Father-of-two Peter McBride was shot in the back by the Scots Guards after being searched in the New Lodge area of the city.

Reports and background P3

LOTTERY

UK: 43, 33, 19, 27, 39, 07. Bonus 09.
Jackpot: £3.9 million. Sixteen winners.
Irish: 32, 03, 35, 10, 01, 22. Bonus 26. Jackpot: £1.5 million.

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Clinton flies in with a brave message of hope

By William Graham
Political Correspondent

THE President of the United States Bill Clinton is due to arrive today with a brave message of hope for the future - that the Good Friday agreement is taking root and that the enemies of peace will be defeated.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair was expected at Belfast International Airport to meet Mr Clinton who was travelling on board Air Force One - First Lady Hillary Clinton had journeyed to Belfast a day earlier on Air Force Two.

This presidential visit will add impetus to the Irish peace process which has already picked up pace as a result of Gerry Adams's signal that violence must be a thing of the past, over, done with and gone.

A huge security operation co-ordinated by the American secret service and the RUC was ready to swing into place and a motorcade prepared to spend Mr Clinton to Parliament Buildings, Stormont.

On the steps of Stormont - a place once described as a Protestant parliament for a Protestant people - Mr Clinton is due to receive a joint greeting by the unionist and nationalist leaders of Northern Ireland's new power-sharing assembly, David Trimble and Seamus Mallon.

The symbolic significance of Mr Clinton first going to meet the 108 assembly members underlines the American president's firm conviction that the Good Friday agreement is the touchstone for political progress into the future.

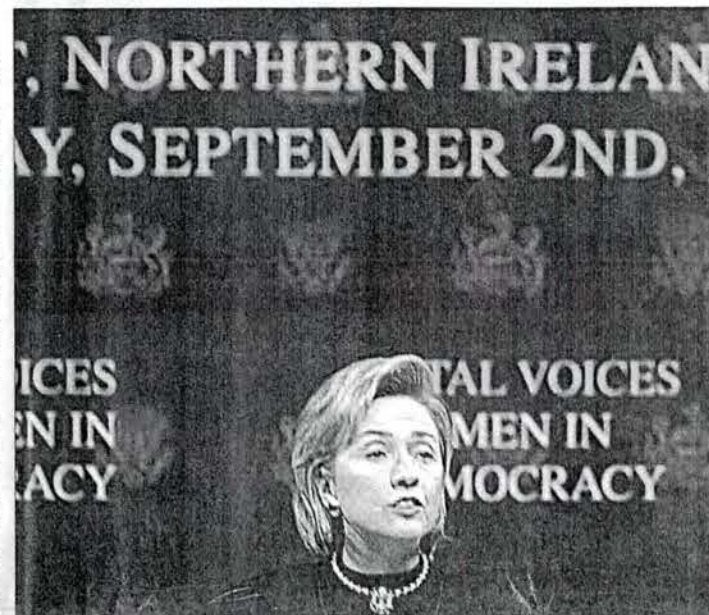
After the Stormont meetings, with all the political parties, Mr Clinton's schedule includes a keynote speech at the Waterfront Hall. He also goes to the site of the new Springvale campus of the University of Ulster in west Belfast, visits Omagh and the site of the bombing which killed 26 people and injured 220 and then in the evening he travels to Armagh for talks with church leaders and to take part in a peace and reconciliation event.

Undoubtedly, the most sombire and moving part of President Clinton's visit will be in Omagh where he will hear from survivors and relatives of the dead.

He will convey to them the condolences of the American people who, along with people throughout the world, were shocked by this terrible bombing which led to the largest loss of life of any single incident in Northern Ireland.

Mr Clinton will also reflect on another terrible act of violence - the burning to death of three children in their Ballymoney home at the height of the Drumcree crisis.

These will be moments of deep reflection for President Clinton but again his message will be a powerful one in that the people of Ireland have the courage to face the future and will not



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allow the ship of peace – the Good Friday agreement – to sink, instead Mr Clinton will advise that the political leaders, while not facing an easy road ahead, have demonstrated that they are risk-takers and the prize must be a peaceful future.

Yesterday, ahead of the president's arrival from Moscow, Hillary Clinton was in Belfast to speak at the Women in Democracy conference.

She said that "when my husband and I go to Omagh we will pay tribute to those who were murdered by the enemies of peace. They were mostly women and children, Catholic and Protestant, unionist and nationalist, young and old. They were people simply living their lives."

Mrs Clinton praised the role of women in the search for peace and spoke about the courage and strength of generations of women.

She added that the United States would continue to do all it could to support Northern Ireland.

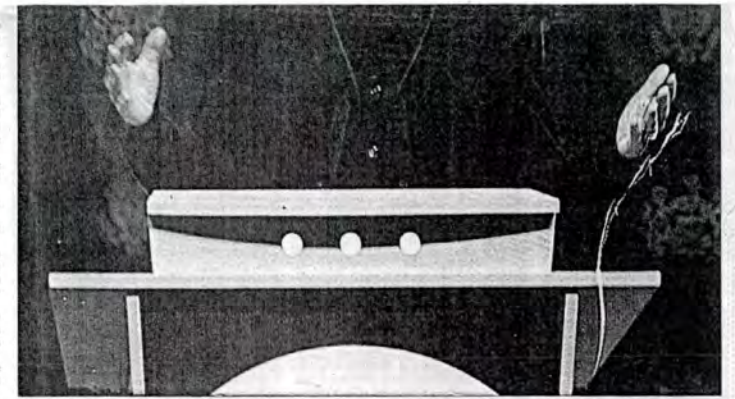
"You will only move forward and, as you do, please know that America will stand with you."

Prime Minister Tony Blair said yesterday that things were now moving in the right direction in Northern Ireland and that the best response to the Omagh bombing was not to abandon the peace accord but to carry it forward vigorously and deny those opposed to the democratic process.

The Dail and the Commons rushed through tough new legislation to deal with dissidents, although there have been strong questions posed about the dangers of human rights abuses.

Taoiseach Bertie Aherne has said that the message to those who carried out the Omagh bombing was that "you cannot hope to take on the people of Ireland and win."

Clearly directing his remarks towards the Real IRA, Mr Aherne said: "These people are about to learn a lesson that will teach them to respect the strength of Irish democracy."



● SHOW OF HANDS ... Hillary Clinton at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast yesterday

Picture: Hugh Russell

The president's schedule

THIS is the schedule for today's visit to Northern Ireland by the President of the United States, Bill Clinton.

He will arrive at Belfast International Airport on Airforce One from Moscow at around 8.30am this morning and be met by the Lord Lieutenant for County Antrim, Lord O'Neill, the prime minister Tony Blair, secretary of state Mo Mowlam, minister of state Paul Murphy, and the chief constable Ronnie Flanagan.

From the airport Mr Clinton will travel to Parliament Buildings Stormont where he will be met on the front steps by assembly first minister David Trimble and deputy first minister Seamus Mallon.

The Clinton party will then go inside Parliament Buildings and be greeted by presiding officer Lord Alderdice and the president is expected to sign the visitors book.

Following this there will be a number of private meetings and the president will also meet a delegation of congressmen.

In the long gallery which is on the first floor of the east wing of Parliament Buildings Mr Clinton will meet with Northern Ireland's newly elected 108 assembly members.

About an hour-and-a-half later

Mr Clinton will leave Stormont and arrive at the Waterfront Hall where he will be met by the Lord Lieutenant of Belfast, colonel James Elliot Wilson, the lord mayor of Belfast councillor David Alderdice and the Sheriff for the County Borough of Belfast councillor James Clarke.

The president is expected to have a number of private meetings and may join with representatives of the Industrial Development Board for discussions as well as having talks with senior company executives from US companies operating in Northern Ireland.

Later the president will give a keynote address at the Waterfront Hall before departing after midday for Springvale where he will be met by the vice-chancellor of the University of Ulster Lord Smith of Clifton, and the principal of the Belfast Institute of Further and Higher Education, professor Patrick Murphy.

It is understood he will meet two pupils from schools on the peaceline – Gerard Quinn, Corpus Christi College and Margaret Gibney, Mount Gilbert Community College.

Later in the afternoon Mr Clinton will travel by helicopter from Belfast City Airport and arrive at Omagh. He will drive to



Omagh leisure centre. There the prime minister and the president will meet with a large number of relatives and survivors of the Omagh tragedy.

On leaving the leisure centre the presidential cavalcade will go to Market Street where a plaque will be unveiled near to the scene of the bombing. Then at High Street wreaths will be laid at shops which lost staff in the explosion.

Mr Clinton and Mr Blair will speak with emergency workers, many of whom attended the

injured in the immediate aftermath of the attack.

Before 6pm Mr Clinton will arrive in Armagh by helicopter from Omagh and be met by the Lord Lieutenant the Earl of Caledon.

The mayor of Armagh will present city civic leaders to the president.

The president will also meet with church leaders in The Mall – the Most Rev Lord Eames (Lord Archbishop of Armagh), Most Rev Sean Brady (Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland), Rev David Kerr (President Methodist Church in Ireland), and Rev Dr John Dixon (Moderator Presbyterian Church in Ireland).

Before the president's arrival in The Mall members of the public will be entertained by a cross-community choir and folk singer Mary Black.

The president will deliver a speech at the Mall green and then fly by helicopter to Dublin.

This morning first lady Hillary Clinton will visit together with the prime minister's wife Cherie the Playboard Scheme in Belfast.

Playboard has for the past eight years undertaken research and training on the impact of violence and sectarianism in children.

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DUBLIN, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1998

No. 45,235 SPECIAL



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MS MILLENNIUM
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Bhriain to
oversee festivals
marking 2000

● FEATURES: 17



WRITE STUFF
Writers who are
bringing the
Muse to
the midlands

● MIDLANDS REPORT: 2



LEARNING
AONTAS: an
eight-page
supplement on
adult education

● SPECIAL REPORT

Economy surges ahead with current spending up 9.5%

THE economy is still booming, according to official figures issued yesterday. However, current spending has accelerated sharply to 9.5 per cent, significantly ahead of the Minister for Finance's 4 per cent target. The figures are only for one month and thus can show significant variations. There was no comment from the Department of Finance last night: **page 20**

Meehan to be flown back for trial from Holland

A Dublin man, Mr Brian Meehan, is expected to be flown back to Ireland from Holland this morning under police guard to face a charge of murdering the journalist Veronica Guerin. Mr Meehan (33), of Stanaway Road, Crumlin, was arrested in Amsterdam on October 10th last year by Dutch police: **page 9**

Health board accepts it could have been more effective: The North Western Health Board has "fully acknowledged that, had certain alternative actions been taken", it would have been effective in protecting the McColligan children from abuse by their father: **page 6**

Provos give 'Real IRA' fortnight to disband: The Provisional IRA has given the 'Real IRA' a fortnight to disband otherwise "action will be taken" against members of both the paramilitary group and the 32 County Sovereignty Movement: **page 8**



No need for monarch, says Australian: A leading Australian republican yesterday held up the President, Mrs McAleese, as evidence that his country no longer needed a British monarch as its head of state. The author Thomas Kenneally spoke after the President made three important speeches to audiences in Sydney. Australia is to decide next year whether it should become a republic and replace Queen Elizabeth with a president by the year 2001: **page 5**

Scots guardsmen released from prison: Two Scots Guardsmen convicted of murdering Mr Peter McBride (18) in 1992 have been released from prison in the North: **page 8**

Smurfit says recovery deferred: Jefferson Smurfit

Anti-terror Bill to be signed into law before midnight

Dail and Commons in
speedy joint moves

By Geraldine Kennedy, in
Dublin, and Rachel Donnelly,
in London

THE Presidential Commission has been put on standby to sign the Offences Against the State (Amendment) Bill into law at Aras an Uachtaráin tonight.

The Government has put the commission on notice that it is proposing an early signature motion for the Bill to give immediate effect to the new measures to combat paramilitary activity in the wake of the Omagh atrocity. All stages of the Bill will be passed by the Seanad today.

This move for an early signature will enable pardal to use what the Taoiseach described yesterday as

INSIDE
Provisionals tell 'Real IRA' to disband; Trimble to consult party on meeting with Adams: **page 10**

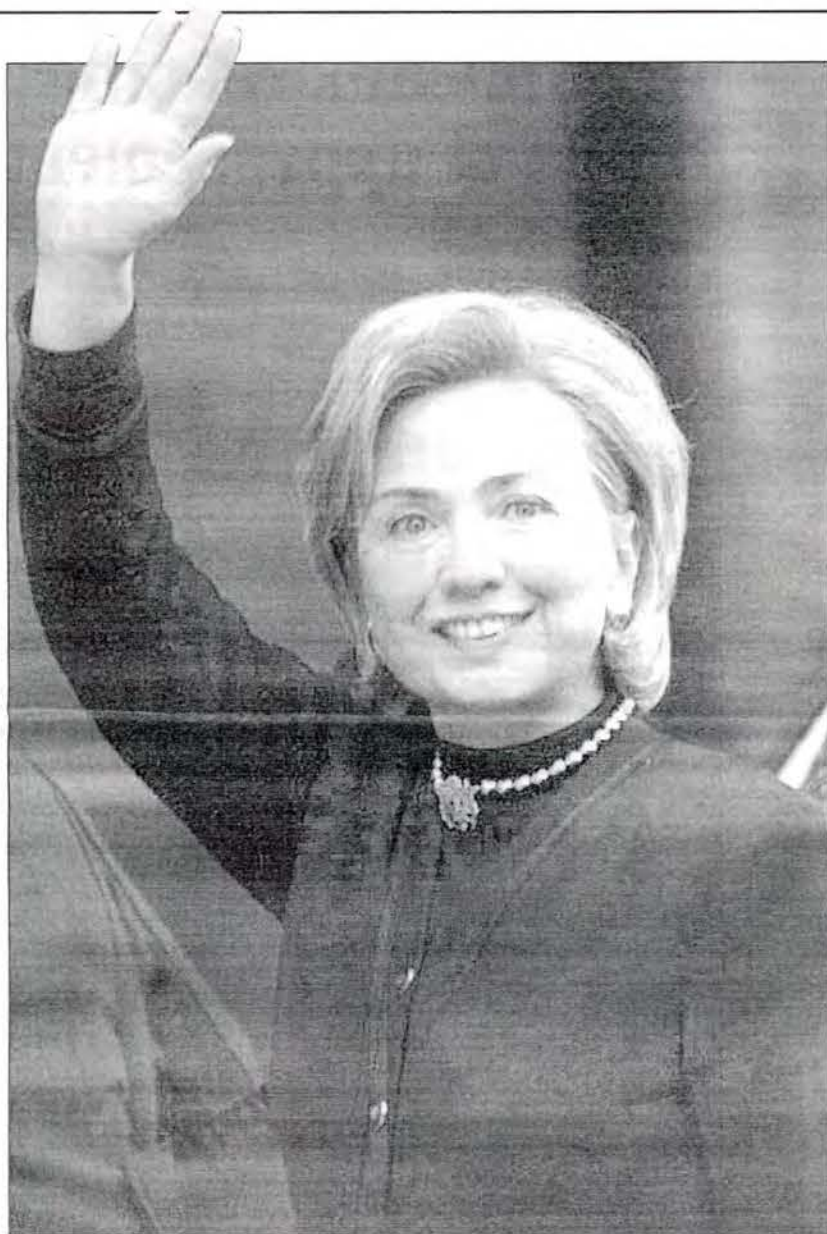
Clinton to bring strong message to North: **page 11**
Clinton's efforts still vital in push for NI peace - **page 12**
Mary Holland: **page 18**
Dail and Commons debates: **pages 10-13**

The Offences Against the State (Amendment) Bill had an easy passage through the Dail which was recalled in emergency session

A wave from the First Lady outside the Waterfront Hall



Mrs Hillary Clinton waves to onlookers outside the Waterfront Hall, Belfast, yesterday when she arrived to give a keynote address to a Women in Democracy conference. Photograph: Ben Curtis/PA. Report: **page 9**



WAVE OF SUPPORT: First Lady Hillary Clinton greets the audience at Belfast's Waterfront Hall yesterday

TRAFFIC UPDATE

TRAFFIC disruptions are expected in the Province as a result of President Clinton's visit. Motorists are advised to time their journeys to arrive in Belfast before 7.45am or between 9.30am and 10.30am.

Most routes will be congested between 8am and 3pm and police have advised motorists to seek alternative routes around the city. People travelling to Belfast International Airport, Belfast City Airport and Belfast ferry terminals should expect their journeys to take longer than usual.

Police have issued traffic helpline numbers for Belfast, Omagh and Armagh but have asked the public to note the following:

● International Airport to Stormont: The M2 motorway city-bound and the Sydenham bypass, country-bound will be closed between approximately 8.30 and 9.55am.

Traffic will be permitted in the opposite direction on country-bound M2 motorway, city-bound on the Sydenham bypass.

Parking: Hawthornside Way and 14th Upper Newtownards Road from the Prince of Wales gates to the Knock Road will be closed in both directions from approximately 8.30 to 9.55am.

● Stormont to Waterfront Hall: The following route will be closed between 10.50 and 11.20am:

Prince of Wales Avenue, Newtownards Road, Hawthornside Way, Belmont Road roundabout, Parkway, Hollywood Road, Sydenham Bypass, Bridge End, Short Strand, Albert Bridge, East Bridge Street, Oxford Street, Waterfront Hall.

Travel will be permitted country-bound on Sydenham bypass.

● Waterfront Hall to Springfield: The following route will be closed between 12.45 and 1.15pm:

Oxford Street, May Street, Howard Street, Grosvenor Road, Springfield Road, Springfield Campus. The Springfield Road from its junction with Larnach Way to its junction with the West Circular Road will be closed in both directions from 8am - 2.25pm.

● Springfield Campus to City Airport - the following route will be closed between 2pm and 2.30pm:

Springfield Road, Grosvenor Road, Westlink (East), Wink Link, M2 from Sandydowns interchange, M5, Lagan Bridge (M3), Sydenham bypass to city airport. Travel will be permitted westbound on Westlink and city-bound on Sydenham bypass.

● Due to a number of early morning closures, a number of roads to and from Belfast International Airport will be affected between 8am and 8am. People travelling to the International Airport are advised to allow additional time for their journey.

A3 Portadown Road - parking facilities available at Castledillon, Hawthornside road, Newry Road, Healy Road, Monaghan Road, Killylea Road - parking facilities available at Tullymore Park, Cathedral Road - signs to direct traffic onto Killylea Road parking area, Moy Road.

Designated disabled parking facilities are available at Lonsdale Road and Lower English Street.

Mail east-west - traffic on Mail East/West will be restricted from 7am (North End).

Greater Belfast Helpline: Tel: 01222 570002.

TRAFFIC is likely to be disrupted in Omagh town centre between 11am and 7pm. While delays will be kept to a minimum, drivers should allow extra time for their journeys, and diversions will be sign-posted.

Omagh Helpline: Tel: 01862 246177.

A NUMBER of streets in Armagh city centre will be closed to all traffic from 4pm onwards.

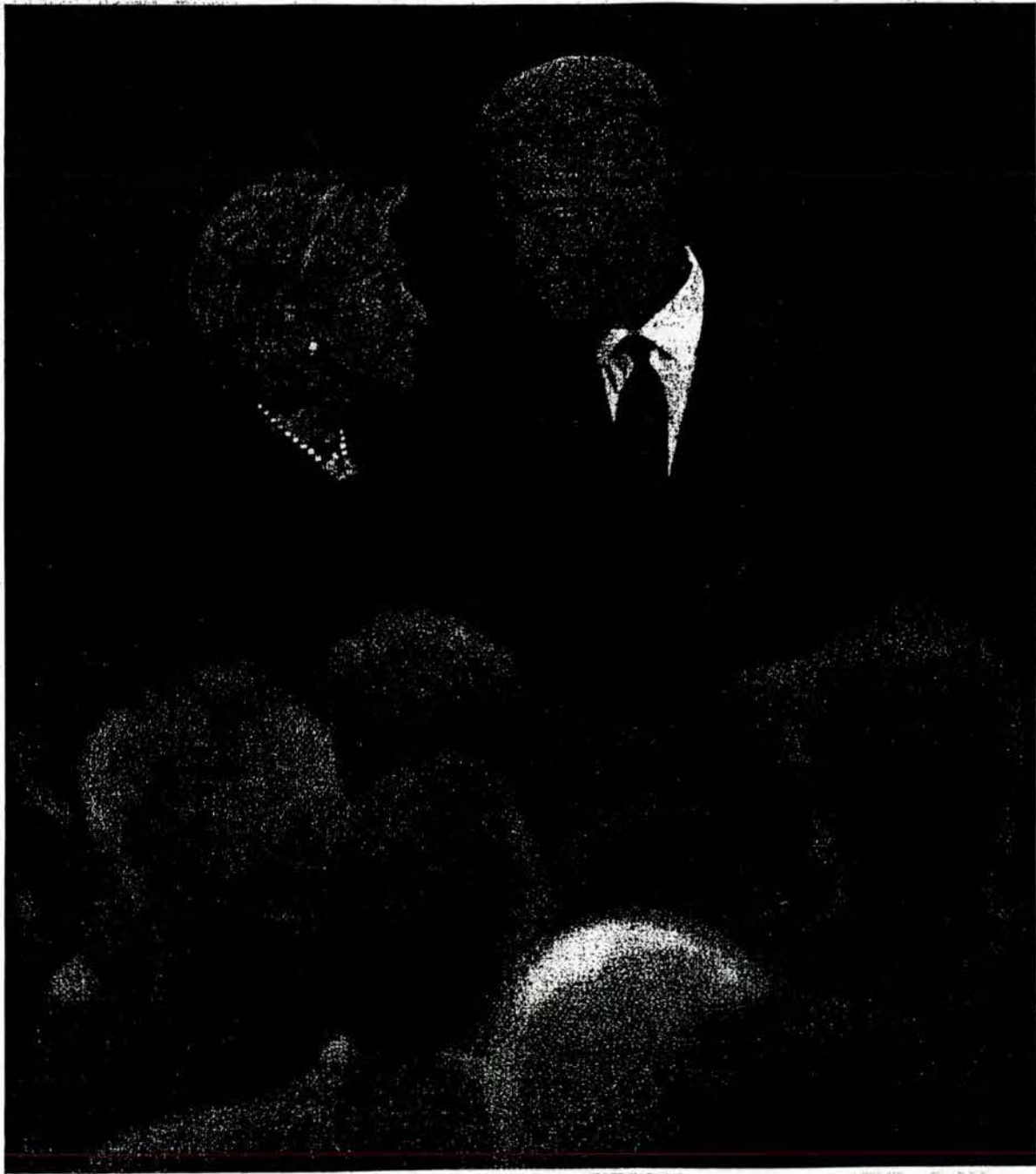
Diversions routes will be sign-posted throughout the day and access to Armagh city centre will be restricted. However, out-of-town car parking and free bus shuttle services have been arranged from 4pm onwards on the following approach roads to Armagh only for those intending to visit the event. Armagh helpline: 0181 521603.

