

**Office of the First Lady
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Archived from OEOB 103 by Gayleen Dalsimer on January 2, 2001

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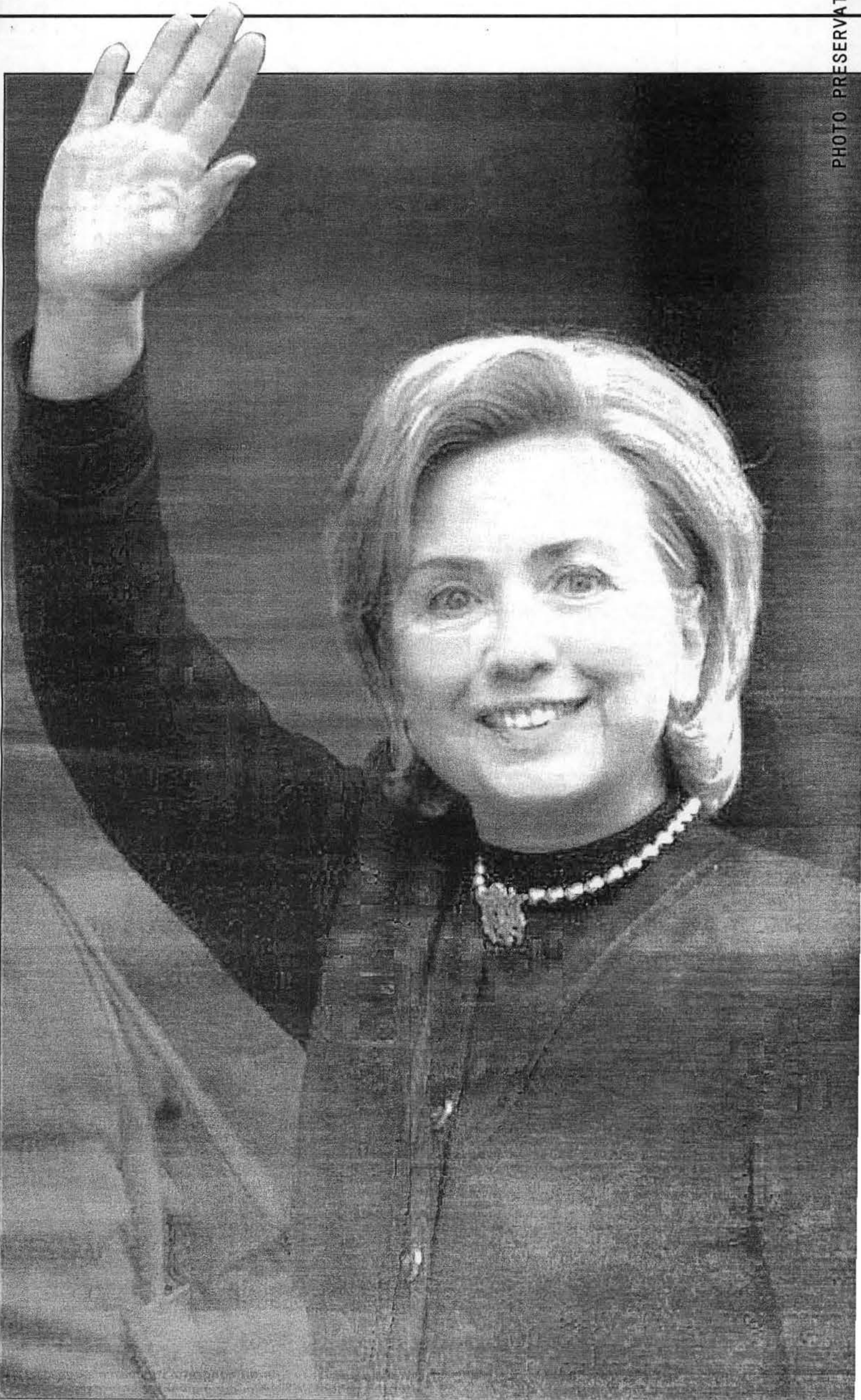
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News Letter 9/3/1988

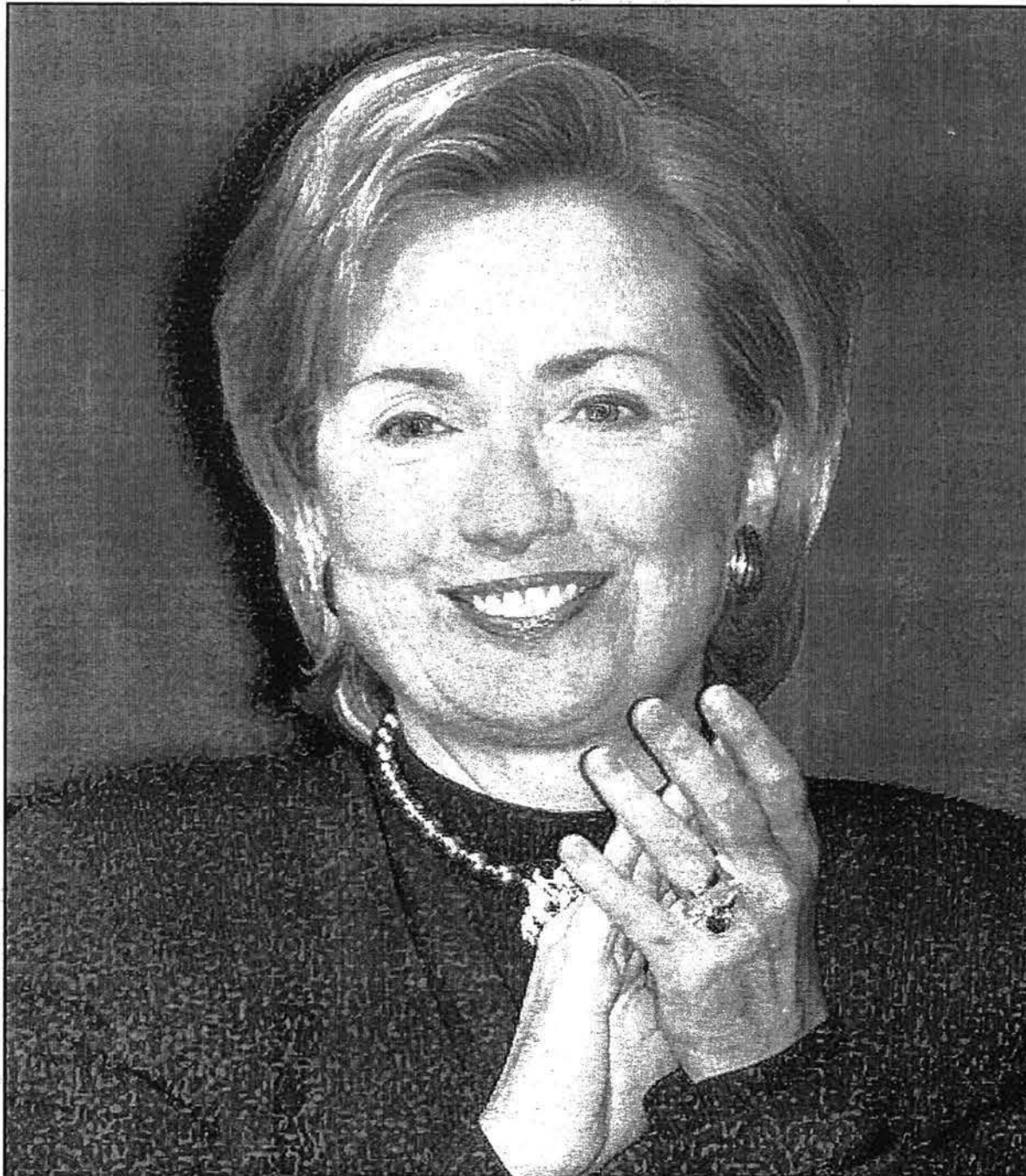
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NEWS

PHOTO PRESERVATION



to win women's hearts

News Letter
9/3/1988



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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 heart 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.



PHOTO PRESERVATION



WOMEN'S VOICE: Hillary Clinton applauds one of the speakers at the Waterfront Hall

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WELL DONE: Mrs Clinton congratulates Fiona Hughes, 17, after the schoolgirl's welcoming speech yesterday

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."

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Arriving at the conference she turned and waved to the dozens of photographers and reporters and called out "hello".

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She emanated lashings of glamour as her hefty but ornate gold jewellery glistened 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.

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JEANETTE OLDHAM reports from the Waterfront Hall

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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.

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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."

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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.

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See Pages 12-13.



REGAL WAVE: Hillary Clinton arriving at the Eu

News Letter 9/3/1988

September 3, 1998

Lady visits Ulster

Hillary takes the stage win women's hearts



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By LARA BRADLEY

She said: "People are looking and praying and that what you have set in will be realised because if I too can hear that they move beyond whatever, them and become stronger together in the future than they could have separate in the."

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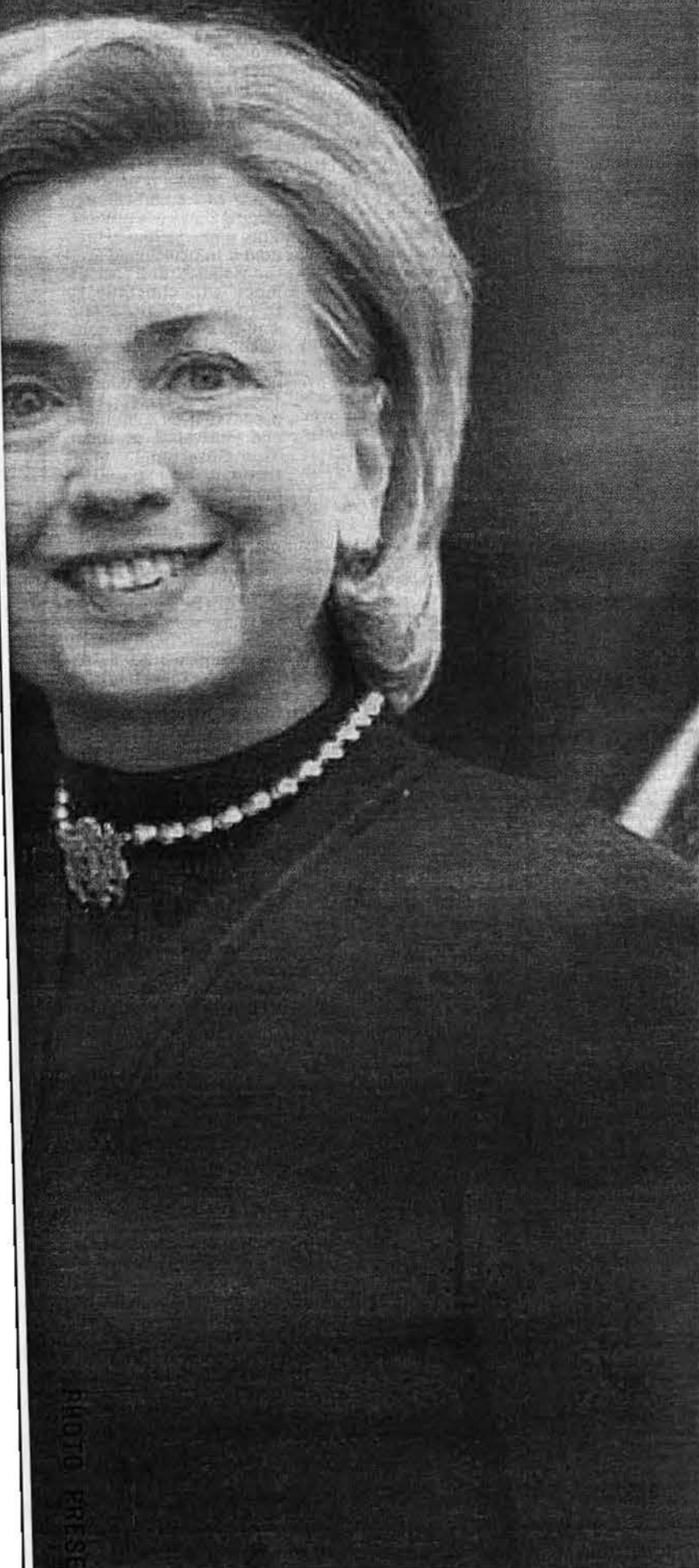
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at Belfast's Waterfront Hall yesterday

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 9.15am.

Traffic will be permitted in the opposite direction on country-bound M2 motorway; city-bound on the Sydenham bypass.

Parkway, Hawthornden Way and the Upper Newtownards Road from the Prince of Wales gates to the Knock Road will be closed in both directions from approximately 8.30 to 9.15am.

- Stormont to Waterfront Hall: the following route will be closed between 10.50 and 11.20am:

Prince of Wales Avenue, Newtownards Road, Hawthornden Way, Belmont Road roundabout, Parkway, Holywood Road, Sydenham By-pass, 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 Lanark Way to its junction with the West Circular Road will be closed in both directions from 9am - 2.15pm.

- Springfield Campus to City Airport - the following route will be closed between 2pm and 2.30pm:

Springfield Road, Grosvenor Road, Westlink (East), York Link, M2 from Sandyknowes interchange, M5, Lagan Bridge (M3), Sydenham bypass to city airport. Travel will be permitted westbound on Westlink and city-ward 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 9am. People travelling to the International Airport are advised to allow additional time for their journey.

A3 Portadown Road - parking facilities available at Castledillon, Hamiltonsbawn Road, Newry Road, Keady 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.

Mall east/west - traffic on Mall East/West will be restricted from 7ams (North End).

Greater Belfast Helpline Tel: 01232 574000.

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 01662 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 city for those intending to visit the event.

Armagh helpline: 01861 521160.

