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PRESERVATION

CLINTON

Clinton to bring strong message to North

From Joe Carroll, in Moscow

PRESIDENT Clinton will be bringing a "strong message" to Northern Ireland today that there must be "no harbouring or condoning" of violence.

He will tell the thousands of people he will meet across Northern Ireland that there must be "no shelter for those people" who did reprehensible acts such as the bombing in Omagh or the burning to death of the three Quinn boys "in response to Drumcree", according to Mr Clinton's adviser on Northern Ireland, Mr Jim Steinberg.

He said in a briefing here for the President's visit that "the people who were associated with the 'Real IRA' and their political arm, the 32-County group, are on the run. They're defensive, they're unwilling to stand up and defend the actions that they've taken."

Mr Steinberg said this would be "a very powerful message, but that's not to say there won't be more bombs. There will always be more bombs." But it would be impossible for the "small minority who is now essentially reviled by the vast majority of the people of Northern Ireland to derail" the peace process.

Mr Steinberg told *The Irish Times* the US government would take all possible steps to cut off funding for the 'Real IRA' and the 32 County Sovereignty Movement of Ms Bernadette Sands-McKevitt. She had been refused a visa and they

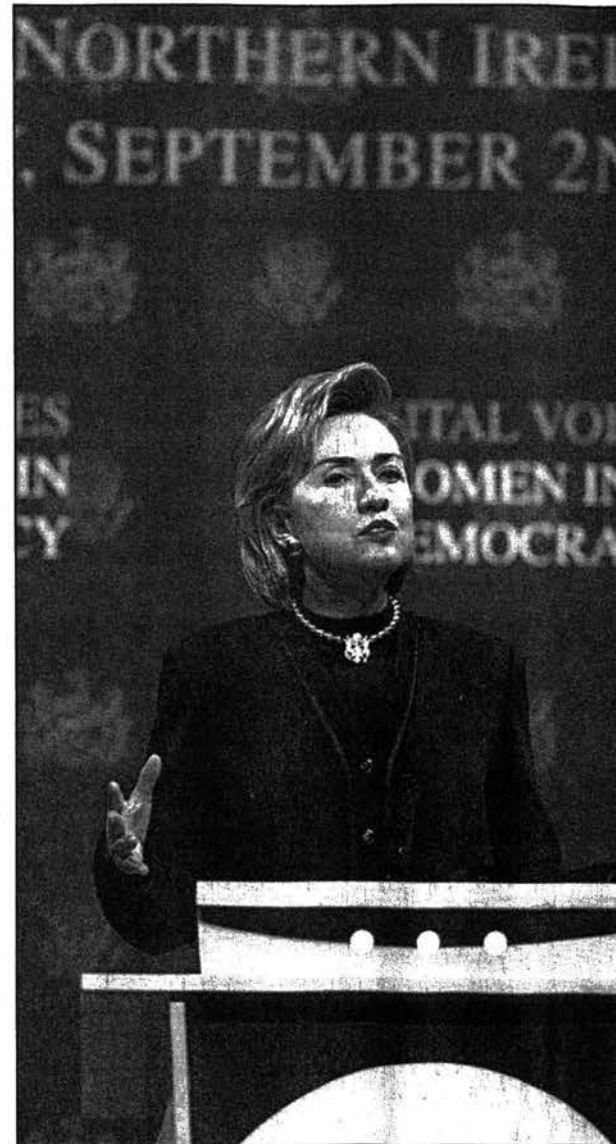
were discussing putting the 'Real IRA' on the terrorist lists of the State Department and the Department of Justice.

Mr Steinberg praised the "very important" statement of the Sinn Féin president, Mr Gerry Adams, indicating that "violence in support of the political process is over, done and gone". The White House had been involved in consultations with Mr Adams leading up to the statement but "I think other than to suggest unequivocally about what the message ought to be, we did not draft language".