Irish News
9/3/1988

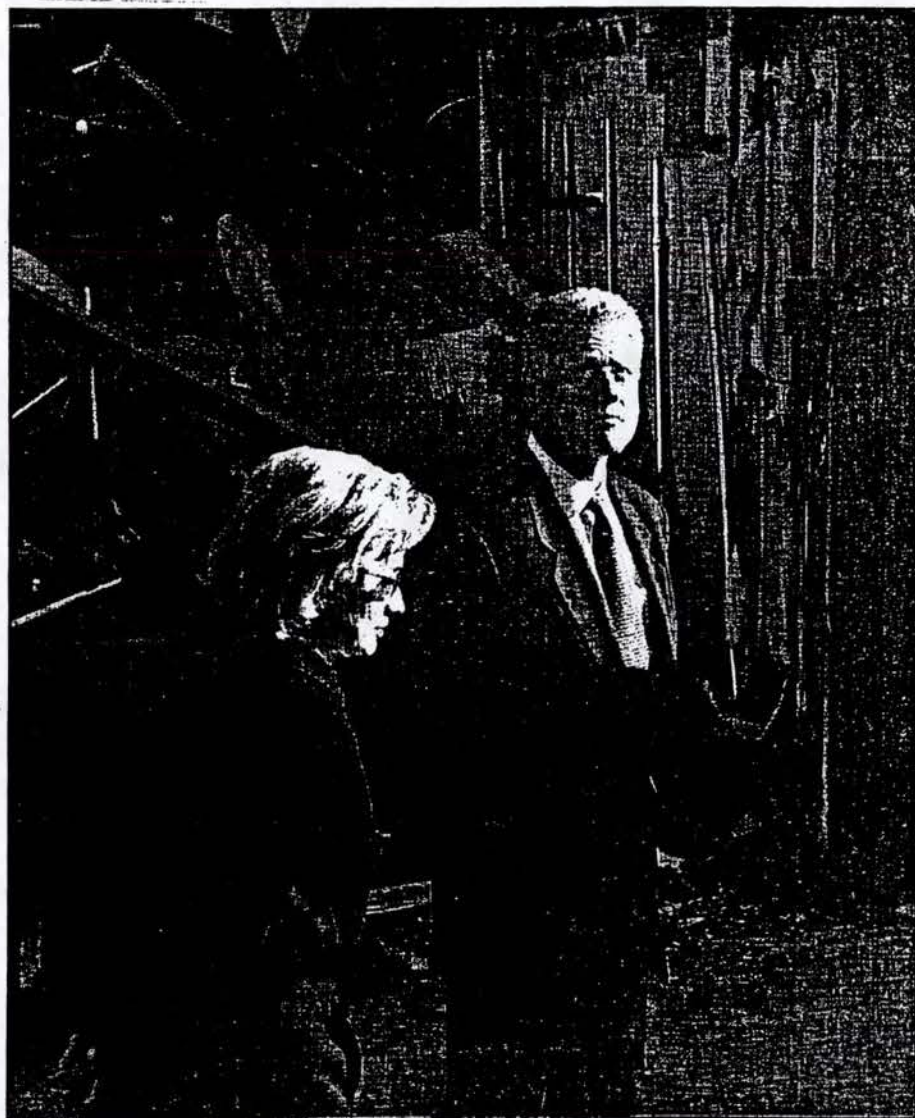
HRC Clips



Russia & Ireland Press Clips
Tuesday, September 1, 1998-
Saturday, September 5, 1998



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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1998
PAGE 9



AP Photo

Newsday

NEWSDAY, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1998



Reuters

The Washington Times

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1998 / PAGE A15



THE WASHINGTON POST

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1998 A33



First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton signs autographs for Catholic and Protestant children after opening a playground in Belfast yesterday. Reuters

First lady inaugurates playground in Belfast, doesn't discuss scandal

BELFAST (AP) — Hillary Rodham Clinton, opening a playground for Northern Ireland's youngest — but no less divided — generation, said students here and in the United States are learning difficult lessons about dealing with violence.

"In America, we have many children who, like children of Northern Ireland, also have seen friends and relatives gunned down because of gang wars or drug problems," Mrs. Clinton said yesterday, speaking to Protestant and Catholic students seated in the grassy field. "So they, too, need to learn from what has been done here in Northern Ireland in dealing with the problems of violence."

Mrs. Clinton and Cherie Blair, wife of British Prime Minister Tony Blair, embraced each other

amid the crowd of children from a Catholic elementary school and from a state school whose students are predominantly Protestant.

The new playground along the River Lagan in Belfast's largely affluent and green south side will be used to bring different school groups together.

Since arriving in Northern Ireland on Wednesday ahead of her husband, Mrs. Clinton hasn't commented on personal strains caused by the Monica Lewinsky scandal — a fact noted on a front-page headline of a newspaper President Clinton was handed at the airport today when he arrived.

"Hillary avoids state of Clinton union," said the Independent.

The first ladies' club

■ **Women:** Mrs. Clinton and Mrs. Yeltsin have common issues despite their vastly different backgrounds.

By KATHY LALLY
SUN FOREIGN STAFF

MOSCOW — One endures endless gossip about a philandering husband. The other puts up with constant and nasty speculation about her husband's drinking. One is a tough-minded lawyer, the other a grandmother who boasts about her homemade dumplings.

They grew up in different generations, a world apart, in cultures with wildly conflicting ideas about gender. And yet, Hillary Rodham Clinton and Naina Yeltsin insisted yesterday, they are profoundly alike. They are both women with the same kinds of cares. The two first ladies had their own summit yesterday, while the men were off giving speeches and not solving the problems of the world. Theirs was a panel discussion called "Russian Women on the Threshold of



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Summit: Hillary Rodham Clinton (left) and Naina Yeltsin discuss women and family in a conference in Moscow.

the 21st Century."

The meeting, held in a small auditorium before an audience of several hundred charmed women, began with talk of kids and dogs and favorite recipes — this is Russia, where women are expected to cherish the traditional values, and the sponsor was the magazine *Domashny Ochag*, Home's Hearth (the Russian version of *Good Housekeeping*).

The magazine's editor, Yekaterina Stupakova, introduced Yeltsin as a grandmother and mother of two daughters. She introduced Clinton as the mother of a 19-year-old daughter. And she introduced the other six panelists as doctors, lawyers, government officials, advocates for children and abused women — but especially as mothers.

One [See Wives, 5F]

U.S. and Russian first ladies find common ground

[Wives, from Page 1F]

panelist quickly asked Clinton how she spent time with her daughter. Did she cook with her?

"There are so many ways mothers and daughters spend time together," Clinton said, mentioning sports, travel, discussing movies and, yes, even cooking. "We cook together. Not well, I might add."

What worries her, she said, is that in today's busy world, time spent at home with children has become threatened, and children aren't getting the love and attention and discipline they need.

"What do you cook together?" Stupakova persisted.

"I thought I said enough," Clinton said pleasantly, repeating she doesn't cook well. But she obliged with an anecdote about how she always cooked homemade applesauce for her daughter when she didn't feel well. Shortly after the family moved into the White House, such an occasion arose, and Clinton began searching for

the proper pots and pans.

"You would think I had asked for the nuclear code," she said. Aides went about, saying meaningfully, "She wants to cook." Clinton finally succeeded in making the applesauce, but decided there was too much heat in that particular kitchen. "There are a lot of people whose jobs depend on me not cooking," she said.

Clinton-watchers, who have been scrutinizing the first lady's body language for clues to her feelings toward her husband, will want to know this: "We just got back from a vacation where we were able to cook for ourselves," she said.

Naina Yeltsin spoke enthusiastically about cooking *pelmeni*, the dumpling-like and hugely labor-intensive national dish. "I never use mechanical devices," Yeltsin said. "Sometimes we do thousands. My children and grandchildren love to eat what I cook. My family loves the product of my own hands."

Stupakova, a striking businesswoman, said she hoped she could get the recipe.

Domestic violence

Marina Pisklakova, director of a women's crisis center in Moscow, made a heartfelt plea on behalf of the women here and around the world who suffer from domestic violence, an issue that was hushed up during the Soviet years.

And, according to the official line, women were not discriminated against either. They were expected to work just like men — though they never had equal representation in the Kremlin or elsewhere among the elite. "You should not keep silent," Pisklakova told the audience. "Each of us personally should feel responsible for helping his neighbor."

Yeltsin said that as far as she knew, domestic violence and discrimination were something new, brought on by the pressures associated with the transition to a new way of life.

"We never heard about discrimination, as far as I remember," she said. "I worked equally with men. Now I know life has become more difficult. Now I know the salaries of women are lower."

The law doesn't offer them sufficient protection, she said, and they're unfairly burdened, expected to do all the work at home and have jobs outside the home as well.

"A woman is like a vase of the finest crystal," Yeltsin said. "We should protect it so that it doesn't crack."

Then the conversation began to head where Clinton had been diplomatically nudging it.

"I think many American women have the same difficulties combining work outside the family and work inside the family that women in Russia do," Clinton said.

"We are working to increase the supply of quality, affordable child care," she said, among other efforts to give women the support they need so they can make deci-

sions in their life that are best for them.

"We should support each other and do more to help each other," she said. "In effect, most women are holding down two full-time jobs, one they get paid for and one they do for love."

Influence with husbands

Here in Russia, the Yeltsin family has been under attack from critics who say that the financial oligarchs who pull strings from the shadows manipulate President Yeltsin through friendships with his family.

"No," Naina Yeltsin said firmly, "he has never listened to my advice. They say on television the president listens to his family too much. But he doesn't. Only an expert in diplomatic science could give him advice he will listen to. He's a difficult man to deal with."

Hillary Clinton said her husband gets advice from a wide range of people, so it's impossible to say he takes the advice of any one person.

"My husband and I have worked together, I guess about 27 years," she said, ever since law school. They've spent a lot of time on the same projects, she said.

"We talk together constantly," she said. "Of course, given the position he's in, the ultimate decision is his."

Then someone wanted to know about the Clinton dog. Hillary Clinton quoted Harry Truman: "If you want a friend in Washington, get a dog."

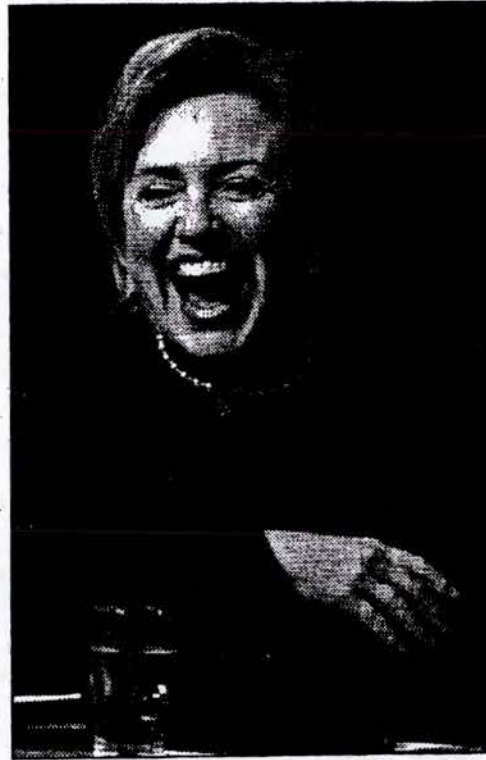
She nudged the conversation once more, going on to announce a series of programs America will sponsor here, setting up 10 law clinics, training judges in handling domestic violence cases, expanding Junior Achievement programs.

The women in the audience loved it.

"I like Hillary Clinton very much," said Galina Alexandrova, a 45-year-old bookkeeper. "We have the same problems. Her support is very important to us. Talking about dogs, children, discrimination... It's our real life."

Yekaterina Bashina, a 26-year-old financial analyst, agreed.

"You can't solve all the world's problems in one hour," she said.



Reuters photo

Chicago Tribune

PAGE 6, SECTION 1

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1998

Hillary Clinton lauds women's role in Ulster pact, urges more work

By John O'Farrell
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

BELFAST — Arriving in Northern Ireland a day ahead of her husband, Hillary Rodham Clinton yesterday praised women for leading the divided island toward peace and urged greater involvement to solidify

democracy here.

Receiving a rapturous reception from women leaders in politics, business and community groups, Clinton traced the roles of many women in creating last spring's Good Friday peace agreement. They included Mo Mowlam, the British Cabinet minister responsible for Northern Ire-

land, and Joyce McCartan, the peace campaigner and "family feminist" who hosted the First Lady when she visited Northern Ireland in November 1995.

"It was women whose whispers of 'enough' became a torrent of voices that could no longer be ignored," the first lady told 600 female activists, community workers, and politicians at a conference yesterday.

"It is up to you, the women of Northern Ireland, speaking out whenever injustice arises, to point out opportunities, to face up to challenges, and to speak for those who are still voiceless," she said.

Speaking in Belfast's Waterfront Hall, a luxury development that would have been unthinkable during Northern Ireland's three decades of conflict, Clinton brought together not only grass-roots Protestant and Catholic activists, but once-deadly political opponents — virtually all of them men.

Sitting in the front row of one balcony were Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness and Pat Doherty, leaders of Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army's political wing.

Behind them sat members of the Ulster Unionists, the major Protestant party that also backs the compromise accord, signed in April, on how Northern Ireland should be governed — but refuses to talk directly with Sinn Fein.

Referring to last month's bombing in Omagh, in which 28 people

ing in Omagh, in which 28 people were killed, Clinton spoke of the "enemies of peace" behind the attack - and noted that many of the victims were women and children out shopping.

Today, she and President Clinton are scheduled to meet in Omagh with many of those injured in the blast as well as relatives of the dead.

Referring to the Good Friday agreement, she said: "We have chosen democracy, not division. We will only move forward, and America will stand with you."

The first lady's speech closed a three-day conference titled "Vital Voices: Women in Democracy," a State Department initiative launched by US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to promote women as a US foreign policy objective.

Clinton also paid tribute to the 14 women elected to the Northern Ireland Assembly, calling that representation a good start. She argued that, on the 50th anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, some "basic goals" had to be fought for - education, health care, and loans and credit for business ventures.

She announced that \$2 million had been committed by US "business partners" at the conference to local women for developing business and community projects.

Geraldine McAteer, who directs the Springvale development in west Belfast that the Clintons are expected to visit today, was "very impressed" by both the content of the speech and Clinton's grasp of the complicated politics of Northern Ireland.

"Now it's up to us to make it happen," McAteer said.

The Progressive Unionist Party, which has links to the paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force, called Clinton "a role model for all of our women," who "highlighted the fact that women in Northern Ireland had been brushed aside for too long."

Roisin McDonagh, chairwoman of the cross-community Ulster People's Collage, hailed Clinton as "a powerful deliverer," who had "a huge presence" and "commands respect among all women."

From south of the border, Noreen Byrne, chairwoman of the National Women's Council, praised the "inspiring, intelligent, forward-looking" speech by a "great feminist."

Although Clinton was obviously a hit among local women, it is not that surprising. Fourteen women were elected to the Assembly, but there are 108 members in all. There are no women among the 18 Members of the Parliament at Westminster.

The last woman member, Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, lost her seat in 1974. Given such statistics, it is not surprising that the women of Northern Ireland who have managed a small part of the pie should so admire what may be the world's most powerful woman.



THE NEWS LETTER
ULSTER EDITION
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1998
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POISED: Hillary Clinton speaking at the Women in Democracy Conference at the Waterfront Hall yesterday

Hillary takes the stage to win women's hearts

HILLARY Clinton has Belfast City Hall in the palm of her hand last night when she admitted: "For the first time I take my knees. I can find no more back to Northern Ireland."

Three hundreds of women from the Vital Voices Conference were instantly recognisable by the souvenir blue shoulder bags they proudly clutched as they entered the Great Hall where politicians had already made some headway on the wine and nibbles.

Martin McGuinness looked at most dapper in his new gold-rimmed spectacles as he tapped his toe to the raucous jazz band. But he was a mere bystander though as the female dominated crowd surged towards the stage to welcome the First Lady.

There was applause too for Lord Mayor David Alderdice when he echoed a familiar catch phrase saying events over the past few days suggested the worst may now be "over, done with and gone".

With a noticeable spring in her step Hillary Clinton strode to the podium and told the crowd: "I feel uplifted and energised by the courageous men and women with whom I have met."

People around the world have told the First Lady how much they admire the difficult steps towards peace being taken in Ulster.

By LARA BRADLEY

She said: "They are looking and hoping and praying and trusting that what you have set in motion will be realised because if it is they too can hear that they too can move beyond whatever divided them and become stronger together in the future than they ever could have separate in the past."

"What you are doing puts you definitely on the right side of history and many of us will be there cheering you on and supporting you. Thank you for the example of your courage and hope."

Dr Mo Mowlam accompanied the First Lady onto the stage but did not address the crowd. Flanked by the President's men, Hillary took time to shake as many of the outstretched hands as possible.

The consensus of opinion among the audience was that Hillary is a genuine and gracious woman who is blessed with impressive presentation and people skills.

The First Lady made her exit and the jazz band struck up again with gusto. As at all the best functions, a couple of the women began to dance together, fired by the elation of shaking hands with the world's most famous woman.

Thursday, September 3, 1998

First Lady keeps her cool in face of snap crazy admirers

By MARTINA DEVLIN

WHO would have guessed that the day's pitfall for Hillary Clinton lay after her speech was safely delivered and the standing ovations graciously acknowledged?

And it was a literal pitfall at that. For campaign worker Nancy Gracey was so determined to have her photo taken with the First Lady that she came close to pulling her off the stage.

A posse of twitchy secret service minders watched in horror as Nancy gripped Hillary by the hand and nearly brought her toppling into a sea of admirers.

But the Leader of the Free World's wife showed the sort of presence of mind that must come in useful at camera-happy election rallies.

She recovered her balance and crouched down on stage at Belfast's Waterfront Hall so that her head was virtually level with Nancy's, five feet below.

DAZZLING SMILE

Then she flashed a dazzling smile, a grin which belied her gravity-defying contortions, and Nancy had her photograph.

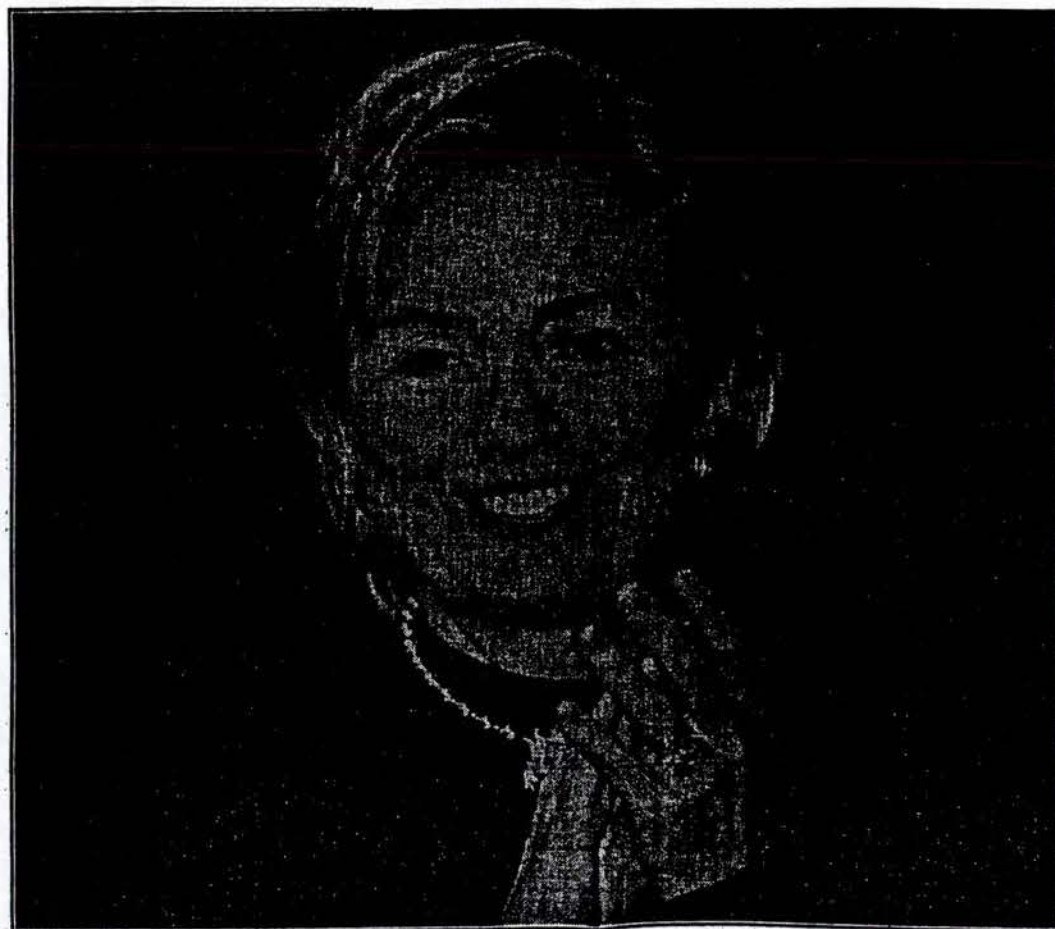
The American agents weren't long hustling Hillary away after that, however. Never mind snipers or crazies, their charge was in danger of being adored to death.