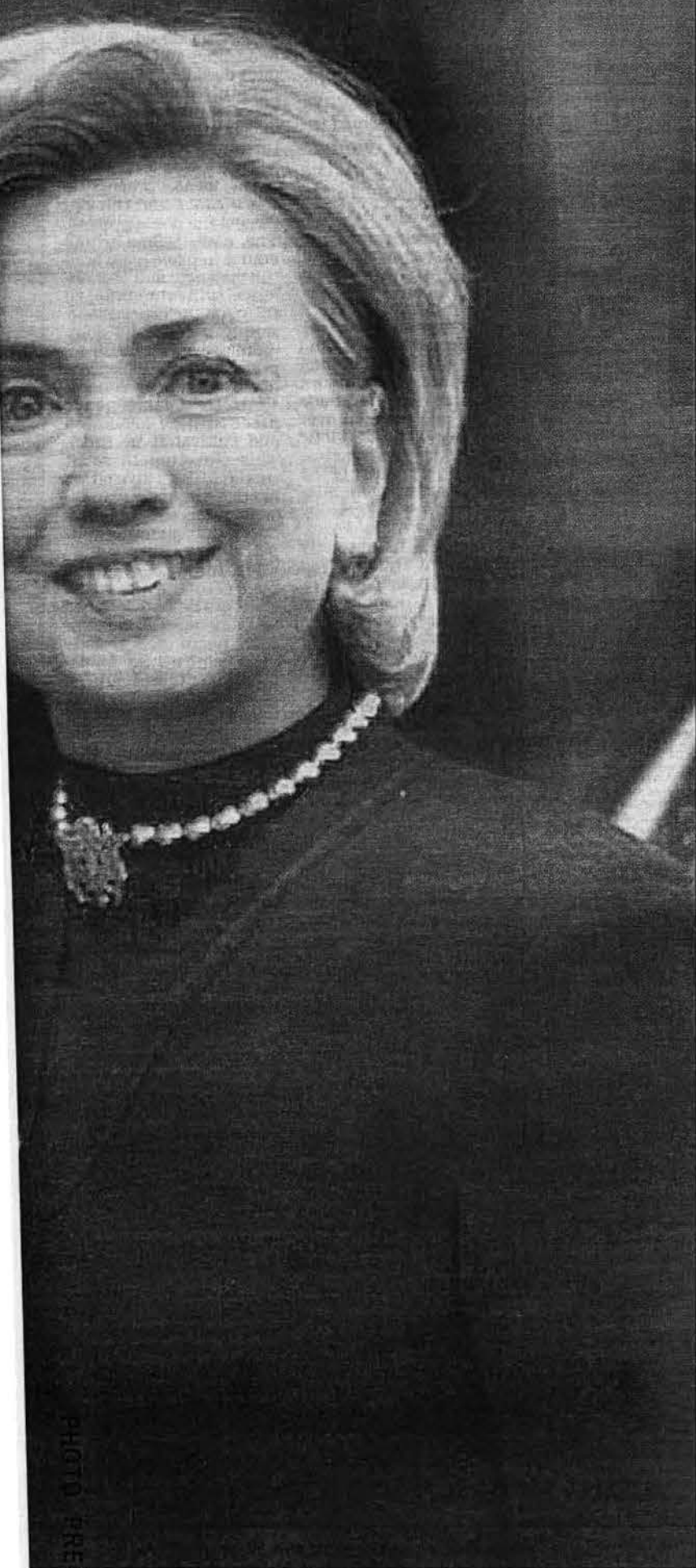


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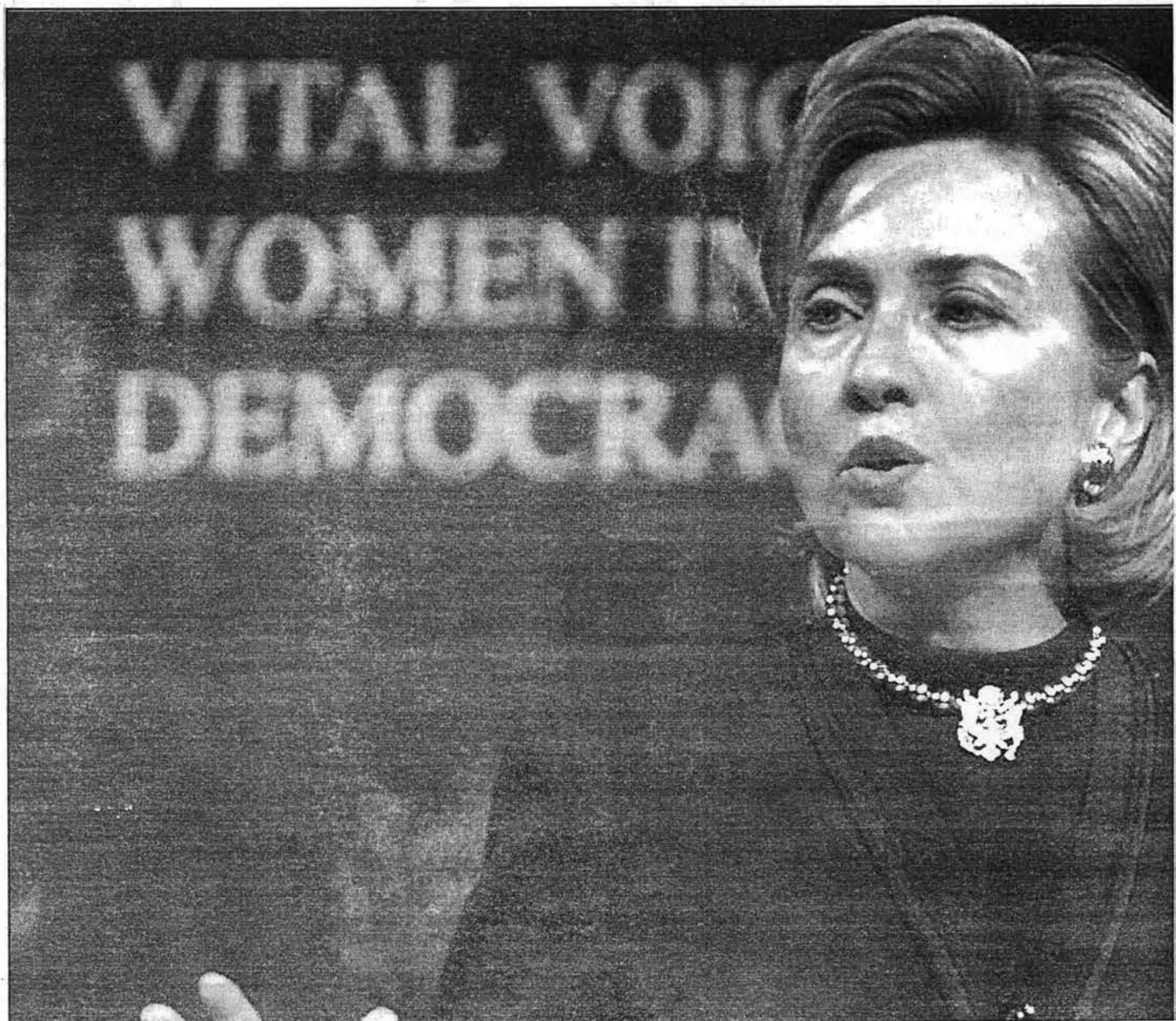
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First Lady visits Ulster

Hillary Clinton

PHOTO PRESERVATION



POISED: Hillary Clinton speaking at the Women in Democracy Conference at the Waterfront Hall yesterday

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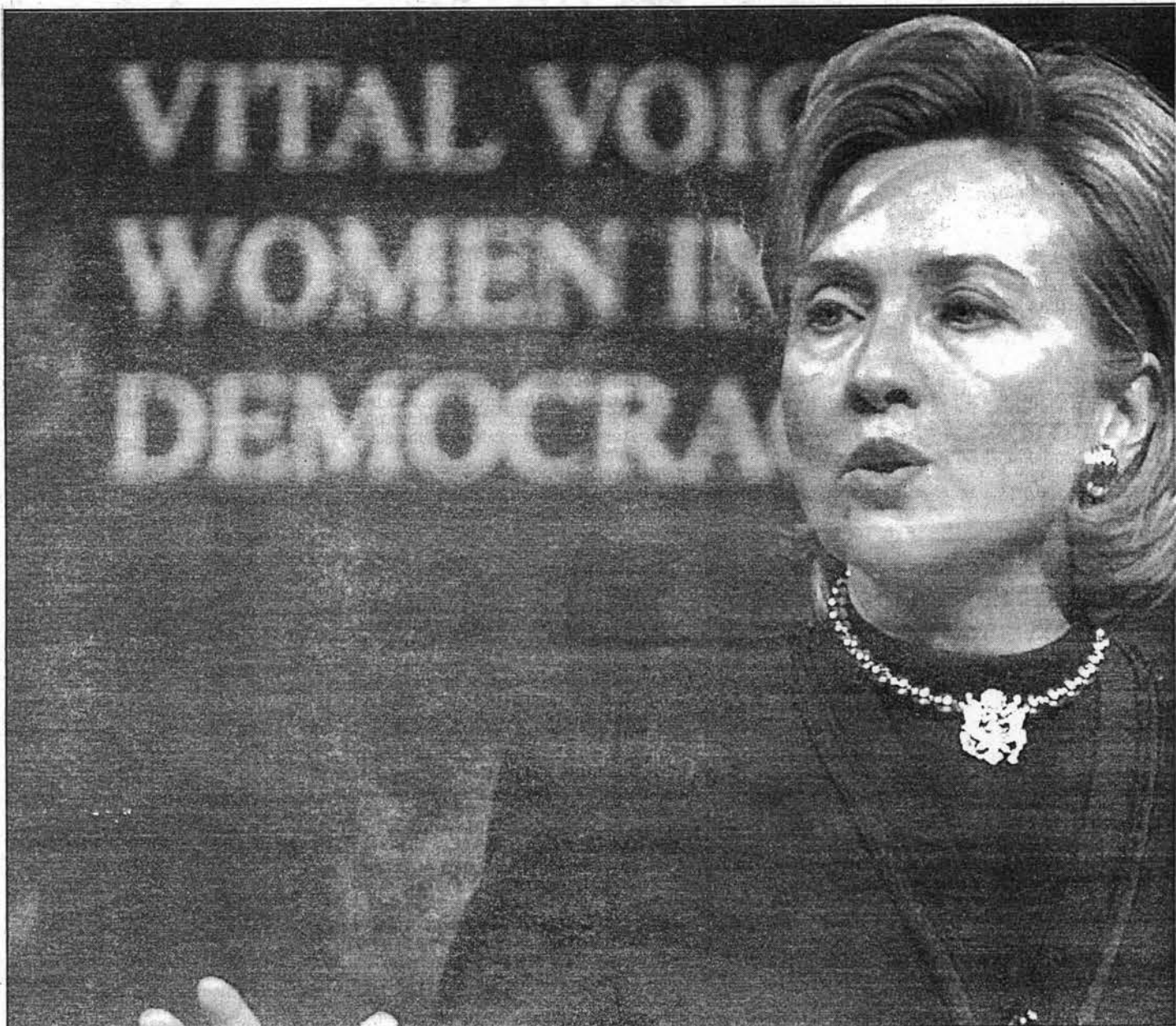


GOOD TO SEE YOU: Europa General manager

First Lady visits Ulster

Hillary Clinton

TO PRESERVATION



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**JERSEY
EUROPEAN**



GOOD TO SEE YOU: Europa General manager

back into town

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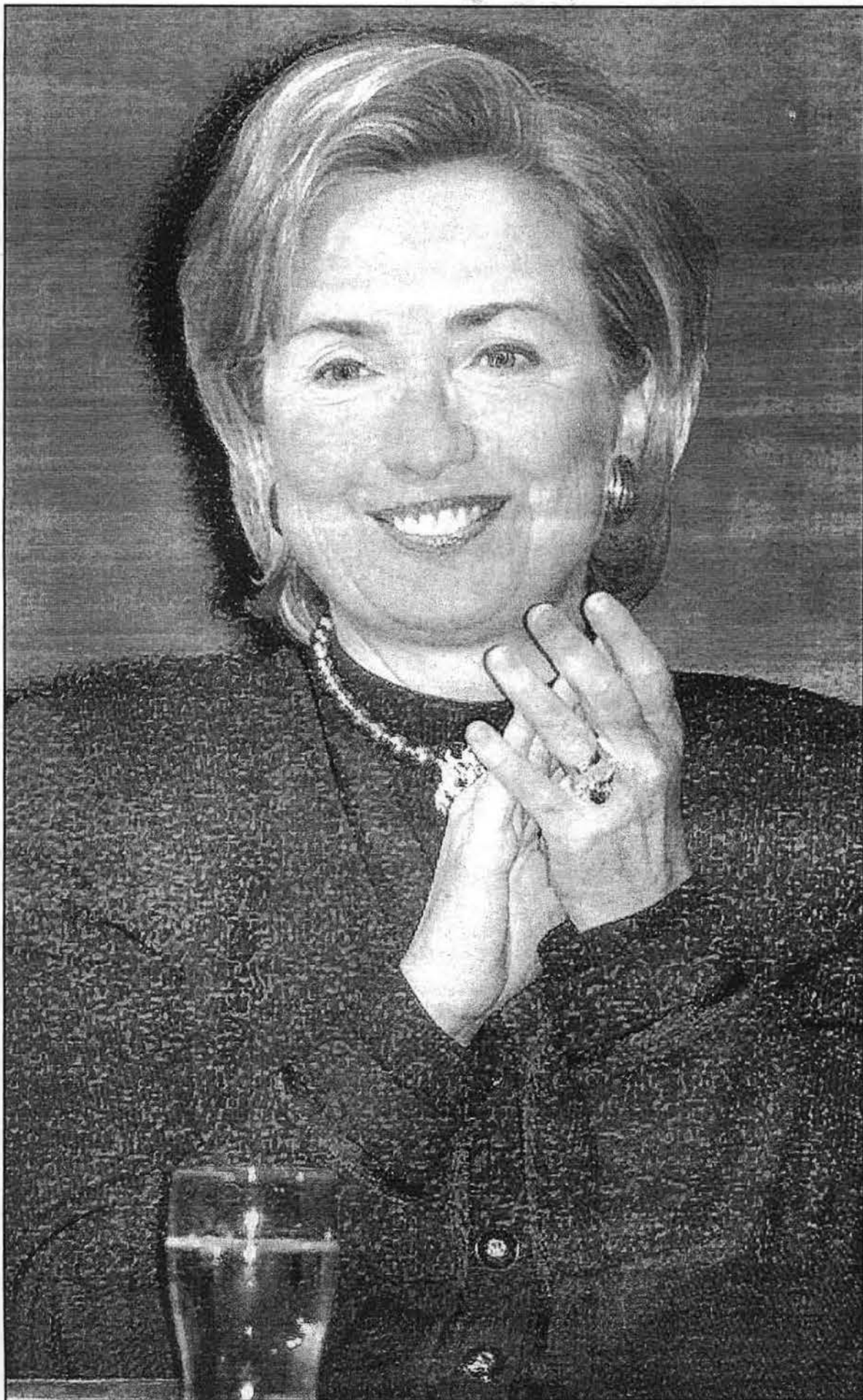