Mr Clinton's visit could be seen as "trying to give a further impetus to the peace process". He would be meeting the First Minister, Mr David Trimble, the Deputy First Minister, Mr Seamus Mallon, and other political leaders.

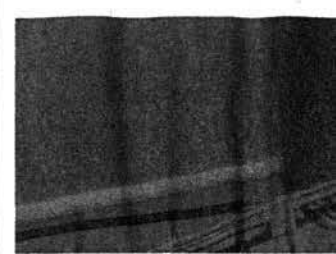
Asked if the President would be meeting the Rev Ian Paisley, who has criticised the US role in the peace process, Mr Steinberg said he would be meeting him with two or three other DUP members.

The President "doesn't have great illusions that he will necessarily convince Mr Paisley of what we're trying to accomplish, or what our role ought to be, but we know that the vast majority of the parties and the people welcome the President coming there and I think the President feels that it's an opportunity for Mr Paisley and all the party leaders to have a chance to say their piece and he's ready to answer them in turn."



Mrs Hillary Clinton during her address to the Women in Democracy conference, Belfast, last night. Photograph: Pacemaker

Mayor who will give city honour to Clinton criticises US policy



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Mayor who will give city honour to Clinton criticises US policy

By Mark Brennock

THE Mayor of Limerick, who is due to confer the freedom of the city on President Clinton on Saturday, has strongly criticised US foreign policy and in particular the recent attacks on Sudan and Afghanistan.

Councillor Joe Harrington yesterday accused the US President of applying double standards by condemning the Omagh bombing and yet ordering missile attacks on Sudan and Afghanistan.

However, he said he would fulfil his functions in conferring the freedom of the city on Mr Clinton. He was representing Limerick City Council, which had agreed without a vote to confer the freedom of the city on the President. "I will not use my position to score political points with anybody", he said.

Mr Harrington, an independent socialist councillor since 1985, will not wear his ceremonial robes: he is one of seven of Limerick's 17 city councillors who re-

fuse to wear robes on formal occasions.

He told *The Irish Times* yesterday that he had gone to Omagh to meet relatives of the victims and attend some of the funerals. "It is very hard for me then to turn on the television and see missiles being fired into backward countries in Africa and Asia. It's a double standard I couldn't possibly support."

Mr Harrington said that he sympathised with the victims of the bombings in Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam. "But I don't believe missiles are an answer to that. I believe the fundamentalist politics coming out of the Middle East arise out of a history where the West has played a part in dividing the Arab world. We are now seeing the consequences in the form of terrorism. I'm not justifying it, but we must put it in context."

He hoped Mr Clinton did not "go around the world with a sermon in his pocket", but instead would listen to, and be influenced by, people he met on foreign trips.

Mr Harrington said he supported the right of those who planned to protest during the freedom of the city ceremony to do so, but he would not be participating in the protest.

● The Workers' Party staged protests in Dublin and Belfast yesterday over the attacks on Sudan and Afghanistan. The party mounted a picket outside the US embassy in Dublin and handed in a letter of protest. A similar protest took place simultaneously outside the office of the US consulate in Belfast.

The party's president, Mr Tom French, said that the attacks on Sudan and Afghanistan amounted to "nothing less than state terrorism" and were "in total contravention of international law".

The WP is calling on President Clinton to comply with requests from Sudan for an independent inspection of the building bombed in Khartoum. The US has claimed it was a chemical weapons plant, but Sudan maintains that it was a pharmaceutical factory.



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Traffic to be affected by visit

EXTENSIVE traffic restrictions will operate in Dublin tomorrow for the visit of President Clinton.

The Northern Cross Motorway, and the M50 between Navan Road and the M1 interchange, will be closed to traffic or severely restricted between 1 p.m. and 8 p.m. Motorists travelling to Dublin Airport or port can expect long delays.

On-street parking will be prohibited from 5 p.m. today until 4 p.m. tomorrow in the following areas: Main Phoenix Park Road, Conyngham Road, Grand Canal/South Circular Road from Islandbridge to Haddington Road and Mount Street Lower, parts of Merrion Square and St Stephen's Green, Earlsfort Terrace, Adelaide Road and Charlemont Street. Severe traffic restrictions will

operate in the same areas.