But Hillary seems moved by the warmth of her welcome — she lingered after her speech as people strained upwards to shake her hand.

Nancy, from Downpatrick, even managed to press a Tyrone Crystal shamrock on her which Hillary opened and admired before passing it on to an aide.

"I'm a pushy little devil," admitted Nancy, "I'm surprised the secret service men didn't shove me away."

"I'm a great fan of hers — she has her problems and still she takes the time to come here."



© America's First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton smiles and applauds with enthusiasm while attending the "Vital Voices Women in Democracy" conference in the Waterfront Hall, Belfast last night.

Irish Independent

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THE  SUN

Thursday, September 3, 1998 :

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Hillary praises the vital role of women in the peace process

By Suzanne Breen,
in Belfast

MRS Hillary Rodham Clinton has said the peace process in Northern Ireland would have been impossible without the courage and strength of women.

She was addressing the Women in Democracy conference at a packed Waterfront Hall in Belfast yesterday. She looked relaxed as she delivered a keynote address on women's rights and achievements.

It was her first public speech since her husband admitted his "inappropriate" relationship with Ms Monica Lewinsky. It was delivered in a cool, professional style.

Mrs Clinton did not refer to the scandal and showed no signs of strain. Looking confident and elegant in a navy suit, she received a standing ovation.

Those present included the wife of the First Minister, Mrs Daphne Trimble; the RUC Chief Constable, Mr Ronnie Flanagan; the Sinn Féin leaders, Mr Gerry Adams, Mr Martin McGuinness and Mr Pat Doherty; Ulster Unionist representatives Mr Jim Wilson and Mr Peter Weir; the US ambassador to Ireland, Mrs Jean Kennedy Smith; and the chief executive of the Northern Ireland Fair Employment Commission, Mr Bob Cooper.

Mrs Clinton said women's voices could not be ignored. "If you listen you can hear the voices of women who withstood jeers

and threats to make themselves heard in the political world once reserved primarily for men."

She praised the Northern Secretary, Dr Mo Mowlam, for her "vision and dedication". She said the role of women in the search for peace in Northern Ireland could not be ignored and she paid a warm tribute to all those involved.

"None of this would have been possible were it not for the courage and strength of generations of women."

She expressed optimism about the future and promised that the US would continue to do all it could to support the North and the peace process. "You will only move forward, and as you do please know that America will stand with you."

She said women's voices must be heard in the new Northern Ireland, "a Northern Ireland people have lived for, died for and, yes, finally voted for".

In one of her few references to her husband, Mrs Clinton spoke about their joint visit to Omagh, Co Tyrone, today. "When my husband and I visit Omagh, we will pay tribute to those who were murdered by the enemies of peace."

"They were mostly women and children, Catholic and Protestant, unionist and nationalist, young and old. They were people simply living their lives, working in a drapery store, hanging out with friends, buying school uniforms for their children."

"The terrorists targeted the people of Northern Ireland, and in response it was the people, all the people, who bravely stood side by side to say hatred and violence will no longer have a place here."

"We have chosen ballots not bombs, democracy not division. We have resolved to live in peace. We will never go back. We will only go forward."

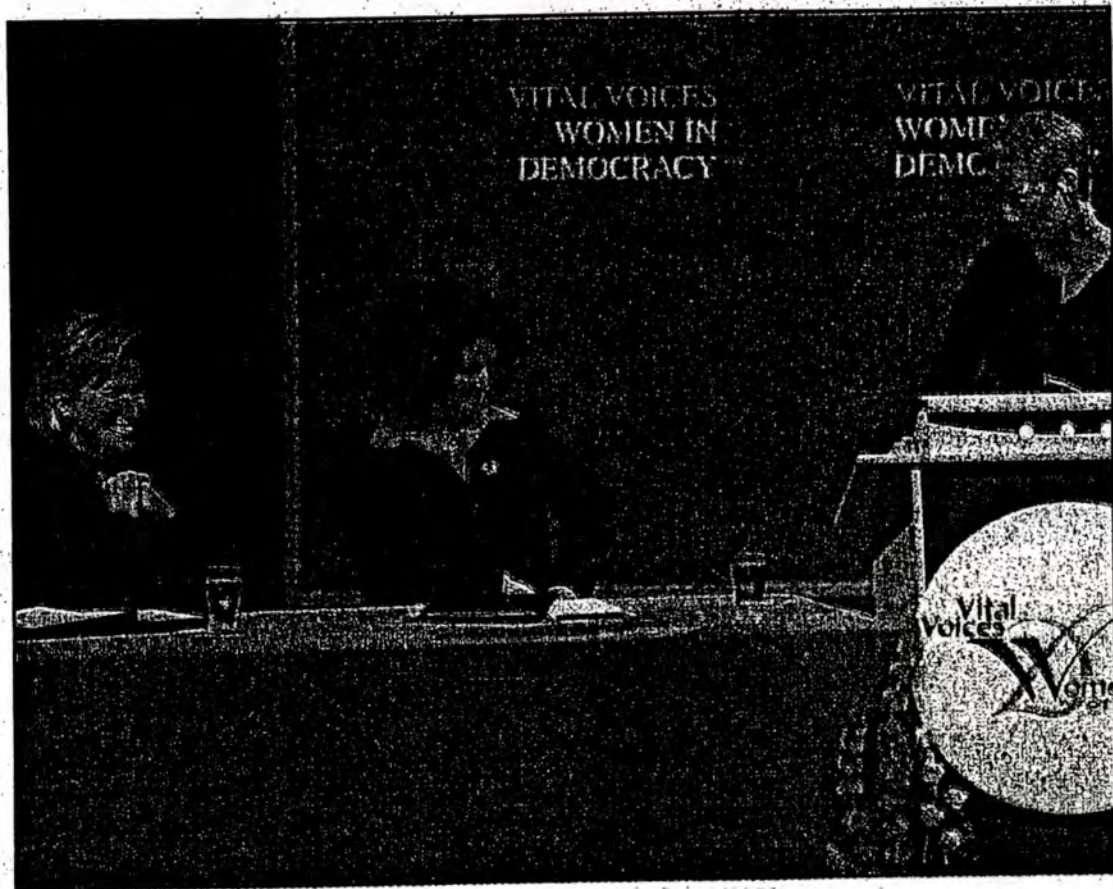
She said the last few months had shown that the road to peace was not easy, but she had no doubt that the bombs and terrorists would not prevail.

She expressed delight when she was praised by a Derry student, Ms Fiona Hughes, who introduced her as a "role model to me and to young women around the world".

There was no opportunity for journalists to interview Mrs Clinton, although the media scrutinised her every gesture for signs of stress. She did not seem concerned and smiled broadly.

As she arrived at the conference, she turned and waved to photographers and reporters who had gathered, and shouted: "Hello". She told her audience she was delighted to be back in Belfast.

Mrs Clinton said it was important that people shared ideas to transform their hopes for peace into reality. The new state-of-the-art Waterfront Hall symbolised everything wonderful that was happening in Northern Ireland.



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Relaxed first lady shows she's no fashion victim

AS Hillary Clinton flew in from Moscow over the healing landscape of Northern Ireland she thought to herself: "This is the most beautiful place on God's Earth."

She shared that personal thought with the large audience gathered to hear her in Belfast.

The First Lady arrived a little later than expected at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast where hundreds of women and fewer men

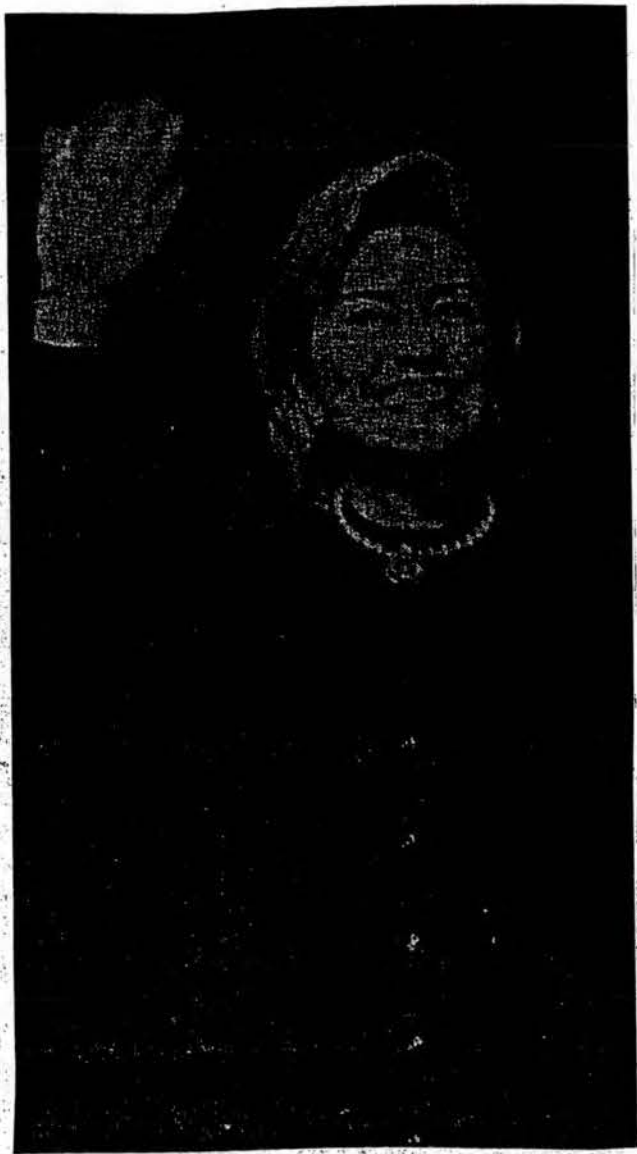
By KATHLEEN O'CALLAGHAN

awaited her presence at the Vital Voice conference.

Hillary was greeted with a warm and welcoming standing ovation. She looked relaxed and comfortable in a designer French-navy, three-piece ensemble. The outfit comprised of a Chanel-style cardigan with gold buttons on the pocket worn over a

sleeveless, fine-knit top and matching shapely trousers.

Her blonde hair which has seen so many changes has now found its signature style that hasn't changed despite the recent personal traumas. The sleek style is parted to the side and swept behind the ears. In a conference stressing the importance of female confidence, power and progress she was the picture of self-esteem and composure.



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Radiant First Lady Hillary gets a standing ovation

A RELAXED and smiling Hillary Clinton delivered a keynote speech to hundreds of women in Belfast last night and showed no sign of any strain.

Mrs Clinton spoke for 40 minutes about the rights and achievements of women and afterwards received a standing ovation from the 450-strong audience in the Waterfront Hall.

It was Mrs Clinton's first speech since her husband admitted his "inappropriate" relationship with Monica Lewinsky and it was delivered in a strong, unfaltering style.

Poised and relaxed in a smart blue

trouser suit, she told the Women in Democracy Conference that it was women's voices which could not be ignored.

"If you listen you can hear the voices of women who withstood jeers and threats to make themselves heard in a political world once reserved primarily for men."

With intense interest focused on the scandal surrounding her husband, the First Lady's every gesture was being scrutinised.

But if she has her troubles, she was keeping them to herself in Belfast - her smile never wavered, her composure never faltered.

By MARTINA DEVLIN

She radiated confidence, she radiated serenity, she radiated a woman who's just had her blonde bob styled to within an inch of its life and who knows she's looking good.

Hillary mentioned the H-word - "my husband" - three times. Completely straight-faced each time.

And as First Ladies go, she was positively presidential, which was the consensus among delegates at the conference.

"She could be president herself - in fact she should be," said one woman.

Hillary's entourage certainly sneaked

VIP. Five motorbike outriders signalled her arrival, followed by a cavalcade of cars.

Security men were tripping over themselves to open the door of her stretch limousine. "How many people does it take to help one woman out of a car?" wondered a watcher.

Indoors at the Waterfront, the audience was overwhelmingly female and male politicians stood out like sore thumbs among the power-dressed women.

"The last time I was in such female dominated company was at the maternity ward," said ex-Belfast Lord Mayor, Alban Maginness. And that's a place he

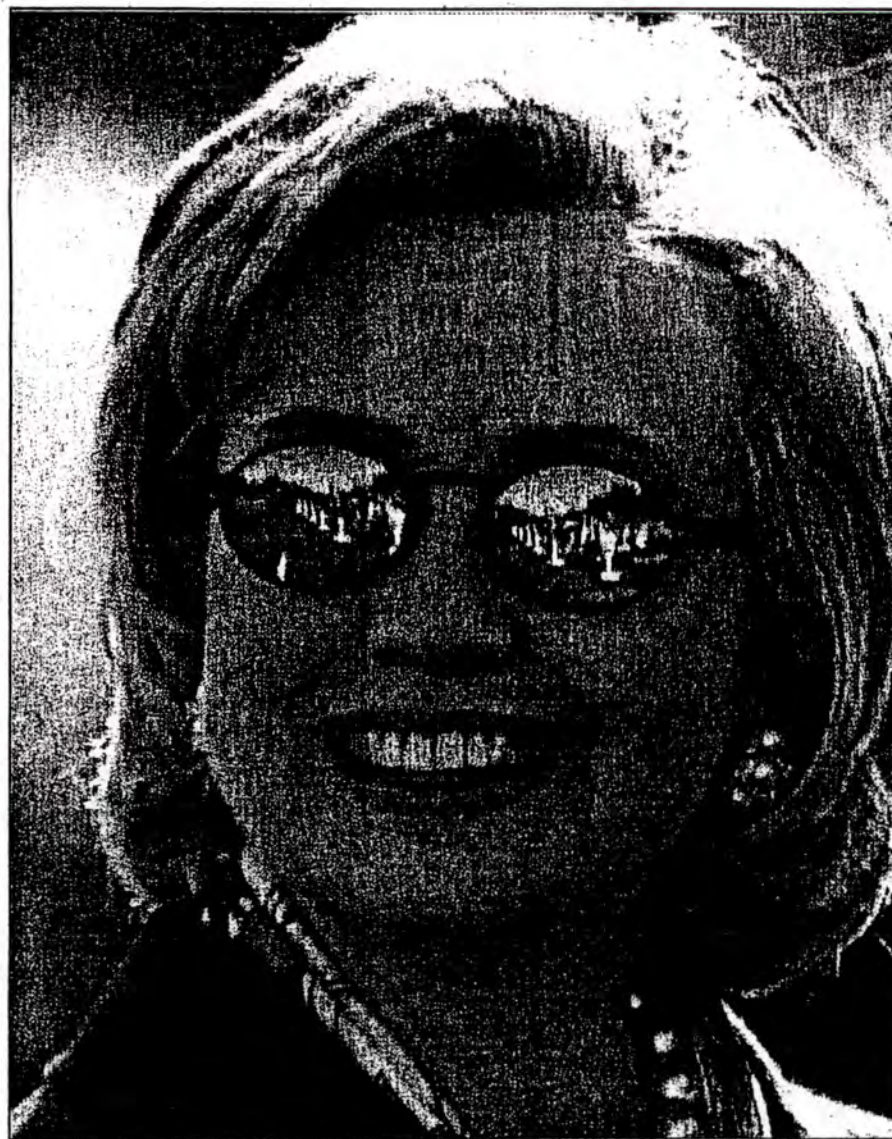
has visited eight times with his wife.

"It's intimidating", admitted UDP leader Gary McMichael, looking around the room in a break from signing autographs for schoolgirls. Then he realised this could be misconstrued and hastily added that there should be more women in politics.

But Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness claimed he was used to being surrounded by females because there were so many in his party. "We're very progressive," he said with a twinkle. Or it could have been the reflection of so much jewellery in the room.

Mrs Clinton drew cheers when she

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Clintons expect peaceful visit to Ireland

By Richard Willing
and Mimi Hall
USA TODAY

President Clinton, tossed like a cork in a sea of world and personal problems, arrives today in Northern Ireland, of all places, for a welcome respite.

Clinton's welcome, while more subdued than the outpouring of warmth that greeted him when he visited in December 1995, is likely to be friendly and free of references to the falling ruble, fallen interns and other problems that recently have beset him.

"He deserves to be greeted as the best friend this province has ever found outside these islands," said the *Belfast Telegraph*, in an editorial prepared for the eve of Clinton's arrival.

Both Catholic and Protestant politicians in the divided province credit Clinton with applying the political and economic pressure that has brought both sides close to forming a power-sharing government.

"He steered a middle course; we owe him a lot," said

Malachi Curran, a pub owner of Catholic and Protestant descent who helped negotiate the power-sharing agreement last April. A coalition government based on the agreement is scheduled to begin meeting this month.

Clinton arrives on the heels of good news that he helped create. On Wednesday, David Trimble, chief officer of the new government and leader of the largest Protestant party, issued an unprecedented invitation to Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams to join talks aimed at organizing the government.

Adams, whose party is affiliated with the Irish Republican Army, had been cut out of previous face-to-face meetings because of Trimble's objections to Adams' IRA connection.

A day earlier, Adams had denounced political violence as a "thing of the past, over, done with and gone."



Clinton: On third visit to N. Ireland

Clinton is scheduled to meet with Trimble, deputy chief officer Seamus Mallon and British prime minister Tony Blair. He'll give speeches to Northern Ireland's new governmental assembly, elected after the April accord, to a citizens' group in Belfast and to reconciliation workers in Armagh.

Arriving a day ahead of her husband, Hillary Rodham Clinton on Wednesday called Northern Ireland's women a quiet catalyst for the Belfast peace agreement but said they must play a bigger role in politics for real reconciliation to take root.

"It was women whose whippers of 'Enough!' became a torrent of voices that could no longer be ignored," she told 600 women's activists, community workers and politicians at a conference called *Vital Voices: Women in Democracy*.

"It is up to you, the women of Northern Ireland, speaking out whenever injustice arises, to point out opportunities, to face up to challenges and to speak for those who are still voiceless," she said.

After her speech, Hillary Clinton attended a reception in her honor in Belfast City Hall along with the outgoing U.S. ambassador to Ireland, Jean Kennedy Smith.

She was staying overnight at Hillsborough Castle southwest of Belfast as a guest of Mo Mowlam, Britain's first female secretary of State for Northern Ireland.

Today, the first lady planned to open a playground for Protestant and Catholic children in an underprivileged part of Belfast, then appear with her husband for his keynote speech.

The Clintons will also help dedicate a memorial to 28 people killed in Omagh on Aug. 15 by a renegade element of the IRA. The first lady said the visit would be to "pay tribute to those who were murdered by the enemies of peace."



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NEWS LETTER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1998

ULSTER EDITION

President flies in to honour victims of Omagh atrocity

CLINTON TRIBUTE



EMOTIONAL VISIT: President Bill Clinton

PRESIDENT Bill Clinton will pay his own personal tribute to the people of Omagh when he visits the shattered town this afternoon.

On what is certain to be an emotional occasion, the President and his wife Hillary will meet survivors of the blast and the families of those murdered when the 500lb bomb tore through the centre of the town nearly three weeks ago.

It is understood Mr Clinton will unveil a plaque to the bomb victims and meet members of the emergency services who battled to rescue survivors.