REGAL WAVE: Hillary Clinton arriving at the Europa Hotel

First Lady visits Ulster

Hillary takes th to win women's

PHOTO PRESERVATION



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WOMEN'S VOICE: Hillary Clinton applauds one of the speakers at the Waterfront Hall

WELL DONE: ...
ter the school

NEWS LETTER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1998

ULSTER EDITION

EST. 1737

PRICE 35p (IR 45p)



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President flies in to honour victims of Omagh atrocity

CLINTON TRIBUTE



PHOTOGRAPH BY V. TION

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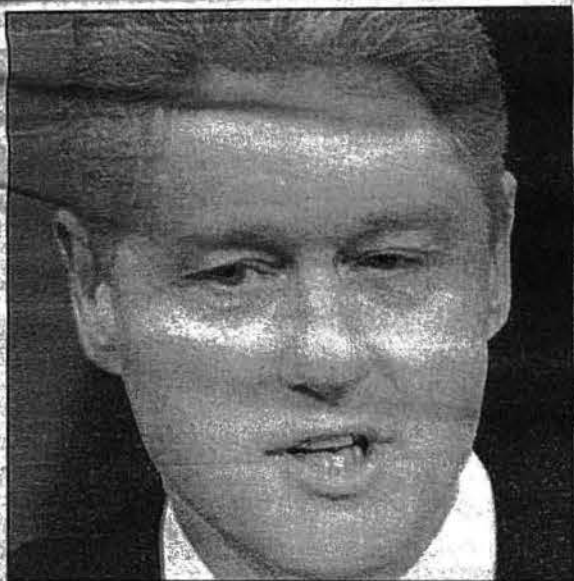
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CLINTON TRIBUTE



ERVATION



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

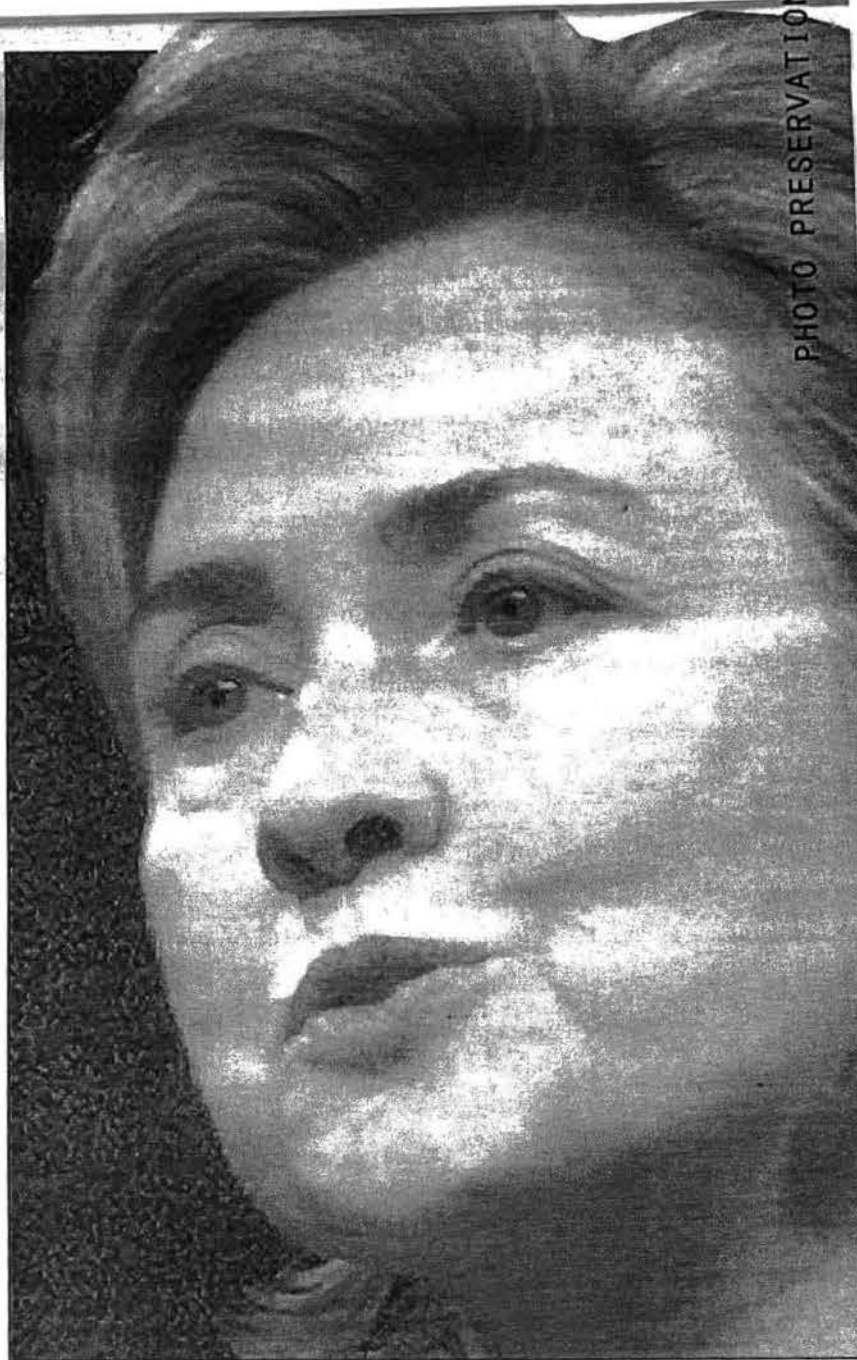
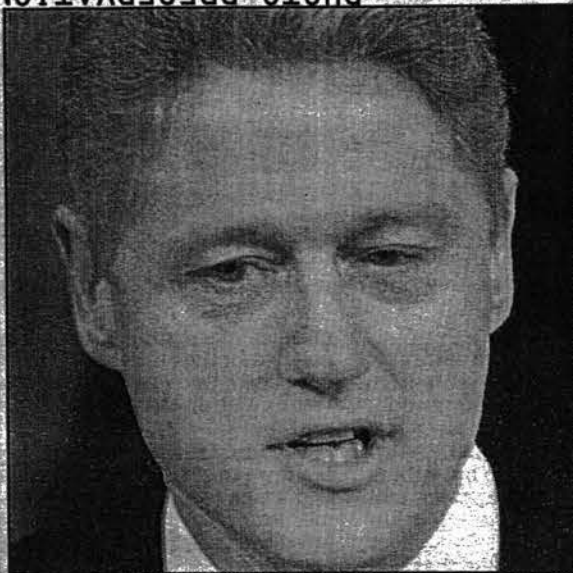


PHOTO PRESERVATION

APPLAUDED: Hillary Clinton pays tribute to women's work in the search

News Letter
9/3/1988

**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.

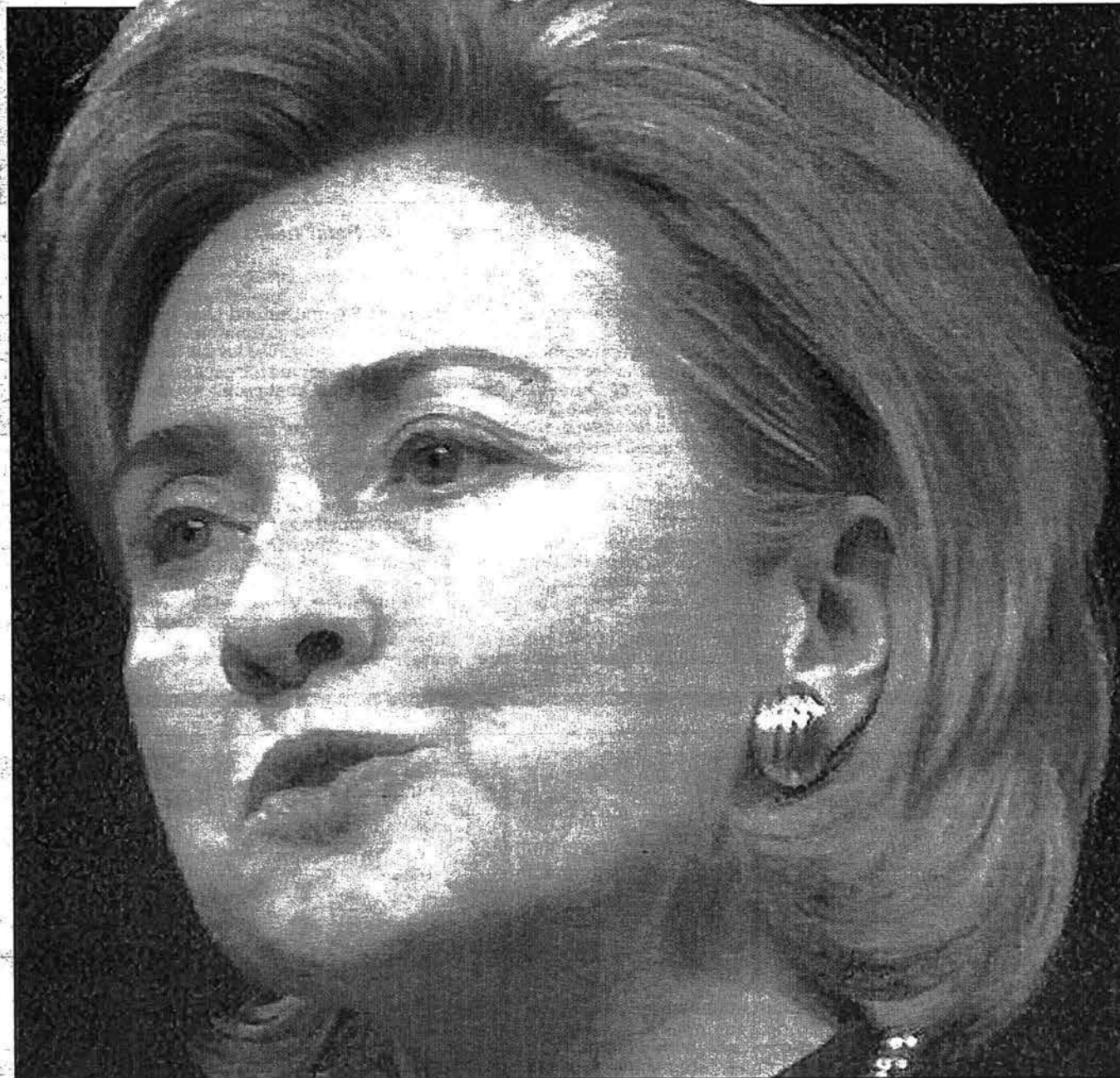
The visit is scheduled to take place after the couple perform a number of engagements, including a visit to the proposed University of Ulster site at

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."

**APPLAUDED: Hillary Clinton pays tribute to women's work in the search for peace in Northern Ireland**

See Pages 10, 11, 12 and 13

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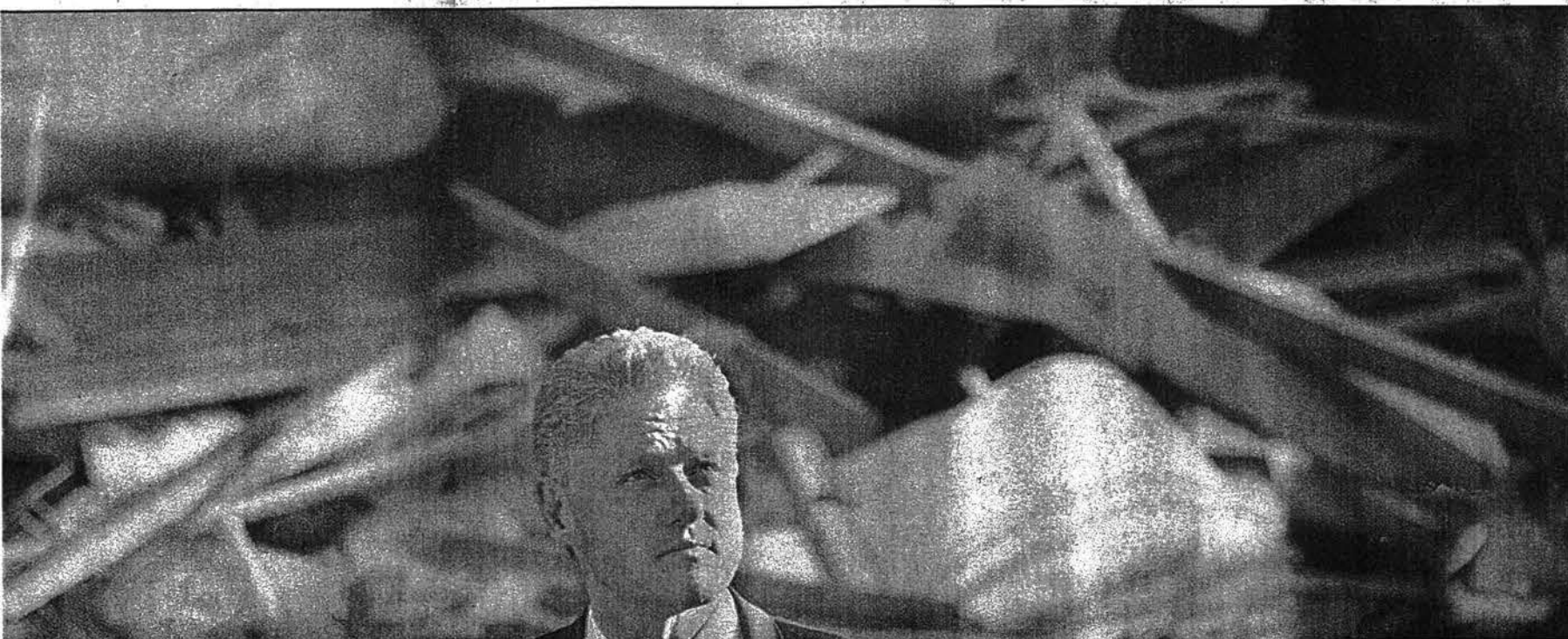
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There can be no stepping back now

PRESIDENT Clinton has stood among the wreckage of Omagh. He was right to pay personal homage to the victims of violence.