Further parking and traffic restrictions will operate between 7 p.m. today and 9 p.m. tomorrow in Phoenix Park and at the following locations: Ashtown Gate, Navan Road between Ashtown and the M50, the M50 between Navan Road and the M1 interchange, Coolock Lane and the M1 between the M50 and Dublin Airport.

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ON VISIT



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.

Democracy conference in the Waterfront Hall. Mrs Clinton is the guest of honour.



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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

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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.

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This move for an early signature will enable gardaí to use what the Taoiseach described yesterday as "tough" and "draconian" powers against the "Real IRA" from midnight tonight.

The Presidential Commission — comprising the Chief Justice, Mr Justice Liam Hamilton, the Ceann Comhairle, Mr Seamus Pattison, and the Cathaoiríoch of the Seanad, Senator Brian Mullooly — signs Bills into law in the absence of the President. Mrs McAleese is in Australia.

The British legislation — the Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Bill — was expected to go to the House of Lords later today once it was passed by the House of Commons.

Opening the emergency recall of the British parliament to debate the "draconian" anti-terrorist legislation, the Prime Minister, Mr Tony Blair, told MPs that "strong and decisive" steps had to be taken to deal with a small, unrepresentative group of terrorists who wanted to use violence to undermine the peace process and the democratic will of the people of the island of Ireland.

The Tory leader, Mr William Hague — while not opposing the measures — said one of the "glaring" differences between the anti-terrorist legislation in London and Dublin was that the British government had decided against reintroducing the power of internment.

Rejecting criticism from within his own party and from the Opposition that the anti-terrorist legislation had been conceived in haste, Mr Blair insisted that co-operation between London and Dublin was closer than at any time in the past 30 years.

The Bill represented "the toughest possible responsible measures against terrorism" but he had made a judgment against using internment. However, clearly indicating that this power remained an option, he added: "We have ruled nothing out."

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The Offences Against the State (Amendment) Bill had an easy passage through the Dáil which was recalled in emergency session for a 13½-hour sitting yesterday. The principle of the Bill was supported, sometimes reluctantly, by the majority of TDs.

Only three deputies, Mr Caoimhghín Ó Caoláin (Sinn Féin), Mr Tony Gregory (Independent) and Mr Joe Higgins (Independent Socialist) sought a vote to oppose the Bill.

The most surprising intervention came from the former Fine Gael leader, Mr Alan Dukes, who said the Bill was bad legislation and did not accord with the central objective of the rule of law.

"It creates a very clear danger that procedures will be put in place similar in many ways to procedures against which we vehemently protested in the past when we saw their effects and their results in Northern Ireland and in the rest of the UK", he said.

Asked later why he did not seek to vote against the Bill, Mr Dukes said that Fine Gael's position at yesterday's front bench meeting was that if the Government felt on security advice that it needed the new powers in the Bill, the party would support it.

In his opening statement on the Omagh bombing, the Taoiseach said the "Real IRA" could not hope to take on the people of Ireland and win.

All remaining groups were about to learn a lesson that would teach them to respect the strength of Irish democracy.

The Minister for Justice, Mr O'Donoghue, proposed further amendments yesterday to meet some of the civil libertarian reservations about the Bill. He brought forward the date on which the Bill would fall to be reviewed by six months to June 30th, 2000.

He also assured the Dáil that the Government was satisfied on the advice available to it that the measures were consistent with the Constitution and our international human rights obligations.

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Summit gets lost in uncertainty over Russia

What was depressing at the end of the Moscow summit yesterday was the responses to reporters' questions wounded leaders. It was just words, writes Joe Ca Washington Correspondent

SOME of the Russian press are calling it "The Summit of the Lame Ducks". Which is going too far — they still have fingers on nuclear buttons — but it was a summit of two Presidents under severe domestic pressure and it decided very little.