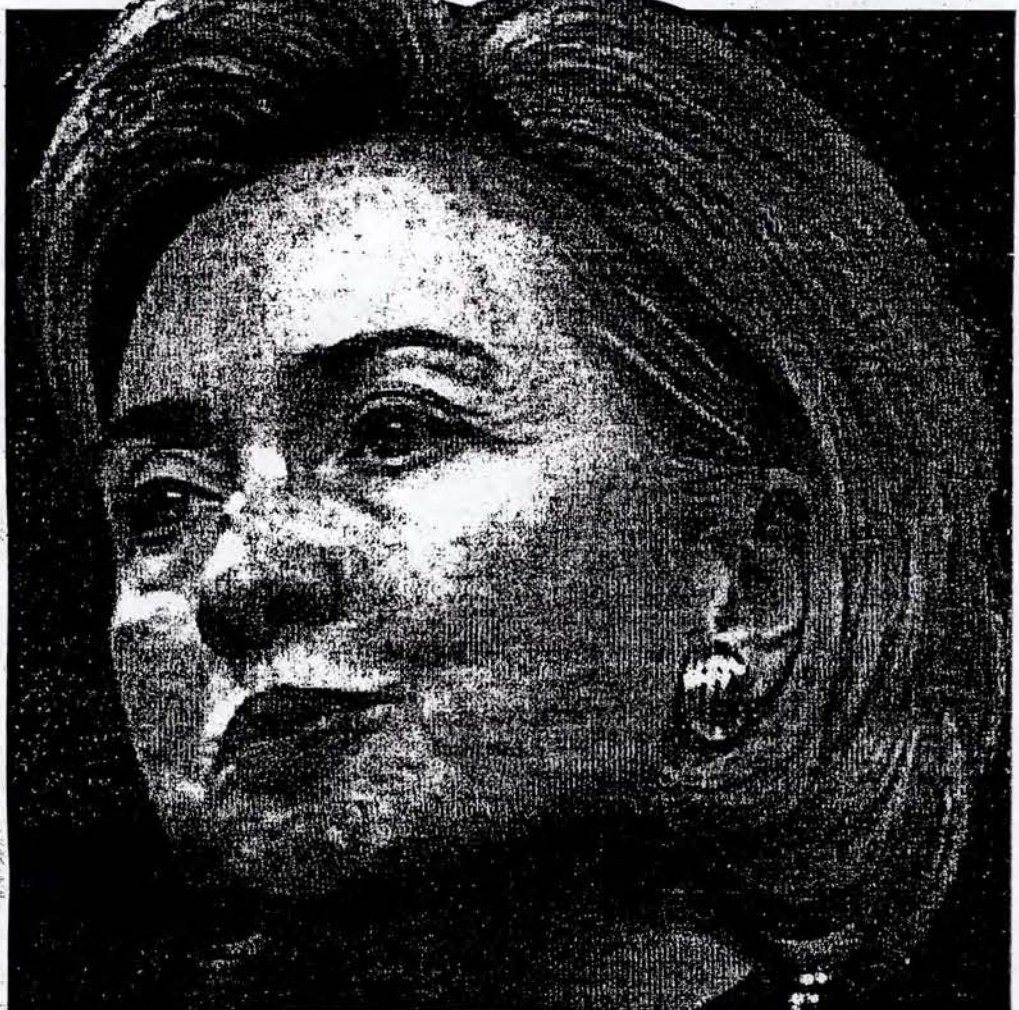
The visit is scheduled to take place after the couple perform a number of engagements, including a visit to the proposed University of Ulster site at

By RICHARD
SHERRIFF

Springvale. They will be accompanied throughout the day by Prime Minister Tony Blair and his wife Cherie.

Mr Blair will greet the President on his arrival in the Province a day behind Mrs Clinton, who yesterday said she and her husband would be paying tribute to those who were "murdered by the enemies of peace".

Speaking at a Women in Democracy conference in Belfast's Waterfront Hall, she paid tribute to the work done by women in the search for a lasting peace, claiming: "You will only move forward and as you do please know that America will stand with you."



See Pages 10, 11, 12 and 13

APPLAUDED: Hillary Clinton pays tribute to women's work in the search for peace in Northern Ireland

Women in N. Ireland hail Hillary Clinton as survivor

First lady commands spotlight at conference

By BILL GLAUBER
SUN FOREIGN STAFF

BELFAST, Northern Ireland — Around here, they're standing by their woman — Hillary Rodham Clinton.

Flying into Northern Ireland yesterday a day ahead of her husband, President Clinton, the first lady received a rousing welcome when she spoke to 800 delegates attending a Vital Voices: Women in Democracy conference.

In the spotlight and in command, the first lady talked of women's rights, equal opportunities and the hope that the promise of peace can be fulfilled in Northern Ireland.

"This is one of the most beautiful places on God's earth," she said to cheers.

Northern Ireland's verdant landscape seems a world away from the Washington scandal that has threatened her husband's presidency. While the inside-the-Beltway crowd is engrossed with Clinton's admission of an improper relationship with Monica Lewinsky, the Belfast crowd doesn't much care.

Still, there was an air of expectancy inside the glittering Waterfront Hall as the crowd waited for the speech. Gathered were the movers and shakers among Northern Ireland's women — politicians, business leaders, community activists.

"Everyone is dying to see how she looks and reacts," said Frances Donaghy, board secretary of the Royal College of Nursing. "This is a very tenacious woman who can keep her head up against all odds. It can't be easy for her at this moment."

Dressed in a dark navy suit, appearing calm and composed, the first lady showed that she can still work a crowd. She avoided the scandal completely, took the high road, and talked about the issues that engross a society that has been battered by 30 years of terrorist violence.

The biggest worry here is how to make sure a fledgling peace deal among Roman Catholics and Protestants sticks.

"It is up to you, the women of Northern Ireland, speaking out whenever injustice arises, to point out opportunities, to face up to challenges, and to speak for those who are still voiceless," she said.

The Clintons, who first ventured here in November 1995, remain popular in Northern Ireland.



AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

In Northern Ireland: First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton waves to the news media as she arrives at Waterfront Hall in Belfast.

They are seen by many as honest brokers who can be turned to in times of trouble.

"They didn't have just a one-off, fly-by-night visit here," said Monica McWilliams, leader of Northern Ireland's Women's Coalition political party. "Everyone else flies off after peace is created. But not the Clintons."

The delegates threw their support to the first lady.

"I'm not surprised that she has lifted her head up," McWilliams said. "She is an independent woman with her own independent projects, no matter what is happening in America. By standing up there, she showed that you can have your own profile."

"She is a really good role model for women," McWilliams added. "She is a survivor."

Others agreed. "She has shown that women given a real voice can make a lasting contribution to their communities, their countries and the world," said Fiona Hughes, a 17-year-old student who introduced the first lady.

Valerie Kingham, a local political leader, said the first lady showed grace under pressure.

"Hillary deserves a medal," Kingham said. "She is a tough woman. If I were Hillary Clinton, I would have put him [the president] down the lavatory and pulled the chain."



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Each person has role to play

Ulster's peace challenge

By Dan McGinn

FIRST Lady Hillary Clinton has praised the crucial role played by courageous women in holding Northern Ireland together during the darkest days of the troubles.

She was speaking after a warm reception at the Vital Voices' conference at the Waterfront Hall yesterday.

An audience of politicians, civil servants and women and children from a wide spectrum of society heard Mrs Clinton speak of the courage of women in the face of almost 30 years of violence.

She also told an audience which included Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness and the UDP's Gary McMichael there was an onus on everyone in society to translate the hopes for peace into practical economic and social action.

"The hopes for peace will have to be translated into the hard work of practical action and political compromise, not only in the Assembly, but in every corner of society.

"So the real challenge of this conference starts as we leave. How will each of us work to fulfill the promise of peace? "That, of course, will be up to the men and women of Northern Ireland to decide. But, based on what we know about the conditions that promote peace and prosperity, we, I think, can agree on basic goals," she said.

Mrs Clinton added: "All people must have access to the tools of opportunity good education, quality healthcare, good jobs, loans and credit.

"The kind of opportunities that will give responsible people of whatever backgrounds the chance to move forward into the 21st century with confidence." Issues from creating an effective education system to dealing with the problem of domestic violence would have to be addressed as the new political system took root, she said. But she also acknowledged the difficulties the province was facing in creating a climate of peace.

"When my husband and I go to Omagh tomorrow, we will pay tribute to those who were murdered by the enemies of peace.

"They were mostly women and children. They were Catholic and Protestant, unionist and nationalist, young and old.

"They were people simply living their lives, working at a drapery store, hanging out with friends, buying school uniforms for their children.

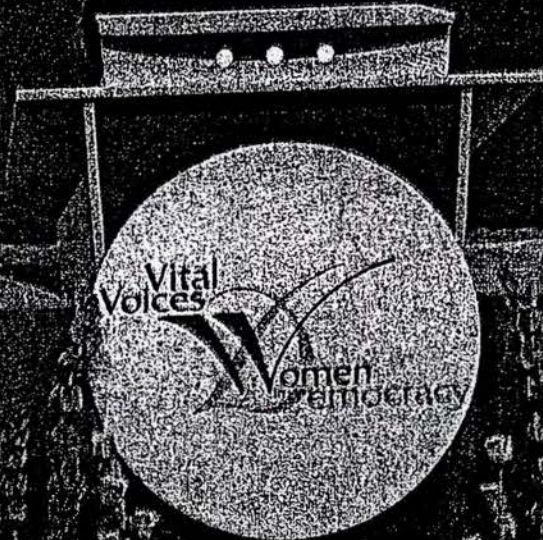
he terrorists targeted the people of Northern Ireland and in response, it was the people all the people who bravely stood side by side to say: Hatred and violence will no longer have a place here." During the

N DEMOCRACY

NORTHERN IRELAND

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VITAL VOICES
WOMEN IN
DEMOCRACY



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Thursday, 3 September 1998

Eloquent First Lady makes her hall mark

Hillary says it's great to be back

By Gail Walker

I AM, said a strident First Lady, not shy.

The comments were not, however, a invitation to any public discussion of errant husband Bill's marital misdemeanours.

Instead, they were a reference to the fact that she would seize any excuse "I can find to come back to Northern Ireland." But what a difference a few years makes...

November 1995. Oh what a night. The President and Hillary outside Belfast's City Hall amid massive security; tens of thousands of well-wishers stretched out on a cold, starry night as far as the eye could see to welcome them.

Last night, roughly same time, same place, yet a radically different atmosphere surrounding a reception for the First Lady to mark the end of the Vital Voices conference.

There was no tangible buzz of excitement; no discernible sense of expectation or anticipation.

Only a couple of members of the public had bothered to ring the City Hall to find out details of the visit, said the public relations officer handing out press passes.

Only a few wilting bouquets left in memory of the 28 people murdered in the Omagh atrocity and, more recently, to mark the first anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, hung languidly on the ornate gates to greet that visitor.

Still, the First Lady, her neat blonde bob immaculately coiffeured as ever and dressed in an elegant navy suit, was the low-key reception notwithstanding delighted to be back.

"I feel uplifted and energised by the courageous men and women with whom I have met," she said, her strident tones filling the Great Hall.

"We know how difficult the journey is.

"I bring a message not only of support and encouragement but also of admiration for what you are doing puts you on the right side of history." Her words won rapturous applause.

The other big burst of clapping of the evening came when Lord Mayor David Alderdice, introducing the First Lady, reiterated Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams' comments of the previous evening that violence must be "over, done with and gone." Sadly, as the media were shepherded onto a balcony at the rear of the hall to overlook proceedings, it was impossible to accurately gauge the reaction of Mr Adams to this reference to his soundbite.

Speaking afterwards, the Sinn Fein leader was in fine fettle.

He had found the conference on the advancement of women "very, very important." Pausing briefly, he told me with great conviction:

very important." Pausing briefly, he told me with great conviction:
"Women are the majority on the island of Ireland and yet are
massively discriminated against."

province's grimmest hours women held their families together, Mrs Clinton acknowledged.

Seven days a week, she said, they "carried on with hope and prayer that the future would be brighter, free of troubles and heartbreak". But drawing a parallel with a new green space for children planned by PlayBoard with an American group called KaBOOM, she urged men and women to work together to create a new political environment. "You are ultimately those who will determine whether the children of Northern Ireland can play like children should ... without respect to religion or politics, without stereotyping or name calling, without fear or violence."

She came, she saw, and she conquered
Rapturous welcome for First Lady

By Martina Purdy

"I'D chuck him out," said the freshfaced teenager when asked what she would do if she were Bill Clinton's wife.

While views on her husband were mixed, there seemed to be nothing but sympathy for Hillary Clinton from the 2000-strong guests who packed the Waterfront Hall.

As she stepped onto the stage, Mrs Clinton, wearing a sleek navy suit, chunky gold jewellery, won the first of three standing ovations.

One delegate mused that Hillary was now more powerful than ever following the painful episode with Monica Lewinsky.

"Bill owes her a lot and she's got him over a barrel," said the woman.

"He needs her now more than ever she can crack the whip now!"

Hillary was all charm and smiles however for the Belfast audience.

They lapped up her response to 17-year-old Fiona Hughes from Bellaghy who introduced the First Lady.

Ms Hughes, a sixthformer turned to the First Lady, and announced to a delighted audience: "I had to use your name to advantage as well, Mrs Clinton, because I had to be at school today." The First Lady assured Fiona that there were around a "a thousand of us" who would be glad to provide her with a note.

Ms Hughes was among the speakers who were only given a few hours notice. One Belfast woman declined at the thought of it.

Inez McCormack, vice-president of the ICTU, braved the audience and got a wry chuckle out of Mrs Clinton when she expressed relief she hadn't been given the task of the previous speaker.

"I wasn't asked to talk about my past thank God!" Secretary of State Mo Mowlam was supposed to introduce the First Lady but was delayed at Westminster.

Mrs Clinton paid tribute to the first woman Secretary of State, who was her host at Hillsborough. Referring to a reception Dr Mowlam had held the previous night for the delegates, she said she had reports of Dr Mowlam's "skills as a party hostess and dancer par excellence." The lighthearted mood turned sombre at times particularly as Mrs Clinton spoke of Janette Rooney, an Omagh teenager who was taking part in a cross-community project in Washington and watched the television coverage of the bomb in horror when she saw her friends injured.

One of her best friends was killed in the blast.

Mrs Clinton closed with a message of support. "May God bless you...and the future you build together."

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL WELCOMES
**VITAL VOICES
WOMEN IN DEMOCRACY**

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 1998

VITAL VOICES
WOMEN IN
DEMOCRACY

VITAL VOICES
WOMEN IN
DEMOCRACY



AP Photo

Newsday

September 3, 1998

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND, 1998

VITAL VOICES
WOMEN IN
DEMOCRACY

VITAL VOICES
WOMEN IN
DEMOCRACY

AP PHOTO

The Boston Globe

A5

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1998

Thursday, 3 September 1998

First Lady pays surprise visit to blast injured

By Nigel Gould

THE First Lady visited some of the Omagh bomb victims today during a surprise trip to the Royal Victoria Hospital.

Mrs Clinton, accompanied by Cherie Blair, toured the hospital's accident and emergency wing and the burns unit.

She chatted to both blast victims and their families during a 45-minute visit.

A Royal spokeswoman said: "She also spoke to staff who had helped in the aftermath of the blast.

"They felt it was recognition of the work they like many other medical staff across the province had done.

"They really appreciated the visit.

"She was genuinely interested in our health service and spoke to both our chief executive and chairman about the health service's overall structure." The visit was not part of Mrs Clinton's official itinerary - and no media were invited.

The First Lady travelled to the Royal after an hour-long visit to Lagan Meadows in the Stranmillis area of Belfast where she met both Protestant and Catholic primary schoolchildren.

The visit was arranged by PlayBoard - the lead agency for children's play in Northern Ireland.



The Philadelphia Inquirer

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Balloons for peace as wives meet children

By Nigel Gould

PROTESTANT and Catholic primary school children together released 100 white peace balloons after meeting up with America's First Lady today.

Hillary Clinton, accompanied by Tony Blair's wife Cherie, greeted around 40 children during a visit to Lagan Meadows in Belfast, organised by the charity PlayBoard.

The children were aged between nine and ten and were P6 pupils of neighbouring Stranmillis and St Bride's Primary Schools.

During her hour-long visit Mrs Clinton revealed a new partnership between PlayBoard and KABOOM!, an American community development organisation.

In her speech the First Lady said that KABOOM! would help PlayBoard to get the equipment it needed for a unique environmental play area exclusively for children.

The Play Space initiative aims to provide an environmental haven for children to play with a series of natural elements such as a waterfall or river and animal life.

The Lagan Meadows site was chosen for today's meeting as an ideal example.

Antoinette McKeown, PlayBoard's chief executive, said she was delighted that the First Lady was demonstrating her support for the charity.

"Undoubtedly, children are the most adversely affected victims of the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

"We must not forget that three generations of children have been exposed to traumatic acts of political and sectarian violence within their communities.

"Children represent our future and play has a crucial role in the healing process." For more than an hour before the visit police using metal detectors carried out an extensive security sweep of the area.

A team of presidential security personnel also accompanied the entourage.

Mrs Clinton and Mrs Blair were expected to make a private visit to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast later today.

It is understood that Mrs Clinton wanted to visit the Omagh bomb victims.



WELL DONE: Mrs. Clinton congratulates Fiona Hughes, 17, for the schoolgirl's welcoming speech yesterday.

12 NEWS LETTER, Thursday, September 3, 1998

Talking It Over

By Julie A. Roberts, Editor



U.S. needs to be there for Russia, N. Ireland

This week, my husband and I traveled to Russia and Northern Ireland. In light of Russia's political and economic crisis, many have wondered whether this was the appropriate time for the president to make this trip.

Actually, a visit by the American president may carry particular significance for the Russian people now as they confront the difficult challenges ahead. The United States has an enormous stake in Russia's future, and as Russia struggles to build democracy and economic reform, we must remain engaged and demonstrate our support of its effort.

In addition, there are important foreign policy and security challenges facing the global community, in which Russia must play a key role. And the Russian people must know that, in times of difficulty, the United States will not turn its back on them.

Likewise, in the face of the recent violence in Northern Ireland, the president's visit stands as a tribute to the courage and determination of the people of Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic, who voted to make the Good Friday peace agreement possible. The president's presence also signals his support for the rapid implementation of the agreement and demonstrates that the United States will continue to be deeply involved in supporting the peace process and economic development, both in the Irish Republic and Northern Ireland.

While in Northern Ireland, I will have the opportunity to announce the creation of a different kind of partnership — smaller but, in many ways, just as important to the future of the region. It's a partnership designed to bring the children of Belfast one of the fundamentals of childhood — a safe place to play.

This new partnership will join together PlayBoard, a group based in Northern Ireland and dedicated to improving the quality of children's lives by providing opportunities to play, with KaBOOM, a \$2.3 million non-profit corporation based in Washington that brings individuals, organizations and businesses together to build safe and accessible playgrounds in some of this country's toughest neighborhoods. Their goal is to build 1,000 playgrounds in the United States by the end of the year 2000.

Darell Hammond, the chief executive officer of KaBOOM, explains why he thinks playgrounds are so important: "At KaBOOM, we believe in play because it is the 'work' of children. When we take away opportunities for children to test their physical skills, develop self-esteem and interact constructively with their peers, we effectively make these chil-

dren 'unemployed.' By building playgrounds, we invest in our children and the safety of the communities on which our businesses depend."

Sadly, millions of the world's children don't have safe places to play. Instead, they play in the streets or other dangerous places that are often littered with garbage, broken glass, abandoned cars and discarded drug paraphernalia. In some parts of the world, the dangers include even bombs, snipers and land mines.

For eight years, PlayBoard has studied the impact of violence and sectarianism on the children of Northern Ireland, where 70 percent of 9- to 11-year-olds have witnessed a bombing or shooting, and where children as young as 3 manifest sectarian hatred when they play.

PlayBoard's chief executive, Antoinette McKeown, says, "Our goal is to create an environment to bring out children's natural instinct to play freely — to work out their negative experiences through play and to find a way of exploring their own true identities. We hope to rid our children of stereotyping and name-calling."

Now, with the support of its American partner, KaBOOM, PlayBoard hopes to create a unique new play space in the middle of Belfast. As Miss McKeown describes it, "It won't be a traditional playground with swings and roundabouts. It's intended to be an environmental haven with a series of natural challenges designed by children themselves."

For many of Belfast's children, this play space will give them their first opportunity to play with children of other faiths.

In exchange, PlayBoard will work with KaBOOM to share what it's learned about the value of therapeutic play with communities in this country. The two groups also hope to host an international conference next year on the value of play.

Mr. Hammond and Miss McKeown know that KaBOOM and PlayBoard are not only building safe places for children to play. They are also building community spirit and pride, bringing people together, breaking down barriers and inspiring hope.

The partnership between KaBOOM and PlayBoard reminds us that what the children of Northern Ireland need is not so different from what the children of our inner cities need — or for that matter, what children everywhere need. They need to play — to explore their environments freely, without fear or prejudice.

Only then will they develop the skills to become the leaders of nations that work together so their children can play in peace.



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The Washington Post

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1998

Hillary Clinton Reaps Praise at Two Stops

By T.R. REID
Washington Post Foreign Service

BELFAST, Sept. 2—A cool and polished Hillary Rodham Clinton barnstormed through two European cities today, meeting cheering crowds that hailed her as a role model for the women of the world.

If the first lady was bothered by the fact that her husband's infidelity has been reported, and ridiculed, around the planet, there was nary a sign of it as she answered questions with Naina Yeltsin, wife of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, in Moscow and received boisterous support at two speeches here in Northern Ireland.

In both locales she talked easily about working and traveling with the man she called "my husband." In Moscow she described her marriage with President Clinton as a working partnership, the Associated Press reported.

"My husband and I have worked together, I guess, for about 27 years, ever since we met in law school. So we have spent a lot of time on common projects and issues that we both are very concerned about," she said.

In her first solo appearance since the president admitted to an improper relationship with a White House intern, Hillary Clinton left Moscow a day ahead of her husband to participate in a conference she initiated here, "Vital Voices—Women in Democracy." She was introduced by Fiona Hughes, a high school junior, who called her "a role model to me and to young women around the world."

The president is to join his wife in Northern Ireland on Thursday.

Among the 300 women from Northern Ireland participating in the three-day event, there seemed to be almost universal admiration for Hillary Clinton, and a willingness to ignore her problems with her husband.

"It's sad that Americans are so focused on my namesake, the younger Monica," said Monica McWilliams, a key female political leader here and one of 14 women elected in June to Northern Ireland's new assembly. "If that were the only problem our media had to report on, we'd consider ourselves lucky."

Clinton was poised, crisp and flawless in a lengthy keynote address to the women's conference here and a seemingly off-the-cuff greeting to political leaders beneath the ornate vaulted dome of Belfast's city hall. She praised this year's peace agreement in the troubled British-ruled province and said that women deserve much of the credit for demanding an end to 30 years of civil war.

"Women came together, as they have always done," she said. "It was the women whose whispering became a torrent that could no longer be ignored."

In Moscow, at a women's forum, the two first ladies agreed women should command more respect. But Mrs. Clinton left the audience's curiosity unsatisfied about the state of her marriage.