He also



PHOTO PRESERVATION

Belfast Telegraph

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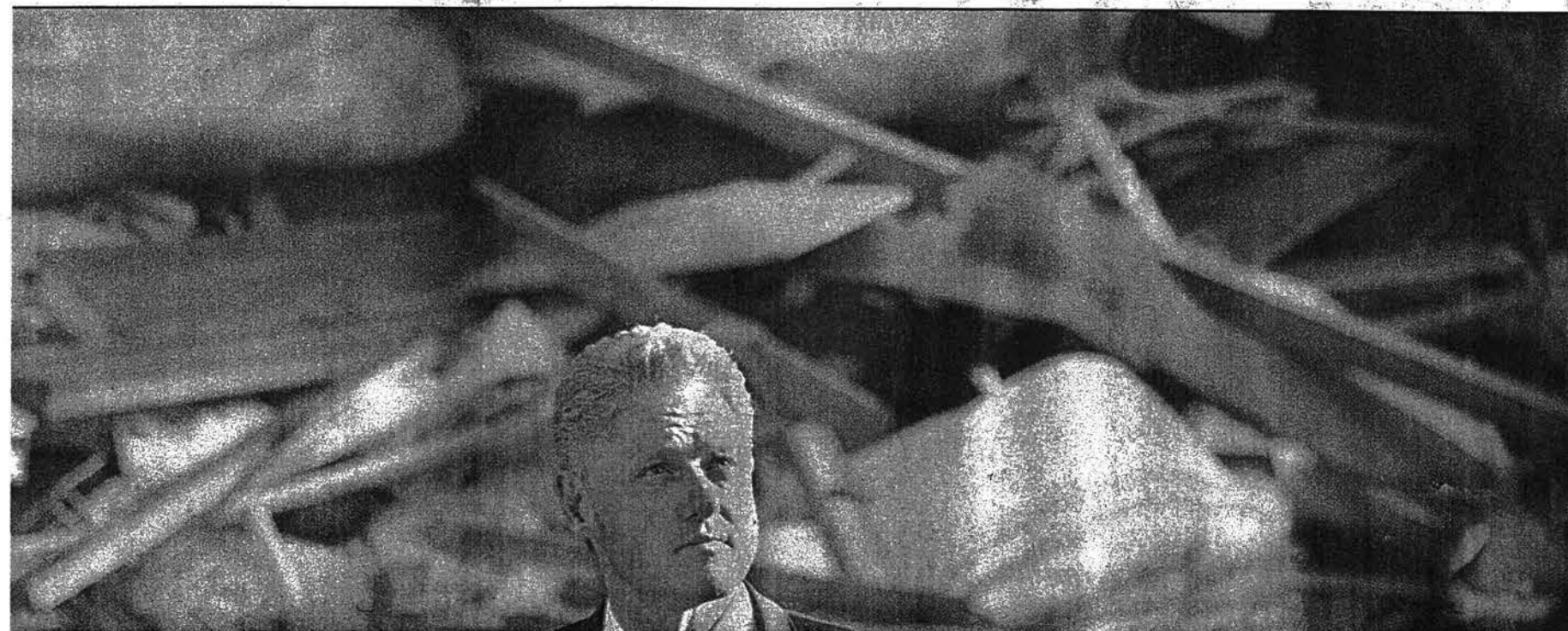
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PHOTO PRESERVATION

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But Mr Trimble is believed to be facing opposition from within his own party and he may have some persuading to do.

While hardliners were reassured by his speech in the Waterfront Hall on which he focused heavily on decommissioning, even dialogue with the Sinn Féin leader is highly contentious.

After months of stalemate however, the legacy of Mr Clinton's historic visit appears to be a renewed spirit of reconciliation and quickening political development.

For his part, Mr Adams is under increasing pressure to bring about IRA decommissioning.

While Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness has stressed he wants to see all the guns removed from politics, he has

insisted decommissioning should not be elevated over other issues, such as the establishment of political structures.

Urging Northern Ireland's people not to fuel petty disputes as they move into a new future, Mr Clinton pledged that the United States would stand by what he called "the island of destiny".

In a tangible show of support, Mr Clinton was today expected to announce a £1.5m cash boost to Co-Operation, Ireland for a scheme for young people.

The announcement was expected to be made during the President's visit to the Republic.

The cash, which will be spread over a three year period, will go towards a civic education programme in schools in Northern Ireland and the Republic.

Project Citizen is already in operation in schools throughout the US and has been introduced in Bosnia and Hercegovina, Croatia, Latvia, Lithuania and the Czech Republic.

and a message of hope in Armagh



ANCE P24; LETTERS P16; CROSSWORD P16; HOROSCOPES P19; SPORT P33, P34, 35, 36 & 38

r Outlook

GREATER BELFAST AREA: Perhaps a dry start to the night, but cloud will continue to thicken bringing spells of rain to all areas with mist over the hills. However, it should become drier towards morning. A light to moderate south-east wind. Min temp 12-13C. **SEE BACK PAGE**



'I told him and Mr Blair to keep on with their good work . . . keep the peace process going': Kevin Skelton, whose wife Philomena died in the Omagh bomb

Page 6

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Belfast Telegraph

8861/1/10

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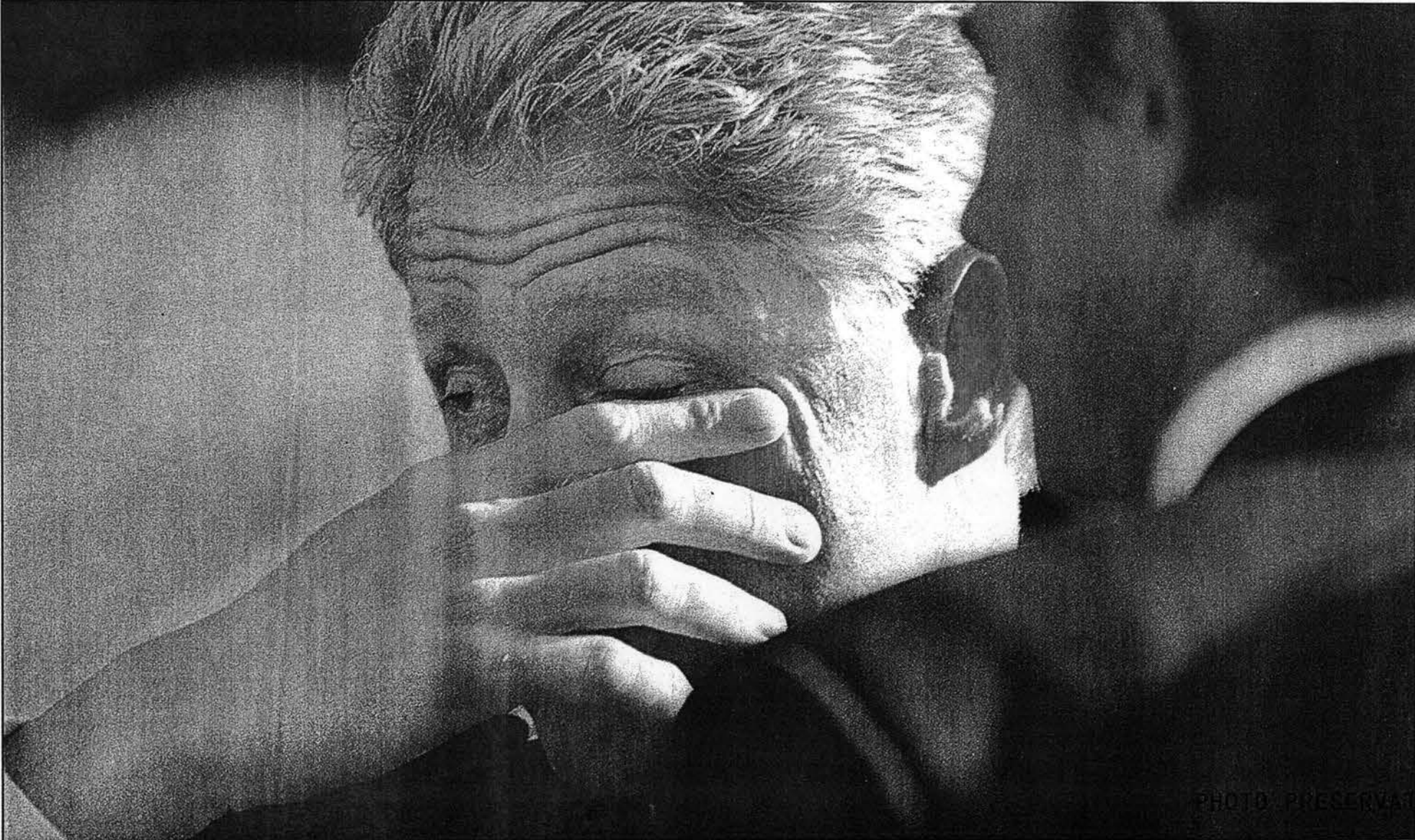


THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

Clinton to upbeat h view peace

**Visit set
to slow
down in
in pace**

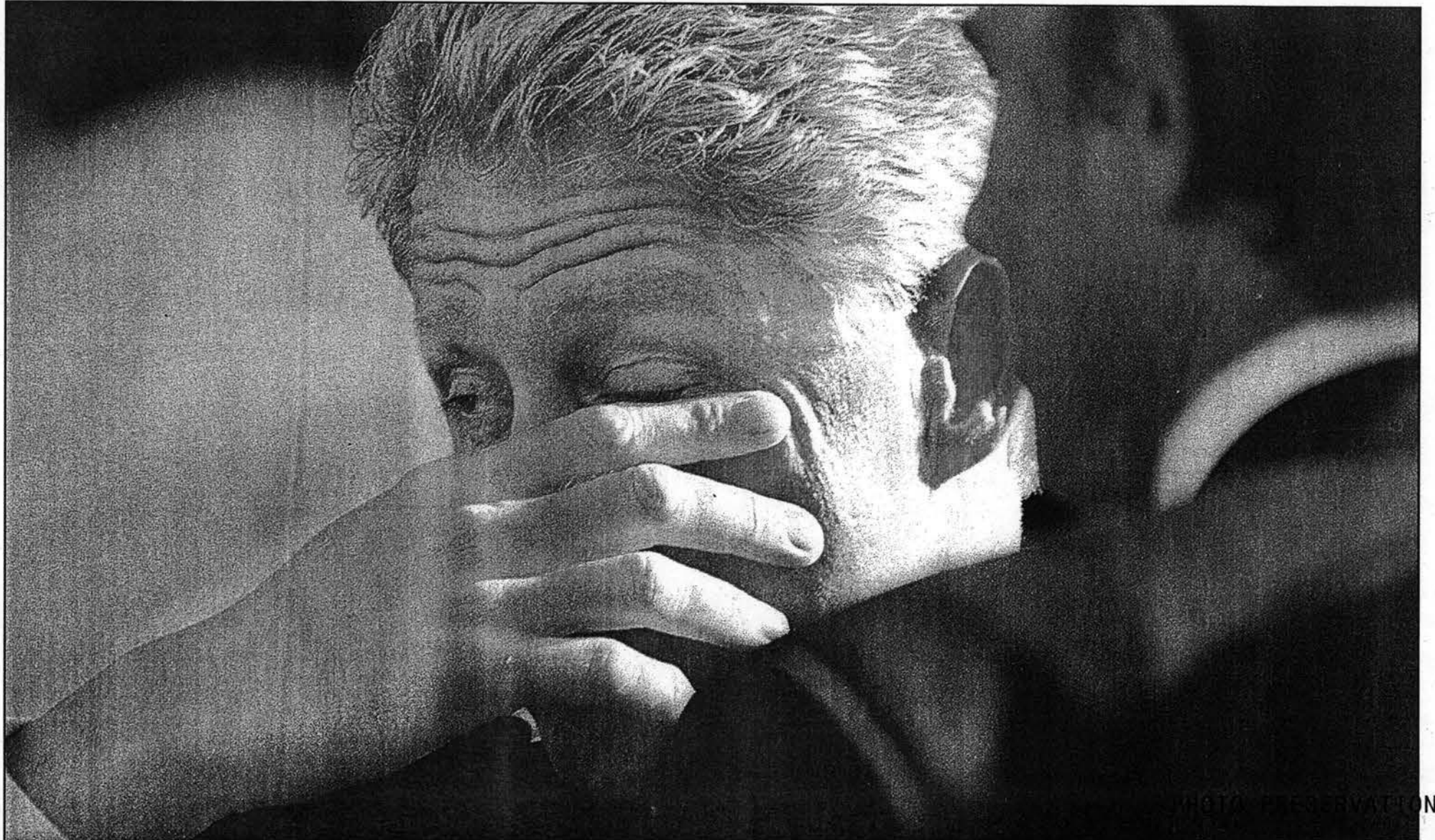
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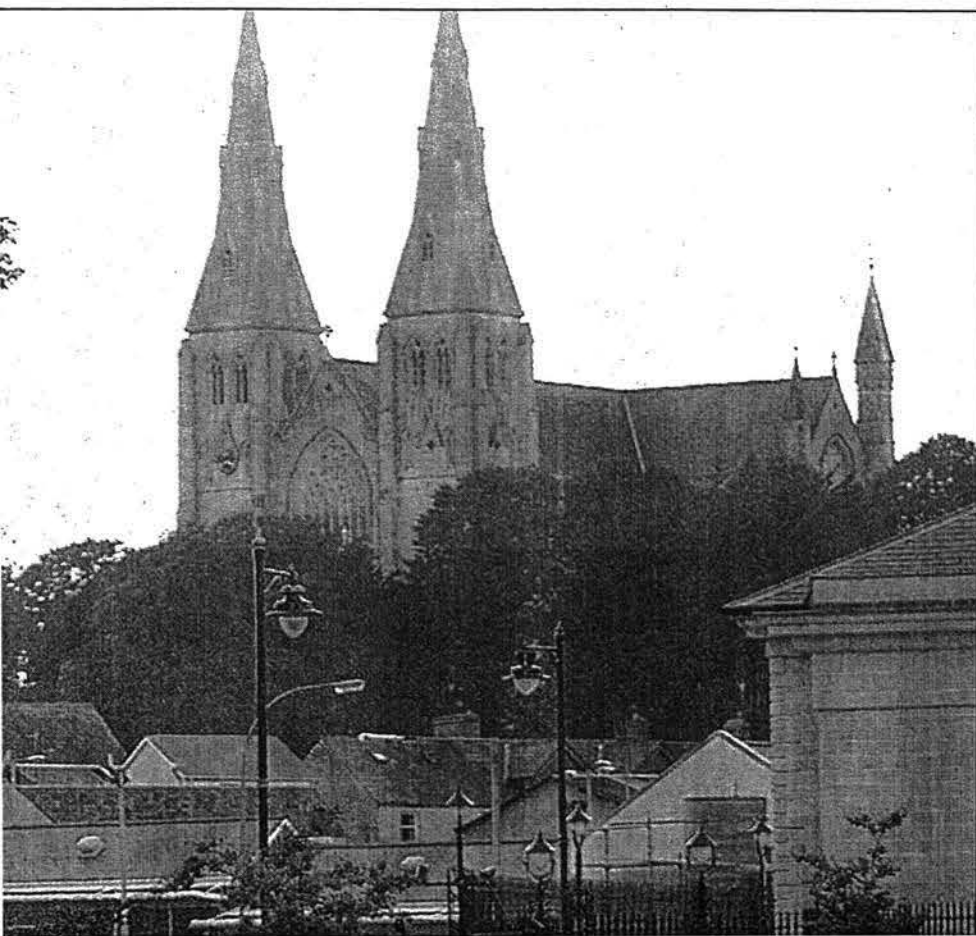
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THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT

We'll walk every step with you'



THE prospect of lasting peace in Northern Ireland is no longer an idle dream, President Clinton told the ecstatic crowd who welcomed him to Armagh last night.

The American president was addressing the crowd — estimated at between 5,000 and 10,000 — who packed into the city's Mall for the final engagement in his day-long visit to the province.

President Clinton, clearly emotional after an earlier visit to Omagh, received a hero's welcome from the audience at the peace rally.

The president revealed that nowadays when he travelled to conflict-torn societies, he highlighted Northern Ireland as an example of what could be achieved in the search for peace.

But he also warned that the Omagh atrocity would not be the only challenge to the peace process.

He said: "It is high time somebody told those people that we are through with war, through with hatred, through with destruction - it will not work anymore."

"The people of Northern Ireland have

By Peter McVerry

chosen the path of peace and America will keep its pledge to walk every step of the way with you."

Backing those sentiments Prime Minister Tony Blair said the relatives of those killed in the Omagh bombing had begged him to ensure that a lasting peace could be established in memory of the victims.

He said: "Even amidst their most deep and profound grief ... they said don't let this be in vain."

"They said stick at it, keep at it, make it work, see it through."

"The future will be a future of peace, harmony and mutual respect."



Out and about: The President meets the people in Armagh.

"Together we can do it. Together we are going to do it," he added.

The two leaders were joined on the platform by Hillary Clinton, First Minister Designate David Trimble, Deputy First Minister Designate Seamus Mallon, Secretary of State Mo

Mowlam, Mayor of Armagh Robert Turner and Keady teenager Sharon Haughey.

Sharon, who introduced the president to the crowd, had written to Mr Clinton in 1995 urging him to do all he could to achieve peace.

The first of the crowd began to filter into the

Mall from early afternoon with thousands of children eager to catch a glimpse of the most powerful man in the world.

Entertainment was provided by a host of local musicians, a cross-community choir and folk singer Mary Black, while children from

schools on both sides of the sectarian divide gave a number of performances as everyone waited patiently for the guard of honour to fly in.

The president's cavalcade eventually arrived in the province's ecclesiastical capital shortly before 7pm and immediately headed for a meeting with the leaders of the four main churches.

The party took to the platform shortly before 7.45pm with addresses from Robert Turner, David Trimble, Seamus Mallon, Bill Clinton and Tony Blair.

After the speeches the speakers descended the steps to the stone barriers, shaking hands and speaking with scores of those who had waited for almost five hours in the hope of a brief word.

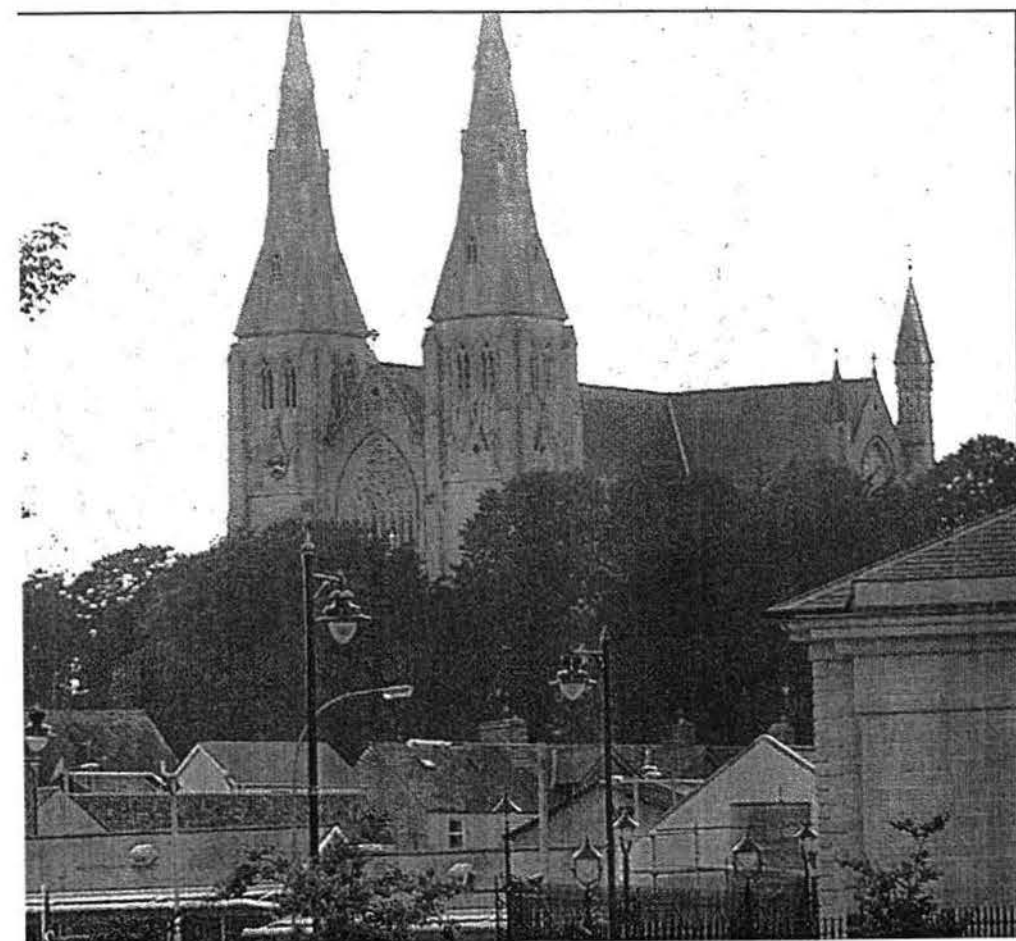
Following the 15-minute walkabout President Clinton and his wife then boarded the presidential helicopter Marine One for a further round of engagements today.

PHOTO PRESERVATION



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PHOTO PRESERVATION



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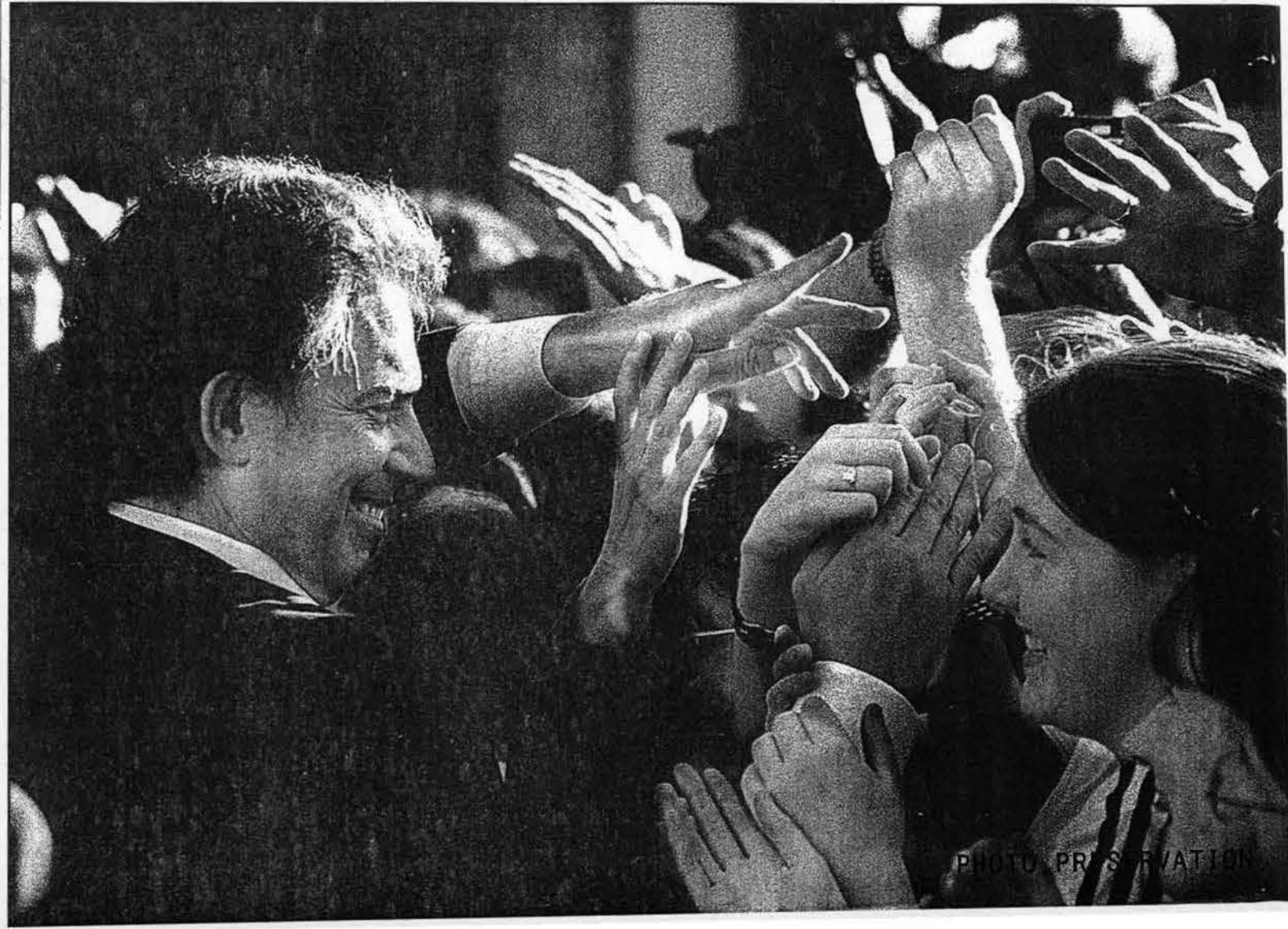


PHOTO PRESERVATION

id Hillary Clinton, along with Prime Minister Blair's wife Cherie, view image caused by the Omagh bombing.

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"The President shook hands with all of my family," said Mr Skelton. "He sympathised with us and he was very genuine. He seemed very moved.

"He didn't seem at all

talked to said the VIPs took their time and were visibly moved by what they saw and heard.

The Presidential party were then driven the short distance to the town

rushed, and he especially made time for Shauna, enquiring about her injuries and signing an autograph for her.

"Shauna's had a bad time. She's still sore and she can't eat solids, she's sucking food through a straw. But she's getting better.

"I told him and Mr Blair to keep on with their good work — keep the peace process going, make sure it works. If this is the last bomb, then my wife will not have died in vain. If it's not, there's no future for my children.