Asked what the Yeltsins will do when her husband is no longer president, the Russian first lady said, "I think that we will live like all people do. Like normal people. Finally."

Mrs. Clinton said only, "We have no plans yet."

Correspondent Sharon LaFraniere in Moscow contributed to this report.



THE BELFAST TELEGRAPH
Thursday, September 3, 1998
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Radiant First Lady Hillary gets a standing ovation

By MARTINA DEVLIN

A RELAXED and smiling Hillary Clinton delivered a keynote speech to hundreds of women in Belfast last night and showed no sign of any strain.

Mrs Clinton spoke for 40 minutes about the rights and achievements of women and afterwards received a standing ovation from the 450-strong audience in the Waterfront Hall.

It was Mrs Clinton's first speech since her husband admitted his "inappropriate" relationship with Monica Lewinsky and it was delivered in a strong, unfaltering style.

Poised and relaxed in a smart blue trouser suit, she told the Women in Democracy Conference that it was women's voices which could not be ignored.

"If you listen you can hear the voices of women who withstood jeers and threats to make themselves heard in a political world once

themselves heard in a political world once reserved primarily for men."

With intense interest focused on the scandal surrounding her husband, the First Lady's every gesture was being scrutinised.

But if she has her troubles, she was keeping them to herself in Belfast - her smile never wavered, her composure never faltered.

She radiated confidence, she radiated serenity, she radiated a woman who's just had her blonde bob styled to within an inch of its life and who knows she's looking good.

Hillary mentioned the H-word - "my husband" - three times. Completely straight-faced each time.

And as First Ladies go, she was positively presidential, which was the consensus among delegates at the conference.

"She could be president herself - in fact she should be," said one woman.

Hillary's entourage certainly shrieked VIP: Five motorbike outriders signalled her arrival, followed by a cavalcade of cars.

Security men were tripping over themselves to open the door of her stretch limousine. "How many people does it take to help one woman out of a car?" wondered a watcher.

Indoors at the Waterfront, the audience was overwhelmingly female and male politicians stood out like sore thumbs among the power-dressed women.

"The last time I was in such female dominated company was at the maternity ward," said ex-Belfast Lord Mayor, Alban Maginness. And that's a place he has visited eight times with his wife.

"It's intimidating", admitted UDP leader Gary McMichael, looking around the room in a break from signing autographs for schoolgirls. Then he realised this could be misconstrued and hastily added that there should be more women in politics.

But Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness claimed he was used to being surrounded by females because there were so many in his party. "We're very progressive," he said with a twinkle. Or it

could have been the reflection of so much jewellery in the room.

Mrs Clinton drew cheers when she announced: "I'll take any excuse to come back to Belfast!"

She emphasised the path to peace constructed in Northern Ireland may one day serve as a blueprint for other troubled countries.

"This is truly a special moment for me," said Mrs Clinton privately before greeting the crowd.

"The smiles and everyone mean so much to me right now," she said gazing at the many outstretched hands that sought her own.

The Americans came to build partnerships, to listen and to learn, she said.

The conference was part of an ongoing global initiative promoted by the US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright as a foreign policy agenda observing and strengthening democracy around the world, Mrs Clinton said.

The first was held in Vienna in 1997 and in October the third conference will take place in Uruguay.

Belfast, she said, put Northern Ireland and the women of Northern Ireland on the world map. The conference had succeeded in bringing people together.

Nothing can compare she said to the powerful voices heard in Belfast over the past few days. "There is a powerful chorus calling for women to become full democrats in a secure Northern Ireland."

She said the road to peace would never be easy but that bombs, bullets and terrorists will never turn people back. "Hatred and violence no longer have a place here."

Mrs Clinton promised the audience that Americans would stand with Northern Ireland when it moved forward.

She paid tribute to generations of women who had the courage, strength, the hope and prayer for a brighter future.

Women gathered around kitchen tables, at markets and "gatherings like this" she said and their torrent of voices could no longer be ignored.

The jeers and threats, the prejudices and violence that women withstood to make themselves heard would be no more.

PROGRESS

Mrs Clinton said economic progress, democratic progress and human rights affected women's progress and women's rights. She said that on the 50th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights what women want is to help them create a better world.

In the words of Madeleine Albright to advance the cause of women is not just the right but the smart thing to do, she said and in Northern Ireland it was smart because women have a central role to play in the reconstruction of society - a society that is truly inclusive.

The conference was about practical things to fill in the peace.

The hopes for peace have to be translated into the hard work of practical action and political compromise in the Assembly and elsewhere, Mrs Clinton said.

September 3, 1998



The Philadelphia Inquirer

SEPTEMBER 3, 1998
COVER PAGE



POWERFUL WORDS ... first lady Hillary Clinton addresses the Vital Voices Women in Democracy conference at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast yesterday at which she praised the role of women in the search for peace.

First lady speaks out with style

A RELAXED Hillary Clinton breezed into Belfast yesterday showing no signs of the scandals which have dogged America's first family.

Making her first public appearance since the Monica Lewinsky story broke, the first lady smiled as she arrived at the Waterfront Hall to address a conference on women's advancement.

Clearly at ease as she stepped from her official limousine, Mrs Clinton smiled and waved to waiting reporters and photographers.

Wearing a stylish navy-blue trouser suit and pearls, Mrs Clinton joined the platform party for the final session of the Vital Voices Women in Democracy conference and said women's voices could no longer be ignored.

It was the first lady's first official speech since her husband admitted his "inappropriate" relationship with White House aide Monica Lewinsky.

And with intense interest focussed on the scandal

September 3, 1998

surrounding her husband, the first lady's every gesture was scrutinised.

But she rose to the occasion and smiled her way through the hour-long conference before delivering a powerful speech on empowering women to meet the challenges of the future.

Mrs Clinton told delegates she was privileged to see the rebirth of Northern Ireland which she first witnessed during their first trip back in October 1995.

She paid a lengthy tribute to the role of women in the search for peace and said the Women's Conference provided an opportunity for powerful voices to blend to be part of a new democratic Northern Ireland "that which people have hoped, lived, died and finally voted for."

Mrs Clinton, who referred to the Omagh bombers as "enemies of peace", warned the road to peace would never be easy.

But she vowed that America would be behind the peace process every step of the way.

"You will only move forward and, as you do, please know that America will stand with you."

America's first lady paid tribute to the unbending resolve of Northern Ireland women to carry on despite years of heartbreak and misery.

But she said that women kept faith and prayed that peace would become a reality.

"It was women's whispers which became a torrent of voices."

Mrs Clinton, delivering her speech in a clear, unfaltering style, warned women that the struggle for democracy would not be easy.

"Democracy is hard work. There is no perfect democracy. It depends on the attitudes and values and getting on with people with whom you have profound differences."

But she said that if basic goals were agreed it would give everyone the chance to go forward together.

She spoke movingly about America and the world's will to see Northern Ireland succeed in achieving peace.

But the audience clapped when she spoke of her

feelings as she watched Ireland from her private plane flying into the country.

"It is one of the most beautiful places on God's earth. Let us pledge that this is only the beginning."

Mrs Clinton told the audience, which included Assembly members and David Trimble's wife Daphne, that the people were now the architects of a new environment.

Summing up her 40-minute speech Mrs Clinton said: "We all know that women's voices played a vital role in the quest for peace."

During the final session Mrs Clinton listened intently as other speakers outlined their reasons for taking part in the Vital Voices conference.

She laughed openly as one of the speakers, summing up her role as a woman, declared: "I'll bend but I will not be manipulated."

Her speech was given a warm welcome by delegates as they left for a reception at Belfast city hall.

SDLP assembly member Brid Rodgers described it as "excellent and very encouraging."

"She stressed the importance of women, she is a very impressive speaker."

Shankill community worker May Blood said the speech was "very emotive."

"She came across well and seemed to mean what she said."

"I thought she looked quite well given what she has been through recently."

"She looked better than ever."

And West Belfast delegate Bridie Hawkins said she was very impressed by the first lady's speech.

"Every word came from the heart. She touched on a lot of subjects and left no relevant issue out."

Mrs Clinton then attended a reception at Belfast city hall where she was given a rapturous reception.

The first lady will join with her husband, who arrives in Belfast today, to urge all sides to make further political progress.

September 3, 1998

The New York Times

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1998

WOMEN'S VOICES

First Lady Draws Cheers at Women's Conference in Belfast

By WARREN HOGE

BELFAST, Northern Ireland, Sept. 2 — Introduced by a 16-year-old student as "a role model for young women around the world," Hillary Rodham Clinton told a cheering gathering of women in Belfast tonight that it was their "courage and strength" that had secured the new Northern Ireland peace settlement.

"Wives. Mothers. Sisters. Daughters," she told the 450 delegates to the "Vital Voices: Women in Democracy" conference. "Few were household names. But having seen their lives and communities torn apart by violence, women came together as women have always done — around kitchen tables, at the market, in gatherings like this. It was women

whose whispers of 'Enough' became a torrent of voices that could no longer be ignored."

Mrs. Clinton arrived here today from Moscow a day ahead of President Clinton. The speech was her first since his televised admission on Aug. 17 of an "inappropriate relationship" with a White House intern. She strode onto the stage of Waterfront Hall to a burst of applause.

With only two fleeting mentions of the President's pending arrival, Mrs. Clinton talked for 40 minutes of the rights and achievements of women and the duty toward the next generation.

"Ultimately, our children are why we are here," she said.

It was Mrs. Clinton's third trip to

Northern Ireland in four years, and she is a known and appreciated figure here, particularly among women. Her defense of her husband, which has raised some questions among women elsewhere, has not diminished enthusiasm for her here.

"My God, where have those women in America been?" said Monica McWilliams, 44, a professor at the University of Ulster who is a founder of the Women's Coalition political party and a member of the new Northern Ireland Assembly.

"Women have to have survival skills, and people have to put things back in place when mistakes get made, and we know about that only too well in Northern Ireland," Ms. McWilliams said in an interview.

Ms. McWilliams and her fellow negotiators in the 26-month-long peace talks were called "silly women," "dogs" and "scum" by their male counterparts from other parties. Some mooed like cows when the women took their seats.

Ms. McWilliams said that the President's behavior and Mrs. Clinton's response to it had come up in a meeting before the conference and that the women present had agreed that the most important thing for a woman is to have "an independent project" to turn to at such times.

"This is a very traditional male-dominated society and they don't know how to handle a Hillary Clinton," she said, adding, "Oh, do we need this woman here now."

Our perspective **In Belfast**

The Clintons' impressive teamwork

Those who knew enough or were lucky enough to be watching C-SPAN Wednesday evening were treated to a first-rate speech that Hillary Rodham Clinton had delivered to a conference of women in Belfast earlier that day. In the new Waterfront Hall, the First Lady spoke of the "courage and strength of generations of women" who helped bring Northern Ireland to the beginning of peace — and the equally significant role that women will play in ensuring that peace endures.

It was a powerful speech, full of substance, delivered well, received well. Of the women who have contributed to peace in Northern Ireland, she said, "Wives. Mothers. Sisters. Daughters. Few were household names. But having seen their lives and communities torn apart by violence, women came together as women have always done — around kitchen tables, at the market, in gatherings like this. It was women whose whispers of 'enough' became a torrent of voices that could no longer be ignored. If we listen carefully, their voices still echo through this room and lift ours up today."

Speaking of a playground she was scheduled to dedicate Thursday, the First Lady told the assembled women, "You are ultimately those who will determine whether the children of Northern Ireland can play like children should — without respect to religion or politics, without stereotyping or name calling, without fear or violence. That is for me the ultimate dream I see in my mind's eye . . ."

The next morning in the same room, President Clinton addressed members of the newly elected Northern Ireland assembly. With Hillary

Clinton in the audience, he delivered a speech equally powerful, equally designed to inspire the people of Northern Ireland to hold fast to the principles of peace and reconciliation through the difficult times they inevitably will face.

As the president worked the crowd after his speech, he stopped for several moments to ensure that two schoolgirls got their photo taken with him. It was a tender, observant thing to do, the sort of action that cannot be faked and which brings no accolades.

Later, the Clintons traveled to Omagh, where they met privately with relatives and victims of the Omagh bombing. Everywhere they went, the president was thanked profusely for his role in guiding the peace process toward success. It is an effort, as the people of Northern Ireland know well, that will bring him little political gain.

A strong impression during the Clintons' short visit to Northern Ireland was of how well they do their jobs and what an excellent team they make. It is possible to imagine Hillary and Bill delivering each others' speeches in Belfast. It is impossible to imagine that same circumstance for any other White House couple save the Roosevelts.

Through their six years in the White House, the Clintons have endured challenges and scurrilous attacks that would have laid low most other couples. How remarkable that they still can marshal the thought, the skill and the empathy they demonstrated in Belfast. It is unfashionable to say so, but they make a very good team for America.

Newsday

THE LONG ISLAND NEWSPAPER

THURSDAY, SEPT. 3, 1998 • NASSAU



AP Photo

First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, speaking at conference in Belfast, exhorts women to play a role in peace process.

First Lady Touts Belfast Pact

COMBINED NEWS SERVICES

Belfast — Hillary Rodham Clinton called Northern Ireland's women a quiet catalyst for the Belfast peace agreement, but said they must play a bigger role in politics for real reconciliation to take root.

"It was women whose whispers of 'Enough' became a torrent of voices that could no longer be ignored," she told 600 female activists, community workers and politicians yesterday at a conference called "Vital Voices: Women in Democracy."

"It is up to you, the women of Northern Ireland, speaking out whenever injustice arises, to point out opportunities, to face up to challenges, and to speak for those who are still voiceless," she said.

The first lady, who flew here from Moscow a day before the president, mourned the victims of last month's car-bomb attack, which killed 28 people in Omagh. "When my husband and I go to Omagh tomorrow, we will pay tribute to those who were

murdered by the enemies of peace," she said.

Her speech brought together not only grass-roots Protestant and Catholic activists, but once-deadly opponents in Northern Ireland's three-decade-old conflict — virtually all of them men.

Sitting in the front row of one balcony were Gerry Adams, Martin McGuinness and Pat Doherty, leaders of the IRA-allied Sinn Fein party. Behind them sat members of the Ulster Unionists, the major Protestant party that also backs April's accord on how Northern Ireland should be governed — but refuses to talk directly with Sinn Fein.

Sinn Fein yesterday kept up the momentum for peace by signaling its readiness to tackle the politically vital issue of guerrilla disarmament.

The move was one of a series of apparently choreographed advances timed to capitalize on today's 13-hour visit by President Bill Clinton, a staunch supporter of peace efforts in the province.



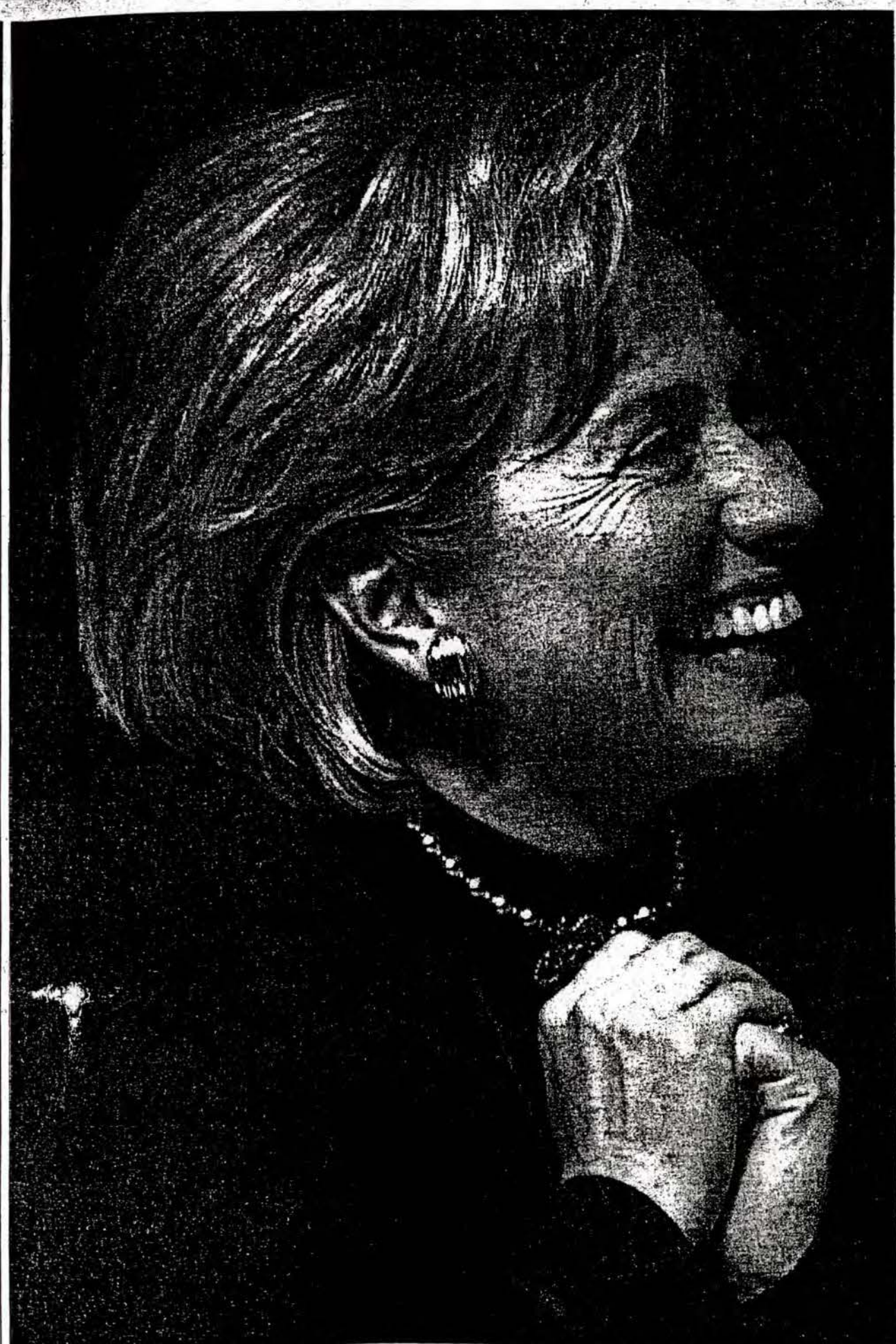
THE INDEPENDENT

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COVER PAGE



Hillary Clinton paying tribute to the 'courage and strength of generations of women' who had helped in the Irish peace process. Speaking yesterday in Belfast to nearly 600 delegates at the Vital Voices - Women in Democracy conference, she reiterated the United States' firm stance on terrorism

Dan Chang/Reuters

Belfast Telegraph

Newspaper of the Year

The National Newspaper of Northern Ireland

Thursday, September 3, 1998

She came, she saw, and she conquered

By Martina Purdy

"I'D chuck him out," said the freshfaced teenager when asked what she would do if she were Bill Clinton's wife.

While views on her husband were mixed, there seemed to be nothing but sympathy for Hillary Clinton from the 2000-strong guests who packed the Waterfront Hall.

As she stepped onto the stage, Mrs Clinton, wearing a sleek navy suit, chunky gold jewellery, won the first of three standing ovations.

One delegate mused that Hillary was now more powerful than ever following the painful episode with Monica Lewinsky.

"Bill owes her a lot and she's got him over a barrel," said the woman. "He needs her now more than ever — she can crack the whip now!"

Hillary was all charm and smiles however for the Belfast audience. They lapped up her response to 17-year-old Fiona Hughes from Bell-

Rapturous welcome for First Lady

aghy who introduced the First Lady.

Ms Hughes, a sixthformer turned to the First Lady, and announced to a delighted audience: "I had to use your name to advantage as well, Mrs Clinton, because I had to be at school today."

The First Lady assured Fiona that there were around a "a thousand of us" who would be glad to provide her with a note.

Ms Hughes was among the speakers who were only given a few hours notice. One Belfast woman declined at the thought of it.

Inez McCormack, vice-president of the ICTU, braved the audience and got a wry chuckle out of Mrs Clinton when she expressed relief she hadn't been given the task of the previous speaker.

"I wasn't asked to talk about my past — thank God!"

Secretary of State Mo Mowlam was supposed to introduce the First Lady — but was delayed at Westminster.

Mrs Clinton paid tribute to the first woman Secretary of State, who was her host at Hillsborough. Referring to a reception Dr Mowlam had held the previous night for the delegates, she said she had reports of Dr Mowlam's "skills as a party hostess and dancer par excellence."

The lighthearted mood turned sombre at times — particularly as Mrs Clinton spoke of Janette Rooney, an Omagh teenager who was taking part in a cross-community project in Washington and watched the television coverage of the bomb in horror when she saw her friends injured.

One of her best friends was killed in the blast.

Mrs Clinton closed with a message of support. "May God bless you . . . and the future you build together."



First Lady Hillary Clinton signs autographs for children during a visit to Lagan Meadows in Belfast today.

Belfast Telegraph

Newspaper of the Year

The National Newspaper of Northern Ireland

Thursday, September 3, 1998

Wives send peace balloons soaring

By Nigel Gould

PROTESTANT and Catholic primary school children together released 100 white peace balloons after meeting up with America's First Lady today.

Hillary Clinton, accompanied by Tony Blair's wife Cherie, greeted around 40 children during a visit to Lagan Meadows in Belfast, organised by the charity PlayBoard.

The children were aged

between nine and ten and were P6 pupils of neighbouring Stranmillis and St Bride's Primary Schools.

During her hour-long visit Mrs Clinton revealed a new partnership between PlayBoard and KABOOM!, an American community development organisation.

In her speech the First Lady said that KABOOM! would help PlayBoard to get the equipment it needed for a unique environmental play area exclusively for children.