Everywhere, the memory of how so people met their deaths.

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The plaque, which will go to the district council offices for safe-keeping before its final location is decided, reads - "In remembrance of the men, women and children who died in the terrorist bombing, August 15, 1998. May their memory serve to foster peace and reconciliation". The Clintons' names and the date are at the bottom.

Mrs Clinton moved forward to place the spray of white carnations she had been carrying at the foot of the plinth. Mr Clinton stopped again, as Tony Blair moved closer to talk to him.

"Fertiliser!" the President was heard to exclaim, shaking his head - a reference to a vital ingredient in

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They were soon engulfed in a of hands and hugs, all four of t reaching deep into the crowd embrace people with both arms.

By 6.30pm, the Preside limousine was in position ou Watterson's, ready to whisk away from the small market that had greeted him so gen and moved him so deeply.

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Black Forest tour; visits to Heidelberg and Bruges (time permitting).



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Belfast Telegraph 9/4/1988

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Today's Telegraph Travel Holiday Selection

Telephone for your free copy of the Telegraph Travel guide giving details of the following tours and much, much more...

ALTON TOWERS, CADBURY WORLD LAND & FIREWORKS SPECTACULAR

October - 1 November £219
price sharing from £175
in exciting break that's packed full of fun and action visit Britain's leading leisure park - Alton Towers, Cadbury World, Legoland, Windsor! Price includes: return coach and ferry, 4 nights B&B accommodation; a visit to Alton Towers, Cadbury World and Legoland, Windsor including a spectacular fireworks display, Laser, Light and Fireworks Extravaganza!

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including CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR
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flights departing 14 December, 11 January
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9-12 July '99 £285

Child price £199

The British Grand Prix is recognised as one of the world's major sporting occasions. The glamour and excitement of an international occasion extends throughout the meeting, while the racing itself provides action and drama of the highest order. Price includes: return coach and ferry travel; 3 nights B&B; 2 all-day visits to the Grand Prix including admission and transfers (adult ticket value £130).

MADEIRA 8 nights departing

7 December from £429

28 December from £619

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Madeira is one of the last paradise islands with its lush vegetation and always in season exotic flowers and beautiful landscapes. The mild climate is a main characteristic of this lovely island. Price includes: return flights from Belfast to Madeira via Gatwick and transfers; 7 nights B&B at the 3-star Hotel Dom Pedro, Garajau, 15 minutes from the capital Funchal (28 December departure includes evening meals and a New Year's Eve Gala Dinner); overnight B&B in the Gatwick area on the return journey. Hotel upgrades available. ATOL No. 4365.

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PHANTOM of the OPERA

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overnight breaks from 25 February - 15 May '99

Choose an overnight break to suit your needs - Package 1 is fully inclusive of all travel, Package 2 is for readers who wish to use their own car and Package 3 should appeal to Senior Citizens who have the use of a free rail travel pass. In each case overnight accommodation is on a bed and full breakfast basis in the 3-star Regency Hotel, Dublin. The Phantom of the Opera and the Les Misérables productions at the Point Theatre have various dates on offer. Full details appear in individual brochures. APPLY NOW!

Package 1 from £99.50 Price includes: return rail travel from any connecting NIR station to Dublin; return taxi transfers from Connolly station to your hotel; return hotel to Point Theatre coach transfers; top price show ticket; overnight B&B.

Package 2 from £72.50 Price includes: return hotel to Point Theatre coach transfers; top price show ticket; overnight B&B.

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CHARLIE LANDSBOROUGH

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Since the success of his platinum selling album, "What Colour is the Wind" in 1995, Charlie Landsborough has gone from strength to strength and is now one of the biggest selling recording stars in Ireland. Price includes: return coach and ferry travel; 2 nights B&B accommodation in Glasgow; Saturday night concert ticket.

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Enjoy the festive hospitality of Blackpool's Elgin Hotel. Price includes: return coach and ferry; 3 nights HB accommodation at the family run Elgin Hotel, situated on the Queen's Promenade, Blackpool; a full festive entertainment package including "Christmas Dinner" and "Boxing Day Feast"; shopping trip to Fleetwood & Clevelands; visits to Gretna Green and Lake District.

ROYAL YACHT BRITANNIA

berthed at LEITH, EDINBURGH

4-6 December £119

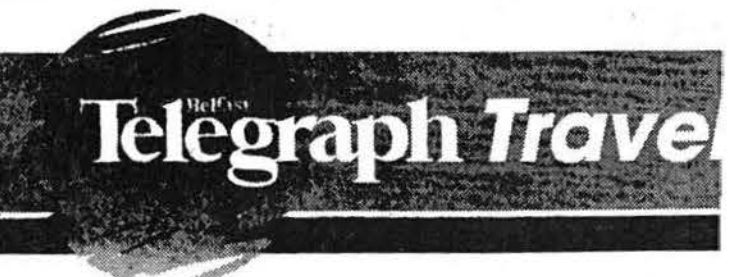
In 1997, the Royal Yacht Britannia was decommissioned and is now permanently berthed at Edinburgh's port of Leith. Don't miss this unique opportunity to glimpse at first hand life aboard what was once as much a Royal home as Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. Price includes: return coach and ferry travel; 2 nights B&B in Edinburgh; visit to the Royal Yacht Britannia; guided tour of Edinburgh.

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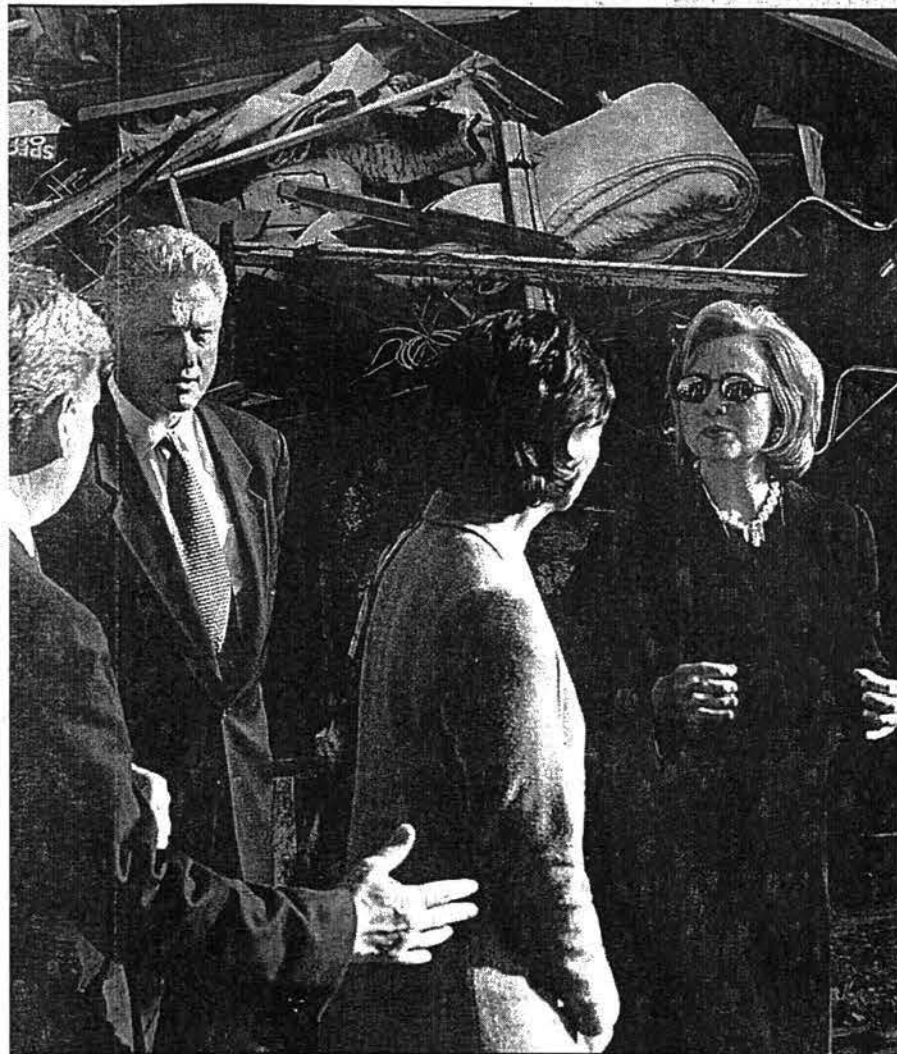
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Deep in the heart of Southern Germany lies a region of particular tranquillity and charm - the Black Forest. Price includes: return coach and ferry travel; cabin on P&O NSF; 4 nights HB in Germany; 1 night B&B Black Forest tour; visits to Heidelberg and Bruges (time permitting).



HOW TO BOOK For a Brochure giving full itinerary and booking form: phone (01232) 264003 Monday - Saturday 9.00am - 5.00pm, Thursday late night until 8.00pm; or call in person to our Telegraph Travel shop at 108 Royal Avenue, Belfast E

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Clinton, along with Prime Minister Blair's wife Cherie, view
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From the Leisure Centre, where he met the bereaved and the wounded, to the bomb site, where he unveiled a memorial plaque with tears in his eyes, to Watterson's shop, where Hillary Clinton and Cherie Blair laid wreaths — it was a long, emotional journey.

The warm, welcoming crowds against the bleak backdrop of the blast-shattered town marked a sombre contrast which could not have failed to touch the President.

He was here to sympathise with the still-raw pain of 28 dead and 220 injured, 20 days ago, but also to share faith in a better future for a town which will never forget its tragic past.

The President arrived in Omagh by helicopter shortly before 4pm

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They came in wheelchairs, on crutches, in bandages, some just out of hospital for the day, the physically and mentally scarred. For many, this same Centre was where they spent the endless night of the bomb, waiting to see if husbands, wives, sons, daughters, were living or dead.

For all, the sight of so many wounded and grieving gathered together in one place brought home the terrible enormity of the consequences of the atrocity.

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The two couples spoke to as many people as possible and those they talked to said the VIPs took their time and were visibly moved by what they saw and heard.

The Presidential party were then driven the short distance to the town

centre, along sunny streets lined with cheering people, some waving American flags.

At either end of Market Street, some 12,000 people had crowded into the small town centre, many waiting patiently for six hours or more in the hope of shaking the hand of the most powerful man in the world.

The Clintons and Blairs arrived at the bomb site at 5.45pm, where they were met by Omagh District Council chief executive, John McKinney.

A small plaque, draped in black, stood on a plinth on the very spot where the car exploded.

Behind it, the rubble of Kells' store, the broken sale signs and shop rails. To either side, the battered boarded fronts of Nicholl and Shiels, Hyper clothes shop and The Salad Bowl.

Across the narrow street, the ruined Pine Emporium and wreckage of the Kosy Corner pub. Everywhere, the memory of how 28 people met their deaths.

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The plaque, which will go to the district council offices for safe-keeping before its final location is decided, reads - "In remembrance of the men, women and children who died in the terrorist bombing, August 15, 1998. May their memory serve to foster peace and reconciliation". The Clintons' names and the date are at the bottom.

Mrs Clinton moved forward to place the spray of white carnations

the devastating 500lb explosive.

The four walked on, up Market Street toward the courthouse, along which so many had fled in the opposite direction to their deaths.

A few hundred yards along, they chatted with members of the emergency services who worked so selflessly in the aftermath of the bomb, as well as local school-children and dignitaries, who had been specially invited to meet the President.

Secretary of State, Mo Mowlam, and talks chairman, Senator George Mitchell, were also out and about in Market Street, receiving a rapturous welcome from the public.

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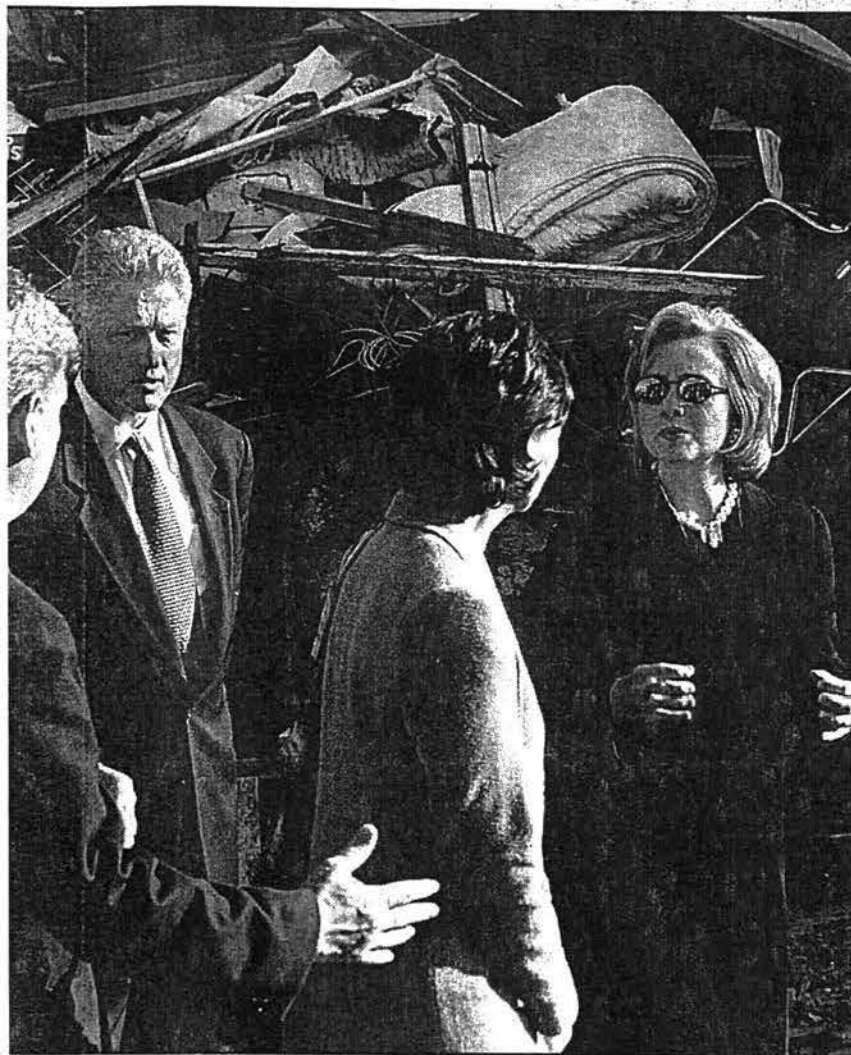
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Belfast Telegraph
9/14/1998

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Clinton, along with Prime Minister Blair's wife Cherie, view the devastation at the Omagh bombing site.

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Belfast Telegraph 9/4/1988

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Years on Clintons' saddest journey

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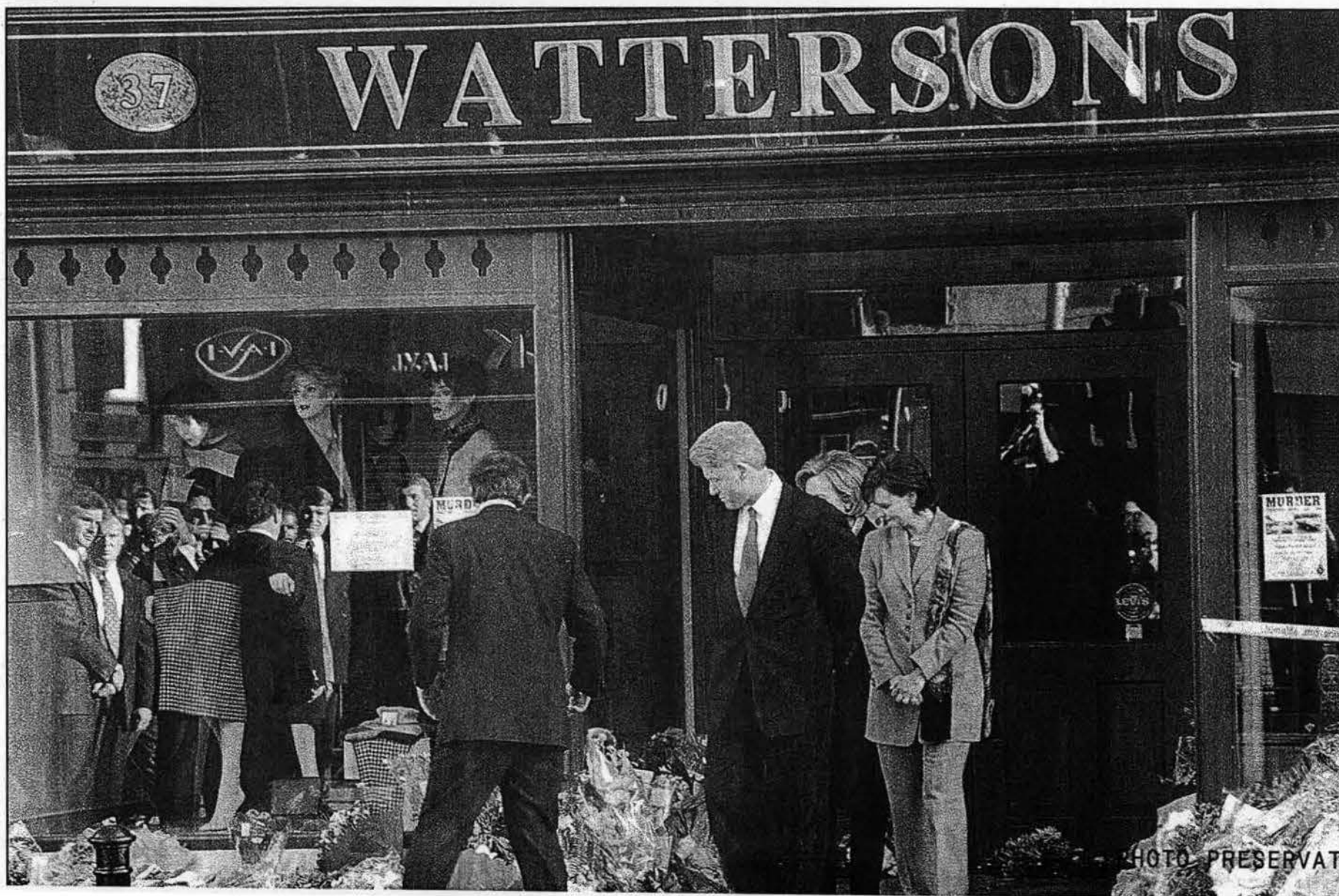


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THE PRESIDENT

Tears on Clintons' saddest journey

By William Allen

IT was a bittersweet day for the people of Omagh. Sweet because the President was coming to town, bitter because of the reason he was coming.

Yesterday, 1,500 people milled about in a specially cordoned off section of Market Street awaiting the arrival of two world leaders.

But each and every one was aware that this once-in-a-lifetime event was happening only because 28 people had died on that same street.

In other circumstances, they and the other 12,000 people around the town centre would have repeated the incredible Northern Ireland welcome that moved the Clintons so deeply on their previous visit to the province.

But here, in a crippled town where people and buildings had been destroyed in one moment of unspeakable evil, wild scenes of jubilation were unthinkable.

It was, therefore, a strange, sombre exhilaration that enveloped the crowds awaiting the arrival of the Blairs and the Clintons.

Many of them saw, at first hand the horror of the terrible episode in Omagh's history that tore the heart out of the town

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The 1,500 special places in Market Street were not allocated on a first come first served basis — most were selected for the part they played in making sure Omagh's toll of death and despair was not even higher.

The green and white Celtic colours worn by Sean O'Connor were easily picked out in the crowd, just as they were on that day when, thanks to an amateur cameraman at the scene, television viewers throughout the world saw him helping stunned and injured people to their feet.

Medical staff from the local hospital were there, as were members of the local Fire Brigade looking resplendent in their dress uniforms.

RUC officers of all ranks were also among the crowds waiting to be introduced to the VIPs, as were volunteers of the Order of Malta and St John Ambulance.

So, too, were bus

drivers enlisted to ferry the walking wounded to hospital while the ambulances took care of those whose horrific injuries needed more urgent attention.

As the heat of the day was exacerbated by the heat generated by a tightly packed crowd and the long wait, it was convenient that medical aid was on hand.

A small number of people needed attention. One young man fainted outside the Royal Arms hotel.

And an elderly nun had to be helped to safety when she was caught against a crowd control barrier as the crowd heaved forward.

Generally, however, the orderly crowd waited patiently and quietly. They did surge forward again around 3pm when a huge cheer went up but found only popular local entertainer, Rock Stewart, waving at them from the other side of the security barriers.

Then at long last,



Floral tributes: President Clinton with wife Hillary and the Blairs were killed in the Omagh bomb.

around 3.30pm, the buzz of a fleet of helicopters announced that the moment was approaching.

The Blairs and Clintons met relatives of the deceased at Omagh leisure centre and the emotion was still etched on their faces as they arrived in the town centre just over an hour later.

It was most noticeably there on the tearful face of Bill Clinton as he unveiled a plaque to honour the dead. But it was there too on the faces of Hillary Clinton and the Blairs as

the beaming smiles of celebrities among fans were replaced by a more solemn spread of the lips.

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As they walked, they passed a row of shops all bearing a stark poster that said: 'Murder — Omagh Saturday 15 August 1998.'

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"We love Bill," gushed Shannon. "He's powerful and popular. We think he's lovely."

The cruise of a lifetime, from Belfast, you can



THE PRESIDENT

Tears on Clintons' saddest journey

By William Allen

IT was a bittersweet day for the people of Omagh. Sweet because the President was coming to town, bitter because of the reason he was coming.

Yesterday, 1,500 people milled about in a specially cordoned off section of Market Street awaiting the arrival of two world leaders.

But each and every one was aware that this once-in-a-lifetime event was happening only because 28 people had died on that same street.

In other circumstances, they and the other 12,000 people around the town centre would have repeated the incredible Northern Ireland welcome that moved the Clintons so deeply on their previous visit to the province.

But here, in a crippled town where people and buildings had been destroyed in one moment of unspeakable evil, wild scenes of jubilation were unthinkable.

It was, therefore, a strange, sombre exhilaration that enveloped the crowds awaiting the arrival of the Blairs and the Clintons.

Many of them saw, at first hand the horror of the terrible episode in Omagh's history that tore the heart out of the town

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Floral tributes: President Clinton with wife Hillary and Bill Blair at the unveiling of a plaque in Omagh where 28 people were killed in the Omagh bomb.

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He then spotted local MP William Thompson and, shaking his hand warmly, said: "Make sure you say hello to the President."

Mr Thompson made sure.

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But, while he believed it would boost morale, he was not so sure about claims that such visits helped the healing process.

As a hospital chaplain, he witnessed many of the terrible mutilations inflicted by the bombing.

"I am still working with the bereaved," he said. "The town is still in shock and this visit seems so very, very unreal."

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Belfast Telegraph 11/11/98



THE PRESIDENT

'Don't let this chance pass — it may not come again'

PRESIDENT Clinton used his keynote Waterfront address to urge the people of Northern Ireland not to allow the chances of permanent peace and political stability to slip away.

But he warned: "It may not come again in our lifetime." The people of the province have moved from the deep freeze of despair to the warm sunlight of peace. It was magic, he said, to see unfold the developing will for peace.

"America is with you," he said. "The entire world is with you."

Mr Clinton's first words were of thoughts for the families of the Swissair flight which crashed in Nova Scotia.

The President then thanked the party leaders and Assembly members he met earlier in the day, the Prime Minister and Taoiseach Bertie Ahern.

"This has been a magic thing to see unfold, this developing will for peace among the people of Northern Ireland," he told the gathering.

"Three years ago when Hillary and I were here I could see it in the eyes of the people in Belfast and Derry.

"We saw, as Seamus Mallon said, the morning light begin to dawn after Ireland's long darkness on Good Friday with the leaders' commitment to solve the problems with words, not weapons.

"It lit the whole sky a month later when you voted so overwhelmingly for the peace agreement. Now this Assembly is the living embodiment of the promise of that covenant.

"Together people and leaders are moving Northern Ireland from the deep freeze of despair to the warm sunlight of peace," he said.

"For 30 long years the Troubles took a terrible toll. Too many died, too many families grieved.

"Every family was denied the quiet blessings of a normal life in the constant fear that a simple trip to the store could be devastated by bombs and bullets, and the daily disruption of roadblocks and searches and the ominous presence of armed soliders always on patrol in neighbours

By Dan McGinn and Marie Foy

obligation to forge the future."

He added that Good Friday Agreement was expected to lead to greater investment.

"Courage and reconciliation were the heart of your commitment to peace. Now as you go forward courage and reconciliation must drive this Assembly in very specific ways," he said.

"To decommission the weapons of war that are obsolete in a Northern Ireland of peace.

"To move forward with the formation of an executive council. To adapt your police force so it enjoys the respect and confidence of all the people.

"To end street justice because defining crime, applying punishment and enforcing the law must be left to the people's elected representatives, the courts and the police.

"To pursue the early release of paramilitary prisoners whose organisations have truly abandoned violence and to help them find a productive, constructive place in society.

"To build a more just society where human rights are birth rights where every citizen receives equal protection and equal treatment under the law."

Referring to the recent Omagh bombing, President Clinton told his audience there would be "hard roads ahead".

"The terror in Omagh was not the last bomb of the Troubles.

"The question is not



Rousing reception: President Bill Clinton, with Prime Minister David Trimble, after delivering his keynote speech.

Waterfront draws mix

Clinton wins applause but Trimble comes under fire

By Martina Purdy

BILL Clinton was the star of the show but it was David Trimble's speech that was the talk of the Waterfront Hall.





utes: President Clinton with wife Hillary and Prime Minister Tony Blair and wife Cherie visit Wattersons where three members of the IRA were killed in the Omagh bomb.

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Shannon Flood (11), and cousins Louise (15) and Carissa (12) Sammons were extremely excited when he shook their hands.

"We love Bill," gushed Shannon. "He's so powerful and popular and we think he's lovely looking."

People too far away to take good snapshots enlisted the help of an obliging police constable, who took numerous photographs through various cameras from his excellent vantage point.

In a special area were pupils of local schools joined by young people

from Buncrana which lost three sons and two of their Spanish friends in the atrocity.

The last time a number of the Buncrana girls were in Omagh, they spent two hours lying on the ground, passing around a St Bridget's Cross and praying, as all around

them lay death and destruction.

The Blairs and Clintons made a point of spending time with all the pupils.

Cherie Blair and Hillary Clinton then laid wreaths outside Wattersons shop, which lost three members of staff in the atrocity, before the group disap-

peared into the tial limousine at

On a day w statesmen seem words, there messages on th they left behind. as Bill Clinton s are no words make things eas people of Omagh

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9/4/1988

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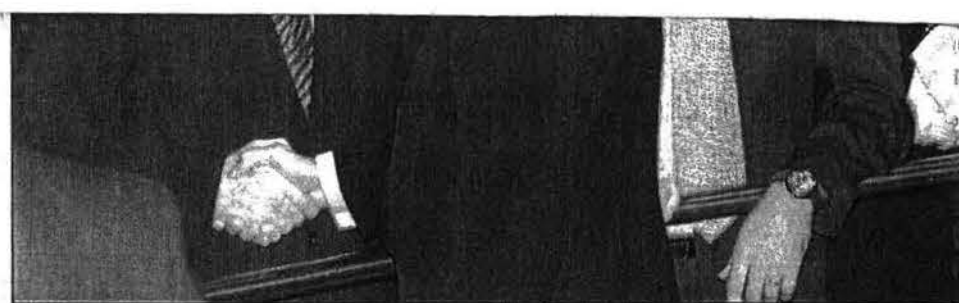
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making a point: Bill Clinton delivers his
ynote speech at the Belfast Waterfront Hall
sterday.