The Play Space initiative aims to provide an environ-

Hillary reveals new help for children

mental haven for children to play with a series of natural elements such as a waterfall or river and animal life.

The Lagan Meadows site was chosen for today's

meeting as an ideal example.

Antoinette McKeown, PlayBoard's chief executive, said she was delighted that the First Lady was demonstrating her support for the charity.

"Undoubtedly, children are the most adversely affected victims of the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

"We must not forget that three generations of children have been exposed to traumatic acts of political and sectarian violence within their communities.

"Children represent our

future and play has a crucial role in the healing process."

For more than an hour before the visit police using metal detectors carried out an extensive security sweep of the area.

A team of presidential security personnel also accompanied the entourage.

Mrs Clinton and Mrs Blair were expected to make a private visit to the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast later today.

It is understood that Mrs Clinton wanted to visit the Omagh bomb victims.

Belfast Telegraph

Newspaper of the Year

The National Newspaper of Northern Ireland

Thursday, September 3, 1998

First Lady pays surprise visit to blast injured

By Nigel Gould

THE First Lady visited some of the Omagh bomb victims today during a surprise trip to the Royal Victoria Hospital.

Mrs Clinton, accompanied by Cherie Blair, toured the hospital's accident and emergency wing and the burns unit.

She chatted to both blast victims and their families during a 45-minute visit.

A Royal spokeswoman said: "She also spoke to staff who had helped in the aftermath of the blast.

"They felt it was recognition of the work they like many other medical staff across the province had done.

"They really appreciated the visit.

"She was genuinely interested in our health service and spoke to both our chief executive and chairman about the health service's overall structure."

The visit was not part of Mrs Clinton's official itinerary — and no media were invited.

The First Lady travelled to the Royal after an hour-long visit to Lagan Meadows in the Stranmillis area of Belfast where she met both Protestant and Catholic primary schoolchildren.

The visit was arranged by PlayBoard — the lead agency for children's play in Northern Ireland.

'Speech prep' so no time for chat

By Peter McVerry

HILLARY Clinton's arrival in the province was very low-key compared to that of her husband.

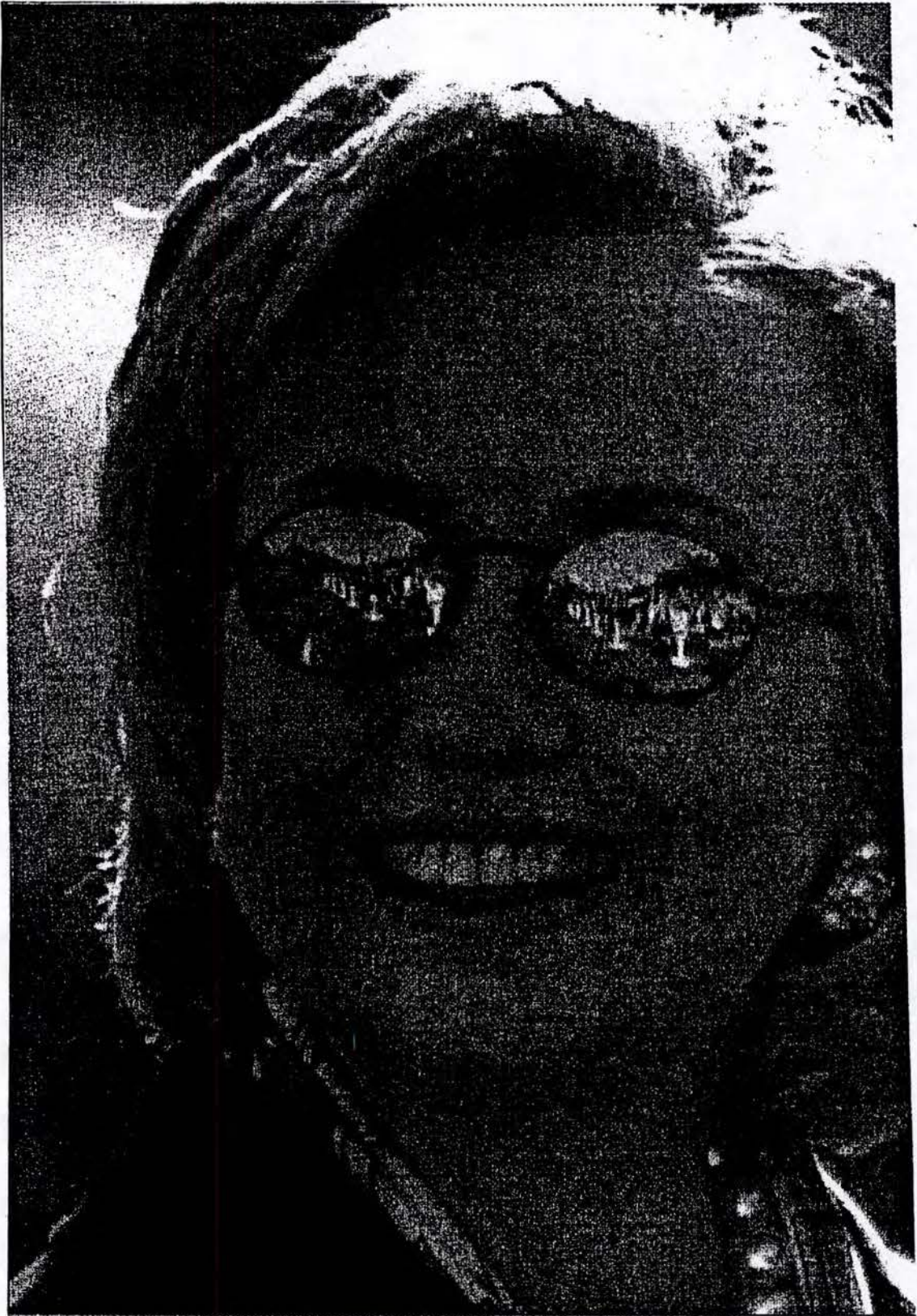
The First Lady's DC-10 plane, emblazoned with a United States of America ensignia, touched down on the tarmac at Belfast International Airport at precisely 2.34pm yesterday.

There to greet Mrs Clinton were US Ambassador to the UK Philip Lader, US Consul General for Northern Ireland Ki Fort, Northern Ireland Office minister Paul Murphy and airport chief executive Stanley Thomas.

Passengers in nearby departure lounges mingled with staff eager to catch a glimpse of the First Lady and her entourage as armed security personnel maintained a rooftop vigil.

Inquisitive reporters interested in finding out if Mrs Clinton would be free for a quick chat before her 5pm keynote address at the Waterfront met with no success.

"Those next two hours are scheduled as down-time and speech prep," the polite but firm White House information officer informed them.



Glass act: US First Lady Hillary Clinton dons sunglasses on a visit to Lagan Meadows today.

Belfast Telegraph

Each person has role to play

By Dan McGinn

FIRST Lady Hillary Clinton has praised the crucial role played by courageous women in holding Northern Ireland together during the darkest days of the troubles.

She was speaking after a warm reception at the Vital Voices' conference at the Waterfront Hall yesterday.

An audience of politicians, civil servants and women and children from a wide spectrum of society heard Mrs Clinton speak of the courage of women in the face of almost 30 years of violence.

She also told an audience — which included Sinn Féin's Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness and the UDP's Gary McMichael — there was an onus on everyone in society to translate the hopes for peace into practical economic and social action.

"The hopes for peace will have to be translated into the hard work of practical action and political compromise, not only in the Assembly, but in every corner of society.

"So the real challenge of this conference starts as we leave. How will each of us work to fulfill the promise of peace?"

"That, of course, will be up to the men and women of Northern Ireland to decide. But, based on what we know about the conditions that promote peace and prosperity, we, I think, can agree on basic goals," she said.

Mrs Clinton added: "All people must have access to the tools of

opportunity — good education, quality healthcare, good jobs, loans and credit.

"The kind of opportunities that will give responsible people of whatever backgrounds the chance to move forward into the 21st century with confidence."

Issues from creating an effective education system to dealing with the problem of domestic violence would have to be addressed as the new political system took root, she said.

"But she also acknowledged the difficulties the province was facing in creating a climate of peace.

"When my husband and I go to Omagh tomorrow, we will pay tribute to those who were murdered by the enemies of peace.

"They were mostly women and children. They were Catholic and Protestant, unionist and nationalist, young and old.

"They were people simply living their lives, working at a drapery store, hanging out with friends, buying school uniforms for their children.

"The terrorists targeted the people of Northern Ireland and in response, it was the people — all the people — who bravely stood side by side to say: Hatred and violence will no longer have a place here."

During the province's grimmest hours women held their families together, Mrs Clinton acknowledged.

Seven days a week, she said, they "carried on with hope and prayer that the future would be brighter, free of troubles and heart-break".

But drawing a parallel with a new green space for children planned by PlayBoard with an American group called KaBOOM, she urged men and women to work together to create a new political environment.

"You are, ultimately those who will determine whether the children of Northern Ireland can play like children should ... without respect to religion or politics, without stereotyping or name calling, without fear or violence."



The First Lady arrives at the Waterfront Hall for the Vital Voices Conference.

Eloquent First Lady makes her hall mark

By Gail Walker

I AM, said a strident First Lady, not shy.

The comments were not, however, a invitation to any public discussion of errant husband Bill's marital misdemeanours.

Instead, they were a reference to the fact that she would seize any excuse "I can find to come back to Northern Ireland."

But what a difference a few years makes.

November 1995. Oh what a night. The President and Hillary outside Belfast's City Hall amid massive security; tens of thousands of well-wishers stretched out on a cold, starry night as far as the eye could see to welcome them.

Last night, roughly same time, same place, yet a radically different atmosphere surrounding a reception for the First Lady to mark the end of the Vital Voices conference.

There was no tangible buzz of excitement; no discernible sense of expectation or anticipation.

Only a couple of members of the public

Hillary says it's great to be back

had bothered to ring the City Hall to find out details of the visit, said the public relations officer handing out press passes.

Only a few wilting bouquets left in memory of the 28 people murdered in the Omagh atrocity and, more recently, to mark the first anniversary of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, hung languidly on the ornate gates to greet that visitor.

Still, the First Lady, her neat blonde bob immaculately coiffeured as ever and dressed in an elegant navy suit, was — the low-key reception notwithstanding — delighted to be back.

"I feel uplifted and energised by the courageous men and women with whom I have met," she said, her strident tones filling the Great Hall.

"We know how diffi-

cult the journey is.

"I bring a message not only of support and encouragement but also of admiration for what you are doing puts you on the right side of history."

Her words won rapturous applause.

The other big burst of clapping of the evening came when Lord Mayor David Alderdice, introducing the First Lady, reiterated Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams' comments of the previous evening that violence must be "over, done with and gone."

Sadly, as the media were shepherded onto a balcony at the rear of the hall to overlook proceedings, it was impossible to accurately gauge the reaction of Mr Adams to this reference to his soundbite.

Speaking afterwards, the Sinn Féin leader was in fine fettle.

He had found the conference on the advancement of women "very, very important."

Pausing briefly, he told me with great conviction: "Women are the majority on the island of Ireland and yet are massively discriminated against."

Washington when Mrs Clinton emerged from her office with the Secretary of State Mowlam.

They exchanged pleasantries before Mrs Clinton welcomed them to her office.

They sat on a patterned sofa while the First Lady took the armchair. Her assistant, Melanne Verveer, recorded the conversation.

Ms Sagar was immediately struck by how warm and friendly Mrs Clinton was.

"You expect these people to be like card sharp counts and speak a certain way — but now and again it's nice when a human being comes through."

The conversation soon moved from smalltalk towards the wider political scene. Mrs Clinton, who was clearly well-briefed, wanted to know the Coalition's views on the current political stalemate.

Ms Sagar recalled: "She seemed to have a very clear understanding about Northern Ire-

land and didn't see everything as a black and white issue."

Mrs Clinton was even aware of the abuse the Coalition had endured during the lifespan of the Northern Ireland Forum, where the women were told to sit down and shut up — and stick to knitting.

Ms McWilliams spoke about the Coalition's efforts to overcome the abuse.

"We explained to her how they hunt in packs, that this was a kind of pack mentality, a male boding exercise."

As the First Lady quizzed them further on the abuse, Ms Sagar was unsure Mrs Clinton understood how robust the Coalition could be. She added: "I put it in a way I would normally put it and said 'we've actually got more balls than they have' — she understood that very clearly."

The First Lady laughed heartily.

Their 15 minute session extended into an hour as Mrs Clinton asked if the Coalition

involved their children in politics. Both explained they had been reluctant to do this.

"As a feminist," said Ms McWilliams, "I was concerned not to fall into this trap that the only thing women could talk about was kids."

But the reference stayed with them and when it came to the referendum and elections a few weeks later, their children were at the forefront of the successful campaigns.

Ms McWilliams also stressed the women's growing impatience with having women's rights put on hold while the historic conflict between nationalism and unionism was resolved.

Only a fraction of the 90 Forum members were women even though females make up over half the population.

And just 9% of the senior jobs in the Civil Service are held by women who do not even

have a voice on 20-plus influential government backed boards in Northern Ireland.

Ms McWilliams told the First Lady:

"We are saying 'no'. The two — political development and women's rights — have to walk hand in hand."

Mrs Clinton nodded her approval and inquired as to how she could help forward equality for women. The Coalition invited her to Belfast.

She agreed. Mrs Clinton kept her promise with State Department officials setting to work on a Vital Voices conference. Ms McWilliams, Ms Sagar and Ms O'Neill were among 400 British, Irish and American women who have spent three days at the conference in Belfast.

Mrs Clinton was due to add her voice to the call for equality today when she made the keynote address.

the IRISH NEWS

Thursday September 3 1998

First lady speaks out with style

A RELAXED Hillary Clinton breezed into Belfast yesterday showing no signs of the scandals which have dogged America's first family.

Making her first public appearance since the Monica Lewinsky story broke, the first lady smiled as she arrived at the Waterfront Hall to address a conference on women's advancement.

Clearly at ease as she stepped from her official limousine, Mrs. Clinton smiled and waved to waiting reporters and photographers.

Wearing a stylish navy-blue trouser suit and pearls, Mrs Clinton joined the platform party for the final session of the *Vital Voices Women in Democracy* conference and said women's voices could no longer be ignored.

It was the first lady's first official speech since her husband admitted his "inappropriate" relationship with White House aide Monica Lewinsky.

And with intense interest focussed on the scandal surrounding her husband, the first lady's every gesture was scrutinised.

But she rose to the occasion and smiled her way through the hour-long conference before delivering a powerful speech on empowering women to meet the challenges of the future.

Mrs Clinton told delegates she was

privileged to see the rebirth of Northern Ireland which she first witnessed during their first trip back in October 1995.

She paid a lengthy tribute to the role of women in the search for peace and said the women's conference provided an opportunity for powerful voices to blend to be part of a new democratic Northern Ireland: "That which people have hoped, lived, died and finally voted for."

Mrs Clinton, who referred to the Omagh bombers as "enemies of peace", warned the road to peace would never be easy.

But she vowed that America would be behind the peace process every step of the way.

"You will only move forward and, as you do, please know that America will stand with you."

America's first lady paid tribute to the unbending resolve of Northern Ireland women to carry on despite years of heartbreak and misery.

But she said that women kept faith and prayed that peace would become a reality.

"It was women's whispers which became a torrent of voices..."

Mrs Clinton, delivering her speech in a clear unfaltering style, warned women that the struggle for democracy would not be easy.

"Democracy is hard work. There is no perfect democracy. It depends on the attitudes and values and getting on with people with whom you have profound differences."

But she said that if basic goals were agreed it would give everyone the chance to go forward together.

She spoke movingly about America and the world's will to see Northern Ireland succeed in achieving peace.

But the audience clapped when she spoke of her feelings as she watched Ireland from her private plane flying into the country.

"It is one of the most beautiful places on God's earth... let us pledge that this is only the beginning."

Mrs Clinton told the audience, which included Assembly members and David Trimble's wife Daphne, that the people were now the architects of a new environment.

Summing up her 40-minute speech Mrs Clinton said: "We all know that women's voices played a vital role in the quest for peace."

During the final session Mrs Clinton listened intently as other speakers outlined their reasons for taking part in the *Vital Voices* conference.

She laughed openly as one of the speakers, summing up her role as a woman, declared: "I'll bend but I will not be manipulated."

Her speech was given a warm welcome by delegates as they left for a reception at Belfast city hall.

SDLP assembly member Brid Rodgers described it as "excellent and very encouraging".

"She stressed the importance of women... she is a very impressive speaker."

Shankill community worker May Blood said the speech was "very emotive".

"She came across well and seemed to mean what she said."

"I thought she looked quite well given what she has been through recently."

"She looked better than ever."

And west Belfast delegate Bridie Hawkins said she was very impressed by the first lady's speech.

"Every word came from the heart. She touched on a lot of subjects and left no relevant issue out."

Mrs Clinton then attended a reception at Belfast city hall where she was given a rapturous reception.

The first lady will join with her husband, who arrives in Belfast today, to urge all sides to make further political progress.

President Clinton is also expected to lay a wreath in the devastated village of Omagh before addressing a huge open-air peace rally in the Mall area of Armagh.

the **IRISH NEWS**

Thursday September 3 1998

Hillary gives a helping hand to women in the business world

By Jim Fitzpatrick
Business Editor

AMERICAN First Lady Hillary Clinton's visit to Northern Ireland yesterday spurred the launch of the first all-Ireland organisation for women in business.

Network Ireland, which is currently a major organisation for female entrepreneurs and executives in the Republic, is launching a recruitment drive in Northern Ireland later this month.

Network Northern Ireland will be headed by Sharon O'Connor, who is director of the Learning Centre in Belfast. She said the organisation would be aimed at women who own their own firms, or work in companies.

Speaking at the Waterfront Hall where she was attending the Vital Voices conference, Ms O'Connor said: "The visit of Hillary Clinton to Northern Ireland highlights the need for Northern Ireland women to make their voices heard nationally and internationally."

"The launch of Network Northern Ireland, the organisation for women in business, is about creating opportunities for women to build these essential networks."

In support of the new initiative *the Irish News* is sending two readers, nominated by their respective business colleagues, to this year's Network Ireland conference in Dublin next month.

The package includes two nights accommodation in the Burlington Hotel, pre-conference dinner on Friday October 9, the conference itself on Saturday October 10, gala dinner attended by the Tanaiste Mary Harney on Saturday night, and Sunday morning brunch in the Burlington.

The conference is entitled "Do we Want an Economy or a Society?" with the sub-heading "Bringing a feminine intelligence to our working and living".

But the organisers are keen to stress that they expect many men to attend

the event, and *the Irish News* welcomes nominations from both sexes in equal numbers.

According to conference organiser Paula Downey, who is keynote speaker for the afternoon session, the conference examines issues from the global to the personal perspective.

First speaker at the conference is Sabina Spencer, a consultant to multinational companies in the area of strategic leadership. She opens the event with a look at the truly global issues pushing change in the world of business.

"Not just environmental issues, but sustainability in every sense," according to Paula Downey.

The second speaker is Irish "futurist" Gerard O'Neill, who will look at national issues facing Ireland: the impact of the internet, the Euro, and the realities of the Celtic tiger economy.

The conference then takes a sideways look at the role of business organisations, through the eyes of a man who has turned the concept on its head.

Andy Law bought out the London advertising agency which he ran for £1 from the parent company and turned it into a trust owned equally by all the employees. He believes advertising is redundant, yet runs one of the most successful agencies in London - he explains the apparent paradoxes.

Next up are two women who wrote a book which was the 90's antidote to 80's yuppyism entitled "Getting a Life - the Downshifter's Guide to Happier, Simpler Living".

In the afternoon the conference explores personal themes, led by Paula Downey who focuses on the importance of communication in organisations.