His words left a bad taste
with some — and struck the
right tone with others.
Mr Trimble's speech was by
far the hardest hitting address
— and, coupled with his sharp
style, jarred with some of the
Americans who complained it
was not appropriate for the
moment. Republicans were
not impressed.
Asked if he was disap-
pointed with Mr Trimble's
comments, Martin
McGuinness said only:
"Coming out of here I've
heard a number of people
express disappointment with
his speech."

Republican Joe Cahill was
more forthcoming. "He could
have been more generous,
especially after Gerry Adams'
statement (that violence must
be over and done)."
One dissident Ulster Unionist
thought the speech was
aimed at anti-Agreement
party members — those who
would leave the party if Mr
Trimble agreed to go into
government without an arms
handover.
While Sinn Fein interpreted
the speech bluntly, others did
not and found it significant
that Mr Trimble now seemed
to put aside the old taboo
about talking to Sinn Fein.
Said Mr Trimble: "I will
work with anyone who has the
good of Northern Ireland at



Above: Mr Clinton shakes hands with Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness
as Gerry Adams looks on.

Left: Secretary of State Dr Mo Mowlam urges quiet during the
Presidential visit to the Waterfront Hall.

heart."
Mr Trimble seemed to indi-
cate he would not go into
government with Sinn Fein
without prior
decommissioning.
He stated: "As First
Minister and leader of North-
ern Ireland, I cannot reconcile
seeking position in govern-
ment with a failure to dis-
charge responsibilities under
the Agreement to dismantle
their terrorist organisation."
He stressed that if violence
was over and done with that
there should be no need for
weapons and once threats
were removed there was
nothing that could not be

achieved.
The words "no democrat
can tolerate coercive threats"
were quickly added.
One listener accentuated
the positive: "Mr Trimble
said he would speak — that
was the point."
Also, instead of promising
"I will be firm" about the
Agreement and
decommissioning, he said "I
will try to be firm." It may be
that he misread the line, but
there were other conciliatory
tones that left Mr Trimble
some flexibility.
He added: "If you take the
road to peace and do so in
genuine good faith, you will
find me a willing leader in that
journey."
Significantly, Mr Trimble
omitted to read a sentence
from his speech that was
clearly a barb at republicans.
Referring to the President's
last visit when he said there
was no room for guns at
democracy's table, he said:
"They betrayed not only you
(Mr Clinton), but every one
of us. That must never happen
again."
Mr Trimble combined
tough words with an olive
branch when he said: "I say
to those who are crossing the
bridge from terror to democ-
racy: 'Every move you make

to peace, I will hold you to
it."
While Mr Adams might yet
have other hurdles to cross
before relations with Mr
Trimble can be "normalised",
he has clearly come a long
way from the days of
marginalisation and
demonisation.
Deputy First Minister
Seamus Mallon, on his way to
the platform, shook Mr
Adams' hands before follow-
ing Mr Trimble onto the
stage.
Mr Clinton, for some of the
loyalists in the audience, was
not tough enough on repub-
licans. One said he thought
the speech was weak.
But the audience overall
could not have been kinder to
Mr Clinton, standing twice for
the President and clapping
liberally.
After the bloody and wind-
ing road to the settlement, Mr
Clinton focused on the pos-
itive. Quoting from Belfast
graffiti, "Is there death before
life?", he looked forward to
the future.
He spoke of the "magic"
developing will for peace,
describing the settlement on
Good Friday as the "light"
after the long darkness.

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emarcated by barbed wire, guarded by gates and 20-foot fences.

"No wonder this question was painted on a Belfast wall, 'Is there life before death?' Now at last your answer is 'yes'."

The President continued: From here on the destiny of Northern Ireland is in the hands of its people and its representatives. From farming to finance, education to health care, this new Assembly has the opportunity and the

whether there will be more bombs or attempts to undo with violence the verdict of the ballot box. There may well be.

"The question is not whether tempers will flare and debates will be divisive. They certainly will be.

"The question is: how will you react to it all, to the violence? How will you deal with your differences and will the bad habits and brute forces of yesterday break your will for tomorrow's peace?"

His words left a bad taste with some — and struck the right tone with others.

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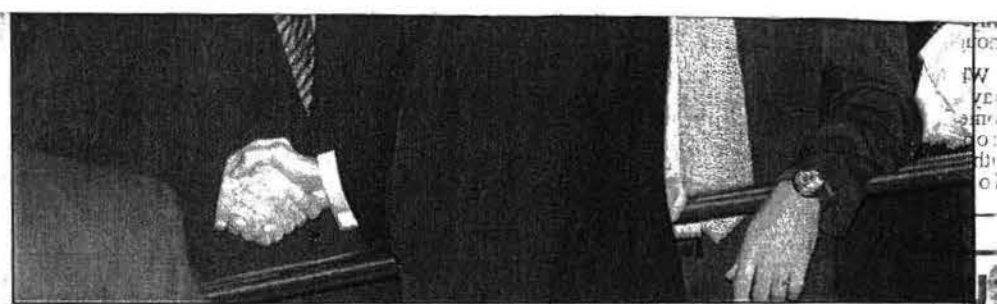
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Left: Secretary of State Dr Mo Mowlam urges quiet during the Presidential visit to the Waterfront Hall.



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"America is with you," he said. "The entire world is with you."

Mr Clinton's first words were of thoughts for the families of the Swissair flight which crashed in Nova Scotia.

The President then thanked the party leaders and Assembly members he met earlier in the day, the Prime Minister and Taoiseach Bertie Ahern.

"This has been a magic thing to see unfold, this developing will for peace among the people of Northern Ireland," he told the gathering.

"Three years ago when Hillary and I were here I could see it in the eyes of the people in Belfast and Derry.

"We saw, as Seamus Mallon said, the morning light begin to dawn after Ireland's long darkness on Good Friday with the leaders' commitment to solve the problems with words, not weapons.

"It lit the whole sky a month later when you voted so overwhelmingly for the peace agreement. Now this Assembly is the living embodiment of the promise of that covenant.

"Together people and leaders are moving Northern Ireland from the deep freeze of despair to the warm sunlight of peace," he said.

"For 30 long years the Troubles took a terrible toll. Too many died, too many families grieved.

"Every family was denied the quiet blessings of a normal life in the constant fear that a simple trip to the store could be devastated by bombs and bullets, and the daily disruption of roadblocks and searches and the ominous presence of armed soldiers always on patrol in neighbour-

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He added that Good Friday Agreement was expected to lead to greater investment.

"Courage and reconciliation were the heart of your commitment to peace. Now as you go forward courage and reconciliation must drive this Assembly in very specific ways," he said.

"To decommission the weapons of war that are obsolete in a Northern Ireland of peace.

"To move forward with the formation of an executive council. To adapt your police force so it enjoys the respect and confidence of all the people.

"To end street justice because defining crime, applying punishment and enforcing the law must be left to the people's elected representatives, the courts and the police.

"To pursue the early release of paramilitary prisoners whose organisations have truly abandoned violence and to help them find a productive, constructive place in society.

"To build a more just society where human rights are birth rights where every citizen receives equal protection and equal treatment under the law.

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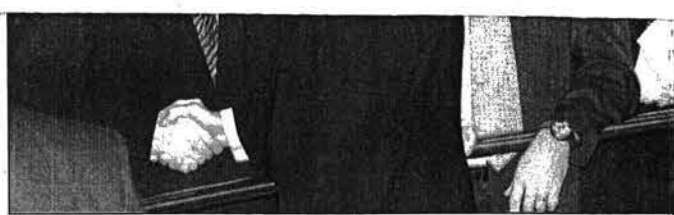
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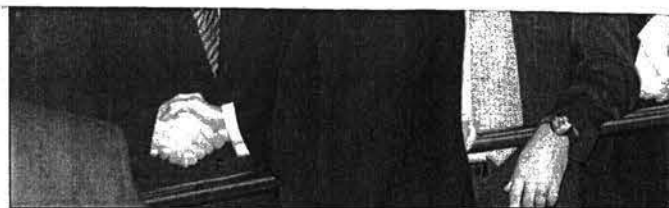
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THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT



Mr Clinton gives SDLP leader John Hume a pat on the shoulder when he greeted him at the Waterfront Hall.

Big welcome at Ulster's Hall of fame

By Staff Reporters

US President Bill Clinton got an enthusiastic welcome when he went to the Waterfront Hall in Belfast to deliver his keynote speech.

In an event significant for its cordiality, Mr Clinton was warmly greeted by a large audience of political leaders and business people.

Prime Minister Tony Blair's ringing endorsement of the beleaguered President's contribution to the peace process was gratefully received.

Hillary Clinton, looking tired and strained, smiled warmly and visibly relaxed as her husband was applauded.

The feel-good factor was obvious around the hall. Secretary of State Mo Mowlam was given a

spontaneous sustained round of applause when she took her seat.

And Senator George Mitchell, the former talks mediator, was also warmly applauded for his role in the peace process.

As a string quartet played on stage, Belfast city councillors occupied the best seats in the house, with Hugh Smyth of the DUP and Sinn Féin's Tom Hartley directly in front of Mr Clinton.

Also in the front row were Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams and Jeffrey Donaldson of the Ulster Unionist Party.

Significantly, former SDLP politician Hugh Logue, who is tipped to become the new advisor to Deputy First Minister, Seamus Mallon, was also in the audience.

Three gold-rimmed chairs



A presidential salute to the people of Belfast from Bill Clinton as he says goodbye at the Waterfront Hall.

were on the stage against a blue backdrop showing a map of North America and Europe with the words 'Peace and Prosperity for Northern Ireland'.

Banners welcoming President Clinton to the Waterfront Hall were draped around the auditorium.

The sentiment was not shared, however, by two groups of protesters who gathered outside.

A small band of loyalists carrying Ulster flags unfurled a banner reading 'Justice for Protestants' — an allusion to the parades disputes.

And representatives of the Irish Republican Socialist Party, the political wing of the INLA, also held a flag-waving protest at the Markets end of the Albert Bridge.

Another 350 people turned up to listen to the speeches relayed on speakers.

Allison Maguire (36), from the Markets, said she was there in the hope of catching a glimpse of Mr Clinton.

She said: "He's a famous man, no matter whether he is famous for good or bad. I still like to see him in the flesh."

Another woman said that

despite his problems at home, Bill Clinton had always been "a friend to Northern Ireland".

Thomas Anderson, from Holywood, said that he had decided to come to the Waterfront because it was an "one-off occasion".

He said: "Bill Clinton is probably the most famous man in the world. He has Tony Blair, Mo Mowlam and a host of other names inside that building with him."

"If it was a concert it would cost £50 to get in and we are getting it for free. Why would I want to miss that?"



Tired but he keeps smiling





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On the road: The presidential cavalcade passing Carson's statue on its way to Parliament Buildings, Stormont, yesterday
Pictures by Rick Hewitt



Keeping a watchful eye: A security detail scans land and sky as President Clinton arrives at Stormont

Monicker's no drawback for a beaming Bill

IT IS a name he has heard a lot of in recent weeks but Bill Clinton did not bat an eyelid when he met our own Monica yesterday. The leader of the Women's Coalition Party, Monica McWilliams, was part of the line-up to meet the US President at the historic Parliament Buildings during his second visit to Northern Ireland.

Assembly members well used to paying attention to detail were somewhat eager to see how he reacted.

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Stormont and Queen's Bridge trundled up past. He was greeted by a beaming Tony Blair.

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to make Bill Clinton's hand. "He's very drawn," said one woman.

Before anyone could say Monica Lewinsky, one Belfast woman replied drily: "Two women is enough."

While Bill Clinton may be suffering at home over his "improper" relationship with the former White House intern, the

reference to the US bomb in Sudan recently.

Anne Marie McNeill, of Belfast Training and Education Ltd, shook his hand. She said afterwards that Mr Clinton's private life was a matter for him.

"There are many people who make mistakes and do the same thing. I don't think it's fair to judge him on that. We can all be

the weekend.

"He said he was sorry he didn't have time to play Royal County Down and I said 'you'll have to come back' and he said 'he'd love to'."

President Clinton, accompanied by the Prime Minister, smiled

from ear to ear as he saluted the President.

Belfast solicitor Martin McLaughlin lined up for his third handshake with President Clinton in as many years. "Good luck and well done," he told Mr Clinton.



Mr Clinton and Mr Blair (above) shaking hands outside the Waterfront Hall, while (above left) crowds wave to the President.

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The first glimpse of the President as he emerged from a gleaming limo was of a relaxed, smiling world leader who waved graciously to crowds of waiting media and a sprinkling of Stormont staff.

Earlier, Stormont had received its final once over from frantic Belfast City Council cleaning staff who hovered anxiously near any potential litter with their dust-busting machines.

A few hours before you could have been forgiven for thinking it was just another day at Stormont — for Citybus at least.

The No 22 calling at

He stopped briefly, looked around and then drove on as if President Clinton's visit was the last thing on his mind.

Security had been stepped up around Parliament Buildings with the media shepherded into narrow holding bays, one marked UK-Euro, the other American, for those having trouble remembering who they were.

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

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

Sunglass-shaded security agents from both sides of the Atlantic hung back to let Mr Clinton, Mr Trimble, Mr Mallon and the Prime Minister enjoy the perfect picture opportunity.

Then it was off to start the business of the day and enjoy tea or coffee with scones in Stormont's Long Gallery.



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

He stopped briefly, looked around and then drove on as if President Clinton's visit was the last thing on his mind.

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

signified 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 Mr Trimble pointed out a few notable landmarks to Mr Clinton.

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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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