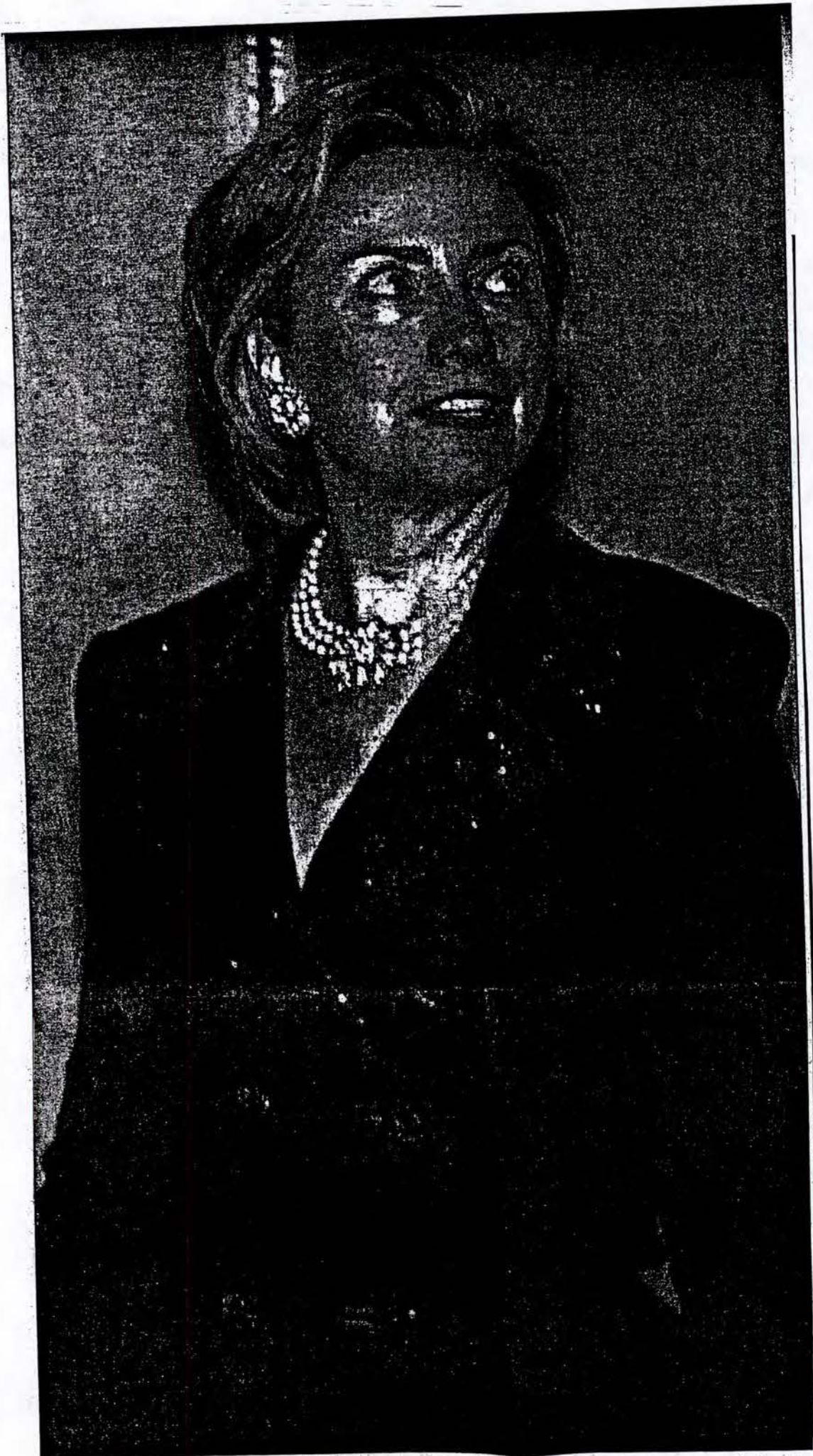
According to the organisers the conference sub-heading does not imply that only women have the necessary intelligence to address the issues of today, but rather that the "feminine" side in everyone needs to be nurtured.

Belfast Telegraph

Newspaper of the Year

The National Newspaper of Northern Ireland

COVER PAGE



Hillary Clinton: Making her third trip to Belfast today.



QUEEN OF BELFAST

Delighted crowds take Hillary to their hearts

By DON MACKAY

HILLARY Clinton is not just the First Lady of America.

She became The Queen of Belfast last night in all-smiling, majestic style.

The woman betrayed by her husband arrived in a presidential motorcade with armed police chase cars, personal bodyguards and motorbike outriders.

But when she stepped from her stretch limo she was as far from being a shamed woman as you can get.

Her blonde bobbed hair was immaculate, the blue trouser suit straight from a top designer shop - and the smile was as bright as her gold necklace.

Beamed

It was a smile that beamed and her wave to the crowd outside the city's Waterfront centre was as bold as it could be.

This was a woman fighting back, a mother, putting a young woman and her Delilah delights firmly in her place.

Gone was the embarrassment that your husband has admitted his sexual peccadilloes to the Free World. Instead, there was poise, confidence - and authority.

This was the strength of the woman behind the man - the power behind the US throne - and it won the hearts of the people of Belfast.

SEE PAGE 3

THE MIRROR
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PAGE 3



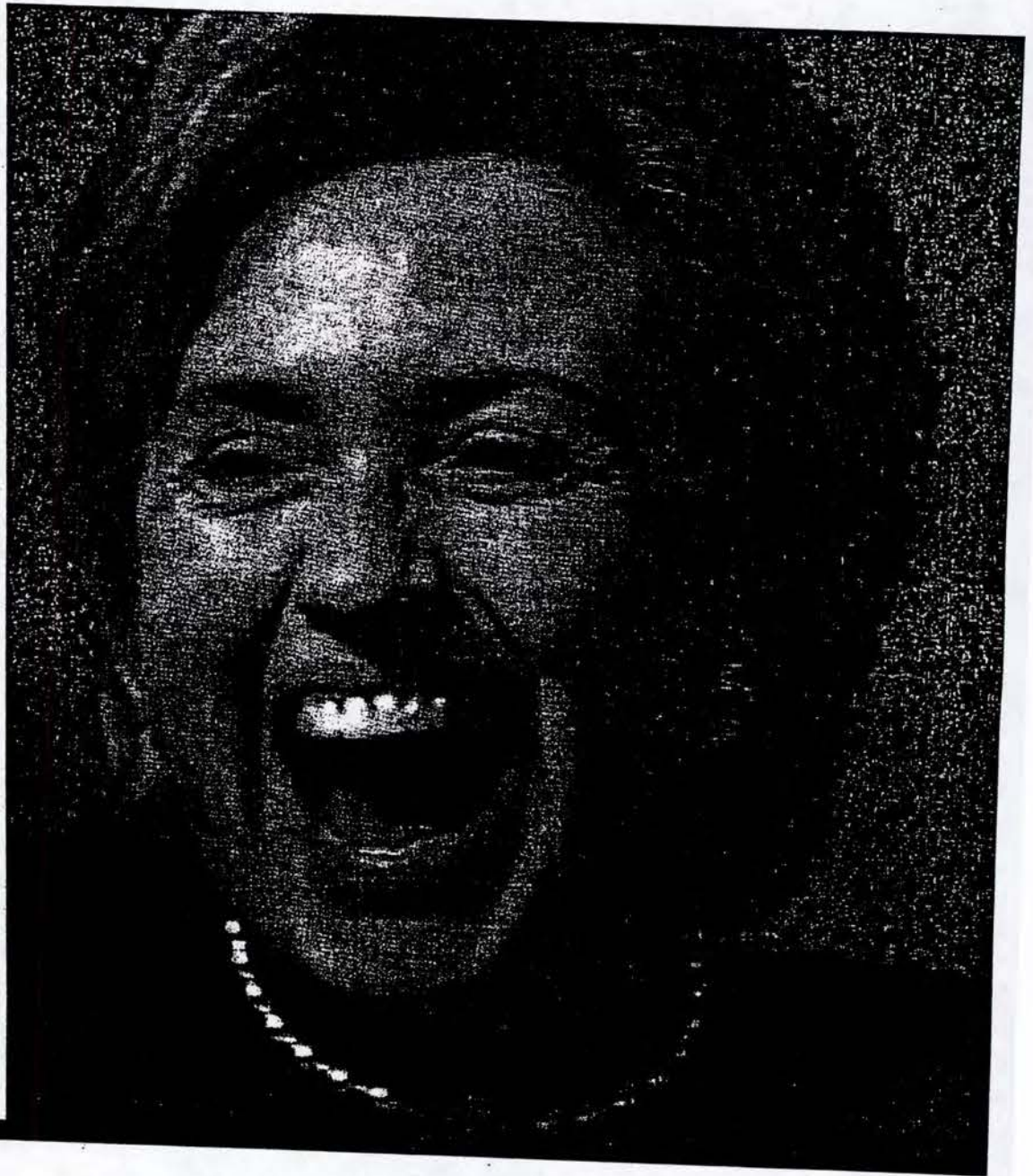
TAKE ONE: Hillary sees the funny side



TAKE TWO: She beams for the crowds



TAKE THREE: The joke must be on Bill



FIRST LADY FLIES INTO ULSTER

Hillary leads the advance party for President's visit

By Janet Devlin

HILLARY Clinton was due to fly into Northern Ireland today for the first leg of a whirlwind Presidential visit.

And the First Lady, who has made her first public appearance since the Monica Lewinsky scandal broke, says she feels "just fine".

Mrs Clinton was due to speak at a major conference in Belfast this

afternoon on the advancement of women.

Before leaving Russia, where she and her husband were lending support to beleaguered leader Boris Yeltsin, she told a reporter who asked her how she had been doing in recent weeks: "I've been doing just fine".

Appearing jet-lagged, but otherwise happy, she deftly parried the first reference to the scandal, which is bound to cast a shadow over the Presidential tour.

The federal judge in the Paula Jones sexual-harassment case yesterday hinted she may hold President Clinton in contempt for failing to tell the whole truth about Ms Lewinsky.

Today's engagement will be first of a number by Mrs Clinton before she is joined by her husband tomorrow.

The President is returning to the city to urge all sides to make political progress. He will also lay a wreath at the site of the Omagh bombing atrocity.

This is Mrs Clinton's third visit to Northern Ireland.

A spokesman for the US administration said: "She has been keeping her eye on the situation here because it's an area where she has a keen interest and, for personal reasons, looks

on it with a warm heart."

The President's wife was due to deliver a keynote address at the Women in Democracy conference at Belfast's Waterfront Hall this afternoon, then spend the night at Hillsborough.

Tomorrow she is due to open a playground for Protestant and Catholic children in the greater Belfast area

before meeting up with her husband back at the city's Waterfront Hall where he will deliver his own speech to the people of Northern Ireland.

The address will be transmitted live on big screen television in the grounds of the Waterfront Hall at 11am. Pedestrian access will be available via the entrance to the Dunlough Ewart picnic car park at

Queen's Bridge from 9am. Other car parks in the immediate area will remain closed.

It was also confirmed today that Mary Black will play at Armagh's 'Gathering for Peace' tomorrow, and huge crowds are expected for Mr Clinton's peace address.

Car parking will be sited on approach roads, with free buses

into the city centre. The city gates are open from 5pm and Mr Clinton will arrive after the concert.

Prime Minister Tony Blair is expected in Belfast later tonight and he will personally greet the President when he disembarks from Air Force One tomorrow morning.

● See pages 6, 10 and 11; Viewpoint, page 12



LOS ANGELES TIMES

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1998

Reuters

Hillary adds her voice in battle for equality

IT was a drizzly St Patrick's Day in Washington when Monica McWilliams and Pearl Sagar arrived at the White House.

A telephone call that morning had confirmed First Lady Hillary Clinton would meet the two Women's Coalition negotiators for 15 minutes at 4pm sharp.

The meeting was a sign of the fledgling Coalition's growing influence in politics — and a powerful network of women at work.

Mrs Clinton was already aware of the

First Lady Hillary Clinton was keeping a promise to Belfast women when she visited today. **MARTINA PURDY** and **EILEEN FLEMING** report

Women's Coalition when she received a telephone from Rosemary O'Neill asking if she would meet the two Women's Coalition representatives.

Ms O'Neill, a State Department official, carried considerable clout in Washington, as the daughter of Tip O'Neill, the legendary

speaker of the House of Representatives.

She came to know the Coalition through mutual acquaintances, and made it her business to help out.

"A force to be reckoned with," was how Ms Sagar described her.

Mrs Clinton readily agreed to the meeting.

A lifelong feminist, she had refused the traditional role reserved for the First Lady — hosting teas, redecorating the White House and promoting safe issues.

Like her husband, she was keenly interested in the ongoing political talks at Stormont and was kept informed via the National Security Council (which often had the minutes of the talks even before the delegates.)

Mrs Clinton had already travelled to Belfast twice since 1995, once with her husband and a second time to deliver the Joyce McCartan memorial lecture at the University of Jordanstown.

In her speech, she had singled out the Coalition for special mention.

Afterwards she had been introduced to Ms McWilliams, who along with Ms Sagar had raced to the White House that day in between meetings with Washington power-brokers, congressman Peter King, Richard Neal, and Senator Edward Kennedy.

Ms McWilliams, a university lecturer, and Ms Sagar, a community worker, had little time to reflect on their growing political clout as they entered the heart of one of the world's most famous buildings.

They stood by a photocopier making small talk with the British Ambassador to

The Philadelphia Inquirer

September 2, 1998

A close-up view of Russia's crisis

Hillary Clinton visits with a struggling businesswoman.

By Elizabeth Shogren
LOS ANGELES TIMES

MOSCOW — Hillary Rodham Clinton had a street-level view of Russia's economic crisis yesterday, visiting a privately owned clothing factory that has been hard hit and talking to a rare breed — Russian female entrepreneurs — about the struggles they confront.

Because it was the first time Hillary Clinton had faced reporters since her husband's televised admission of marital infidelity, she also answered a delicately worded question about how she was coping with the personal impact of President Clinton's political crisis. "I've been getting along fine," she said with what appeared to be a forced smile.

That was more of a mask than her Russian hosts put on their own very different crisis, which began Aug. 17, the same day the President made his admission of an improper relationship after seven months of denials.

Sitting next to Hillary Clinton, Russian President Boris N. Yeltsin's wife, Naina I. Yeltsin, opened the meeting with businesswomen by referring to her country's economy collapse. "In this difficult time," she said, "much lies on women's shoulders."

The director of the small textile factory where the meeting took place, Tatyana Nedzvetskaya, was even more direct. "Before the crisis, we had such high hopes," she said. But since it hit, she added, there was only uncertainty.

Nedzvetskaya's business grew from a mom-and-pop shop in 1988 to a factory with 60 full-time workers. Demand for her reasonably priced clothes had been so high in recent months that she had contracted with three other factories — with a



Associated Press / MIKAIL METZEL

Hillary Clinton and Naina Yeltsin (left) toured the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow yesterday.

total of about 500 seamstresses — to keep up with orders from across the country.

All that changed Aug. 17, when the ruble was devalued and payments on some government debts were frozen. Since then, political upheaval has caused the value of the Russian currency to plummet further.

The price of the imported fabric that Nedzvetskaya uses for her suits and dresses soared overnight. Her targeted market — Russian women with modest incomes — cannot afford to pay more than her current prices, so she faces a formidable dilemma: If she raises prices, she will lose customers; if she doesn't, she will be unable to make ends meet.

"We had planned to introduce two new lines this fall because everything was going so well this sum-

mer," Nedzvetskaya said in an interview. Now, for the first time in a decade as a pioneering private businesswoman, she faces serious doubts that she will be able to keep the doors of her enterprise open.

Hillary Clinton's visit with the businesswomen offered her a glimpse of the problems facing many thousands of private enterprises that have struggled into existence as Russia makes the transition from the Soviet-era command economy toward a free-market system.

Given the Russians' deep economic fears, it was incomprehensible to Nedzvetskaya and the workers in her factory that the U.S. political system was in crisis over the relationship between President Clinton and former White House intern Monica S. Lewinsky.

"I feel such sympathy for Mrs. Clinton," said Lyuda Kalinina, 40, who was sewing a woman's suit jacket as the American started her tour of the tidy, cheery enterprise. "It's such a delicate situation. If one of us was going through it, maybe our best girlfriend would know about it. But in Mrs. Clinton's case, the whole world knows. I feel so sorry for her."

Nedzvetskaya scoffed at all the attention given to the Clintons' personal problems and said it showed that Americans must "have nothing else to worry about."

She offered a suggestion for what President Clinton should do if the U.S. political establishment decided to take the extreme step of impeaching him or demanding his resignation.

"If they kick him out, have him come to Russia," Nedzvetskaya said. "We would gladly welcome him as our president. We could sure use a good one."



The Philadelphia Inquirer

September 2, 1998
A 16

First Lady Gets Earful of Businesswomen's Woes

■ **Entrepreneurs:** At a clothing factory, Mrs. Clinton hears how doldrums are affecting free-market pioneers.

By ELIZABETH SHOGREN
TIMES STAFF WRITER

MOSCOW—First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton had a street-level view of Russia's economic crisis Tuesday, as she visited a privately owned clothing factory that has been hard hit and talked to a rare breed—Russian women entrepreneurs—about the struggles they confront.

Since it was the first time Mrs. Clinton had faced reporters since her husband's televised admission of marital infidelity, she also answered a delicately worded question about how she is coping with the personal impact of President Clinton's political crisis.

"I've been getting along fine," she said with what appeared to be a forced smile.

That was more of a mask than the first lady's Russian hosts put on their own, very different crisis, which began Aug. 17—the same day the president made his admission after seven months of denial.

Sitting next to Mrs. Clinton, Russian First Lady Naina I. Yeltsin opened the meeting with businesswomen by referring to her country's economic collapse.

"In this difficult time, much lies on women's shoulders," she said.

The director of the small clothing factory where the meeting took place, Tatiana Nedzvetskaya, was even more direct.

"Before the crisis, we had such high hopes," she said. But since it hit, she added, there is only uncertainty.

Nedzvetskaya's business grew from a mom-and-pop shop in 1988 to a factory with 60 full-time workers. Demand for her reasonably priced clothes has been so high in recent months that she contracted with three other factories to keep up with orders from across the country.

But all that changed Aug. 17, when Russia's currency, the ruble, was devalued and payments on some government debts were frozen. Since then, political upheaval has caused the value of the ruble to plummet further. The price of the imported fabric that Nedzvetskaya uses for her suits and dresses soared overnight. Her targeted market—Russian women with modest incomes—cannot afford to pay more than her current prices,

so she faces a formidable dilemma: If she raises prices, she will lose her customers; if she doesn't, she will be unable to make ends meet.

"We had planned to introduce two new lines this fall because everything was going so well this summer," Nedzvetskaya said in an interview. Now, for the first time in a decade as a pioneering private businesswoman, she faces serious doubts that she will be able to keep the doors of her enterprise open.

"The situation is much more critical than it has ever been before," Nedzvetskaya said. "It was not so difficult in the beginning. We had nothing to lose. Now, 60 women will be on the street if we fail. What is so sad and frustrating is that none of this depends on you. It's all up to the idiotic decisions of the government."

Mrs. Clinton's visit with the businesswomen offered her a microcosm of the problems facing many thousands of private enterprises that have struggled into existence as Russia has been engaged in a transition from the Soviet-era command economy to a free-market system.

Given their deep economic fears, it was incomprehensible to Nedzvetskaya and her employees that the U.S. political system is in crisis over the relationship between Clinton and former White House intern Monica S. Lewinsky.

"I feel such sympathy for Mrs. Clinton," said Lyuda Kalinina, 40, who was sewing a woman's suit jacket as the American first lady started her tour of the tidy, cheery enterprise. "It's such a delicate situation. If one of us was going through it, maybe our best girlfriend would know about it. But in Mrs. Clinton's case, the whole world knows. I feel so sorry for her."

Nedzvetskaya scoffed at all the attention given to the Clintons' personal problems and said it shows that Americans must "have nothing else to worry about."

She offered a suggestion for what Clinton should do if he faces impeachment or a congressional demand that he resign.

"If they kick him out, have him come to Russia," Nedzvetskaya said. "We would gladly welcome him as our president. We could sure use a good one."



Associated Press

Los Angeles Times

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1998

Clinton Sees 'No Painless Solutions'

By Barry Schweid
and Maura Reynolds
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

With a message of support but no financial help, U.S. President Bill Clinton urged Russians on Tuesday to "reject the failed policies of the past" in coping with their current economic crisis.

"Given the facts before you, I have to tell you that I do not believe there are any painless solutions," Clinton told a new generation of Russian leaders at Moscow State University of International Relations.

Clinton spoke after he and President Boris Yeltsin had opened a two-day summit unlikely to deliver sweeping agreements from the politically wounded presidents.

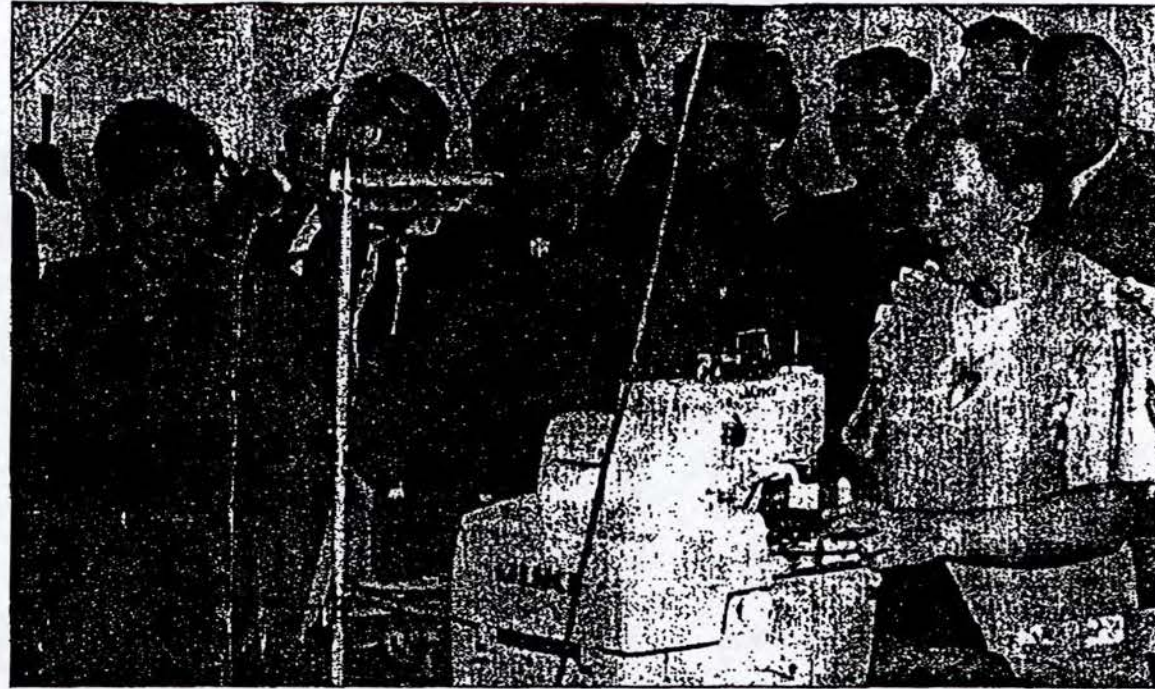
Clinton offered no specific ideas on how the infant democracy could weather the tailspin of its currency, but he repeatedly said that Russia must "play by the rules" of international commerce and get rid of corruption.

"I believe you will create the conditions of growth if — but only if — you continue to move decisively along the path of democratic, market-oriented constructive revolution."

Clinton traced America's own two centuries of democracy and said "the road has not always been easy," referring to the Civil War, Great Depression and two world wars.

Despite the poor outlook for meaningful progress, Yeltsin declared just before his summit meetings that "Russian-American relations are developing successfully."

He greeted Clinton with a bear hug



Naina Yeltsin, left, and Hillary Clinton, center, visiting a Moscow clothing factory Tuesday in support of women entrepreneurs.

dential study. The first agreement to trickle out was a joint pledge to eliminate some stockpiles of plutonium taken from dismantled missile warheads, and to exchange information on anti-missile alert systems.

While the two presidents visited schools and universities, their wives had tea with Russian businesswomen Tuesday. For Hillary Rodham Clinton, it was her first public appearance since her husband admitted an inappropriate relationship with a White House

when asked how she's been.

"I've been getting along fine," the first lady said to journalists, emphasizing "fine" with a nod of her head.

Mrs. Clinton appeared jet-lagged but otherwise happy to be hobnobbing about Moscow with Naina Yeltsin. The two toured a private women's clothing factory and took part in a discussion with women small-business owners before setting off for a tour of the Tretyakov Gallery, Moscow's premier art museum. Mrs. Clinton walked slowly through the

signs hanging on dress models and watching the blue-aproned women stitch and iron.

"It's a very nice work environment," she said.

The visit was designed to highlight the work of women business owners, something Mrs. Yeltsin said deserves more attention.

"It's a pity that so many of our business owners are men," Mrs. Yeltsin said, noting that only 18 percent of Russian businesses are owned by women. "Men



The Washington Times

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1998

President and Mrs. Clinton applaud a young student in a sailor's suit performing on the first day of school in Moscow yesterday. Reuters



BY LARRY RUBENSTEIN—REUTERS

**President Clinton shares an aside
with wife Hillary during appearance
at Elementary School No. 19.**

The Washington Post

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1998



Chicago Tribune

PAGE 26, SECTION 1
SEPTEMBER 2, 1998

Summit Meeting Teeters On Edge of Self-Parody

By MICHAEL WINES

MOSCOW, Sept. 1 — As President and Mrs. Clinton prepared to retire tonight at the Marriott Hotel near the banks of the Moscow River, a car pulled over not far from the hotel entrance. The doors opened, and Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the ultranationalist who controls a bloc of seats in Russia's Parliament, climbed out.

Mr. Zhirinovsky turned toward the hotel and yelled, in so many exceptionally unprintable words, "Clinton, you are an idiot!" After applying the coarsest description of sexual relations to the President, he added, "Your dollar is dirt, and this dirt is all over the world!"

He then produced a dollar in his hand and told his supporters, "Burn it." They did.

This evening, Moscow television broadcast videotape of the event in its entirety, barely-bleeped epithets and all.

This sort of disgrace would never have happened if Leonid Brezhnev still ran things. But Brezhnev and the Soviet Union are dead, Boris N. Yeltsin is alive and, by several accounts still kicking, and Russian-American summitry — still somber and inflated as ever — now teeters at times on the slippery brink of self-parody.

Depending on one's point of view, Moscow right now is either no place for such a worldly event or the perfect place. The contrast between former summit meetings and the current state of the two countries — and their leaders — is simply too great to ignore.

The public aspects of this summit meeting have been scripted almost entirely for television; some events, such as a wreath-laying in Red Square this morning, were staged solely for cameras and a small pool of reporters.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Yeltsin dutifully mugged for the cameras all day, exchanging bear hugs, gifts and tributes to the enduring friendship of their nations at almost every public opportunity.

Mr. Yeltsin, looking reasonably hale, good-naturedly stiffed news photographers by turning his back on them during one ceremony.

Mr. Clinton, ever gregarious, practiced staff-written Russian-language platitudes on crowds all day. Beyond the range of the lens, however, the economy is unavoidable.

As the Clintons and the Yeltsins and some 115 other luminaries dined in the Kremlin tonight on pike rasstegai, salmon, roast-beef-stuffed omelet and the obligatory wine and caviar, Muscovites a few blocks away were resting after a day of methodically picking grocery shelves clean of food and dry goods they fully expect will soon disappear.

Moscow newspapers reported today that ships loaded with imported goods, now a huge share of Russian purchases, were turning away or refusing to unload because of the fiscal uncertainty. Non-perishables like grain, oils and, in St. Petersburg, refrigerators were vanishing from stores, and prices in some instances had reportedly doubled.

Olympic-quality runners, fearful of being injured in a coup, threatened to desert a world-class track meet this weekend. The Russian Olympic Committee was hampered in responding because its electricity had

been turned off for nonpayment.

And that was merely the Russian side of the equation. Moments after Mr. Clinton finished cutting a fat loaf of Russian bread this morning in Mr. Yeltsin's marble-and-bronze Kremlin study, the two men were jerked back to reality by a CBS News correspondent who suddenly asked: What about the economy?

The correspondent, Scott Pelley, was seeking a response from Mr. Clinton about Monday's 500-point drop in the stock market. But the question could just as easily have been asked of Mr. Yeltsin, whose nation's own stock market has shed 60 percent of its blue-chips' value in the last two months alone.

Mr. Pelley was escorted from the room by Russian officials and briefly stripped of his press credentials for breaking a promise to be silent.

As Mr. Zhirinovsky demonstrated, the respect usually accorded to summit participants has gone largely by the boards this week.

Mrs. Clinton played a decided second today to Naina Yeltsin as the two toured a factory, and Mrs. Yeltsin



Reuters

Hillary Rodham Clinton with Valentina Chernomyrdin in Moscow.

decried the lack of women's roles in business. Mrs. Clinton was even asked point-blank about her outlook in the wake of the President's admission that he carried on a sexual relationship with Monica Lewinsky.

"I've been getting along fine," Mrs. Clinton responded; reporters later analyzed her body language and facial expressions during a joint appearance with Mr. Clinton — their first since his admission — at a Russian public school. Mr. Clinton also suffered his share of slings. In downtown Moscow, a British manager of a fine-arts reproduction company was selling a special edition of Russian nesting dolls, featuring the likenesses of Mr. Clinton, Ms. Lewinsky and three other women with whom he has been said to have had — or tried to have — some involvement.

The manager, David Segal, said the \$35 dolls "are being produced as fast as the people can get the stock for them."

Mr. Segal said he was merely doing his part for the Russian economy. "We're going to have most of one village turning them out," he said in an interview this week.

The New York Times

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1998



Reuters

Hillary Rodham Clinton with Valentina Chernomyrdin in Moscow.

The New York Times

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1998



NEWSDAY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1998

A Subdued First Lady

REUTERS

Moscow — Bill and Hillary Clinton spent time trying to heal their marriage after the intern affair, but the strains showed yesterday at a joint appearance.

"I've been getting along fine," Hillary Clinton said about the weeks since the president admitted to an "inappropriate" relationship. She was sharing tea with Russian businesswomen and first lady Naina Yeltsin.

Later, she joined her husband at School No. 19 for a ceremony at the opening of the school year.

It marked the first time the two had appeared together at a public event since before Aug. 17, when Clinton retracted his seven-month-long denial on television.

Neither Clinton made any reference to the scandal yesterday.

The couple sat side by side on the stage, both with fixed smiles. The usual free exchanges between the two were missing.

Hillary Clinton told the children how pleased she was to visit the 118-year-old school. Her style grew more formal as she neared the close of her remarks. "It is my great honor to introduce to you Bill Clinton, the president of the United States," she said.

White House officials said the Clintons had used a vacation at Martha's Vineyard as a time for healing emotional wounds inflicted by the president's infidelity. Aides said the vacation, which ended Sunday, exposed the depth of the pain inflicted by the affair. The Clintons spent much of the time in seclusion, but not necessarily together.

A source close to the couple said the few times they were with others, the first lady virtually ignored her husband and spoke only to other people at their table.



AP Photo

In their first public appearance since Aug. 17, the Clintons share a smile over a doll presented them by students of an elementary school in Moscow.

"I'll tell you, looking at them makes you think twice about cheating," one White House official said.

Sympathy was with Hillary Clinton in the small clothing factory she toured with the Russian first lady.

"On a human scale, I feel sorry for her," said presser Tonya Salkina. "She's a woman above everything else, not just the president's wife."



The Boston Globe |

SEPTEMBER 2, 1998
A20



By J. Scott Applewhite, AP

First couple: The Clintons attend a student performance at a school in Moscow.

USA TODAY

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1998



Reuters photo

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bombers told



EMOTIONAL STATEMENT: Tony Blair pledged yesterday to get tough with terrorists

Dublin poised to back terror crackdown

THE toughest anti-terrorism crackdown in the history of the Eire state was last night set for overwhelming Dublin parliamentary approval after brushing aside token resistance.

All government and opposition parties lined up behind what Prime Minister Bertie Ahern called "a tough and draconian" response to the Omagh bomb outrage.

The Dail was poised to endorse the Ahern legal and security package late tonight after more than 12 hours of debate that went on in tandem with similar developments in the House of Commons.

In Dublin Mr Ahern delivered a no-holds-barred message to the Real IRA breakaway terrorists, still dithering over an anticipated statement declaring that their ceasefire, announced within hours after claiming responsibility for the Omagh outrage, would be permanent.

The premier bluntly told them: "You cannot hope to take on the people of Ireland and win."

He said the Real IRA had disgraced themselves and no community in Ireland wished to have them in their midst.

The Dail expected all remaining active paramilitaries to halt their campaigns of violence or "face the consequences".

Mr Ahern's stance secured widespread support from the main opposition groups in the Dail, although his predecessor as prime minister, Fine Gael party leader John Bruton, asked why the security steps had not been taken earlier and launched a strong attack on the attitude of the on-cessfire IRA.

But the only direct resistance came from the Dail's lone Sinn Fein representative, Caoimhghin O Caolain, and independent Socialist Party member Joe Higgins.

Mr O Caolain warned: "A return to a

Dail debate

failed repressive agenda would run completely contrary to the Good Friday agreement (on Northern Ireland).

Mr Higgins pointed to the potential threat to civil liberties posed by the severe set of proposals.

After securing the anticipated Dail second and committee stages acceptance, the measures will today be debated in the Senate, the upper house of the Eire parliament.

After that the bill goes to the office of President Mary McAleese to be signed into law.

Because Ms McAleese is currently out of Eire - on a state visit to Australia - that process will be undertaken by a presidential commission, made up of Chief Justice Liam Hamilton and the speakers of the Dail and Senate, Seamus Pattison and Brian Mulhoolly.

Key sections of the Dublin blueprint - generally regarded as even more stringent than the broadly lookalike set of proposals being considered simultaneously by the House of Commons - were:

- Easier courtroom convictions in illegal organisation membership cases;
- The granting of rights to courts to make inferences on the silence of accused suspects;
- New offences including directing an illegal organisation, the unlawful collection of information and training people in making or using firearms;
- Increased periods for the detention of terrorist suspects;
- The stepped-up use of a witness protection programme;
- Forfeiture of lands and property found to have been used by terrorists or for terrorist purposes.

DUP plans to confront Clinton

By MERVYN PAULEY

DUP politicians plan to confront US President Bill Clinton today during the first engagement of his day-long Ulster visit.

Forthright exchanges are expected when Mr Clinton goes to Stormont to greet members of the new 108-seater Assembly.

Each party will be given the opportunity to meet him after he has private talks with First Minister David Trimble and his deputy, Seamus Mallon.

DUP Assemblyman Ian Paisley Jr said yesterday a party delegation would give the Pres-

ident a no-nonsense assessment of the current situation and Gerry Adams' "violence must end" statement.

The DUP has dismissed the statement as a "carefully choreographed" ploy to please London and Washington and attacked Mr Trimble over the convening of a meeting of all party leaders in the Assembly on Monday.

With the Sinn Fein chief expected to attend the Stormont round-table talks, called to discuss Assembly structures

and the controversial issue of the shadow executive, the DUP made it clear it will boycott the exercise.

Party leader the Rev Ian Paisley confirmed the stay-away stance. "I am going to give Mr Trimble no cover to do the dirty deed of getting IRA/Sinn Fein into the government of Northern Ireland," he declared.

He dismissed the upbeat mood in the wake of the Adams' statement, saying the war was not over and would not be until the IRA got rid of its weapons. He did not believe there would be any action on decommissioning.

UK Unionist deputy leader Cedric Wilson said his party would consider the invitation to Monday's meeting.

An Ulster Unionist spokesman rounded on the DUP, accusing the party of "crass hypocrisy" in its approach to Sinn Fein.

"The DUP sits with Sinn Fein on the standing orders committee of the Assembly," he said. "Monday's meeting is largely a procedural exercise ahead of the resumption of the Assembly the following week. Mr Trimble and deputy First Minister Seamus Mallon were required to call it."

A spokesman for Mr Trimble insisted there was no chance of a private head-to-head meeting between the DUP chief and Mr Adams.

"The First Minister and other party representatives can be expected to put the need for decommissioning forcefully to Adams," he said. "Ulster Unionists require a start on the arms issue before Sinn Fein can be considered for government."

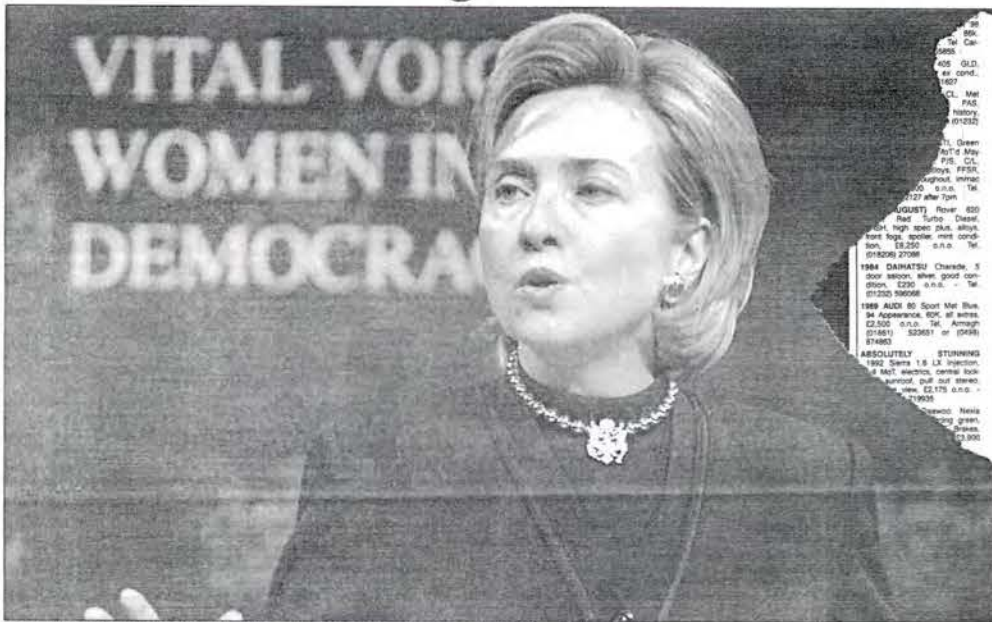
DUP secretary Nigel Dodds claimed that Monday's meeting was "the prelude to Trimble sitting down and working with Adams and McGuinness in government".



IAN PAISLEY

First Lady visits Ulster

Hillary floats



POISED: Hillary Clinton speaking at the Women in Democracy Conference at the Waterfront Hall yesterday

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GOOD TO SEE YOU: Europa General manager John Toner welcomes the First Lady

back into town

A RELAXED and smiling Hillary Clinton delivered a keynote speech to hundreds of women in Belfast last night and showed no sign of any strain.

Mrs Clinton spoke for 40 minutes about the rights and achievements of women and afterwards received a standing ovation from the 450-strong audience in the Waterfront Hall.

It was Mrs Clinton's first speech since her husband admitted his "inappropriate" relationship with Monica Lewinsky and it was delivered in a strong, unfaltering style.

Poised and relaxed in a smart blue trouser suit, she told the Women in Democracy Conference that it was women's voices which could not be ignored.

"If you listen you can hear the voices of women who withstood jeers and threats to make themselves heard in a political world once reserved primarily for men."

With intense interest focused on the scandal surrounding her husband the First Lady's every gesture was being scrutinised.

But she referred to her husband only fleetingly. "When my husband and I go to Omagh tomorrow we will pay tribute to those who were murdered by the enemies of peace."

They were mostly women and children, Catholic and Protestant, unionist and nationalist, young and old. They were people simply living their lives."

Mrs Clinton paid lengthy tribute to the role of women in the search for peace. "None of this would have been possible were it not for the courage and strength of generations of women."

She said the United States would continue to do all it could to support Northern Ireland. "You will only move forward and as you do please know that America will stand with you."

Mrs Clinton smiled broadly when she was paid a glowing tribute by Londonderry student Fiona Hughes who introduced her as a "role model to me and to young women around the world".

If people were looking for signs of strain, the First Lady showed none and seemed to relish her appearance.

Arriving at the conference she turned and waved to the dozens of photographers and reporters and called out "hello".

She also attended a reception at Belfast City Hall last night where she was given another rapturous reception.

She told a gathering of politicians and community leaders: "I'm not shy, but I take any excuse I can find to come back to Northern Ireland."

"I feel uplifted and energised by the courageous men and women with whom I have met."

"We know how difficult the journey is. This is not only about the future of Northern Ireland, there are people all over the world who are waiting and hoping and praying that what we have set in motion will be something realised."

Powerful voice lacks emotion

SHE had all the tools to make a terrific speech, but somehow First Lady Hillary Clinton missed the mark in the emotion stakes yesterday.

She summoned every last drop of statesman-like shine to make a trail-blazing arrival at Belfast's Waterfront Hall.

Stepping from a sleek armoured car, she looked every bit the wife of the most powerful man in the world.

She emanated lashings of glamour as her hefty but ornate gold jewellery glinted in the late-afternoon sun.

Dressed in a chic-cut, navy blue trouser suit, her honey-coloured hair was coiffed in to the perfect bob.

Inside, more than 450 delegates of the Vital Women in Democracy conference waited in whispering anticipation for the one woman who was expected to outshine all others.

And when she floated on to the stage with a gleaming, unbroken smile they gave her a queen's welcome.

JEANETTE OLDHAM reports from the Waterfront Hall

She listened to four other speeches, two of which were particularly moving.

And when it came to her turn, she showed all the early signs of playing a blinder - her booming voice carried across the hall much more than those before her.

She received rapturous applause at the end of her speech but there was an undeniable air of disappointment among some of the delegates and journalists as they left.

One woman, Mary McKinney, who had waited hours for a close-up look at the glossy Hillary Clinton, said: "She spoke well - she has a very powerful voice."

"But she lacked emotion. She used a lot of emotional words, but there wasn't the emotion in her voice or eyes."

It must be hard for her to come in cold and give a speech which mentions Omagh when so many

others have done so recently.

"But many of those other speeches brought people out in goose-pimples. Her's didn't."

The whole visit was heavily staged-managed. Delegates were ferried to and fro to fill empty seats so that television cameras would capture a full audience.

The First Lady was kept away from the media at all times so that no awkward questions about her private life could pop up.

But it must have been at the forefront of many people's minds as they scrutinised Mrs Clinton for the slightest signs of cracking under the strain.

When one of the other speaker's said: "I may bend, but I am not manipulated," journalists checked out the President's wife's face for a flicker of recognition.

But, like her words, she remained impassive.

See Pages 12-13.



REGAL WAVE: Hillary Clinton arriving at the Europa Hotel at the start of her two-day visit

First Lady visits Ulster

Hillary takes the stage to win women's hearts



WOMEN'S VOICE: Hillary Clinton applauds one of the speakers at the Waterfront Hall

HILLARY Clinton had Belfast City Hall in the palm of her hand last night when she admitted: "I'm not shy. I take any excuse I can find to come back to Northern Ireland."

Three busloads of women from the Vital Voices Conference were instantly recognisable by the souvenir blue shoulder-bags they proudly clutched as they entered the Great Hall where politicians had already made some headway on the wine and nibbles.

Martin McGuinness looked almost dapper in his new gold-rimmed spectacles as he tapped his toe to the raucous jazz band. But he was a mere bystander though as the female dominated crowd surged towards the stage to welcome the First Lady.

There was applause too for Lord Mayor David Alderdice when he echoed a familiar catch-phrase saying events over the past few days suggested the worst may now be "over, done with and gone".

With a noticeable spring in her step Hillary Clinton strode to the podium and told the crowd: "I feel uplifted and energised by the courageous men and women with whom I have met."

People around the world have told the First Lady how much they admire the difficult steps towards peace being taken in Ulster.

By LARA BRADLEY

She said: "People are looking and hoping and praying and trusting that what you have set in motion will be realised because if it is they too can hear that they too can move beyond whatever divided them and become stronger together in the future than they ever could have separate in the past."

"What you are doing puts you definitely on the right side of history and many of us will be there cheering you on and supporting you. Thank you for the example of your courage and hope."

Dr Mo Mowlam accompanied the First Lady onto the stage but did not address the crowd. Flanked by the President's men, Hillary took time to shake as many of the outstretched hands as possible.

The consensus of opinion among the audience was that Hillary is a genuine and gracious woman who is blessed with impressive presentation and people skills.

The First Lady made her exit and the jazz band struck up again with gusto. As at all the best functions, a couple of the women began to dance together, fired by the elation of shaking hands with the world's most famous woman.



WELL DONE: Mrs Clinton congratulates Fiona Hughes, 17, after the schoolgirl's welcoming speech yesterday