Hanging over all the trappings of motorcades and banquets was the total uncertainty about the political and economic future of Russia.

The first question Mr Yeltsin was asked in the Kremlin yesterday after the summit was from a Russian journalist who pointed out that hardly anyone believed anything could come out of the meeting "due to the known difficulties both in Russia and America." How could the two leaders now claim that it was worthwhile?

It was a foreign journalist who asked President Yeltsin the tough question about what happens if his choice for prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, is again rejected by the Communists and their allies in the Duma.

There is nothing the US or the world can do for Russia until it finds its own solution

Since Mr Yeltsin dismissed the Sergei Kiriyenko government last week, throwing grave doubts on the continuation of progress to an open economy, Russia has been without a stable system as it grapples with its worst economic crisis since the end of the communist regime.

There is nothing President Clinton, the US or the rest of the world can do for Russia until it finds its own solution. That message emerged clearly from this summit.

Mr Yeltsin's answer shows that neither he nor anyone else can know what is going to happen in the coming weeks. As the world's media gathered in the Kremlin's Catherine Hall waited for his words, the Russian leader thought for a while and then, speaking very slowly, said:

"Well, I must say, we will witness quite a few events for us to be able to achieve all those results... That's all."

There was laughter at the non-answer, but also a grudging acknowledgment that the man who is daily written off as a sickly leader on the way out still has his political wits about him.

Even more admiring of the Russian's evasiveness was President Clinton beside him, who had been asked by the same journalist about how he felt about the widespread criticism of his speech admitting to an affair with Monica Lewinsky as apologetic enough.

"That's my answer, too. That was pretty good," Mr Clinton said ap-



President Clinton with President Yeltsin during yesterday's press conference in the Kremlin. They had signed agreements about worldwide missile launches and on a reduction of plutonium stocks. Photograph: Larry

provingly of the Yeltsin answer from the Bunny Carr school, knowing full well it would not be enough to satisfy his own media.

He knew, of course, that the question was coming — the US press finds this story far more enthralling than the summit — so he tried yet again to get the Lewinsky affair consigned to some trash bin of history. Some hope.

Later President Clinton met parliamentary leaders who for the moment hold Mr Yeltsin's fate in their hands. He told these politicians that any roll-back of the economic

reforms begun under Mr Yeltsin would be disastrous for Russia.

Russia cannot defy the rules of the road in today's global economy, Mr Clinton told these tough Russian politicians who are already manoeuvring to replace Mr Yeltsin or at least strip him of some of his far-reaching powers under the constitution.

But if Russia will stick to the reform road and avoid going back to an economy firmly under state control as in the old days, then it could depend on US support and that of international institutions such as the

International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Specifically, Mr Clinton warned them that whatever government came to power, Russia should not try to spend its way out of its problems by printing more and more roubles. Taxation, at present a sick joke in Russia, should be established as a part of economic life as in western countries and be applied fairly.

Mr Yeltsin made it clear that he is getting this message, even if his nomination of Mr Chernomyrdin sent the wrong signal to the rest of the world. He acknowledged there

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Summit gets lost in a cloud of uncertainty over Russia's future

What was depressing at the end of the Moscow summit yesterday was the responses to reporters' questions of two wounded leaders. It was just words, writes Joe Carroll, Washington Correspondent

SOME of the Russian press are calling it "The Summit of the Lame Ducks". Which is going too far — they still have fingers on nuclear buttons — but it was a summit of two Presidents under severe domestic pressure and it decided very little.

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favour of reforms in Russia. This is what we really need, and then all the investors who would like to come to the Russian reformed market will do so, will come with their investments." Mr Yeltsin declared confidently.

Outside the Kremlin walls, Russians walked around Red Square showing little interest in what was going on inside. Where once the huge GUM emporium on the other side of the square provided cheap goods for the consumer under communism, today it is Christian Dior and the United Colors of Benetton which offer their highly-priced wares.

At the Kazan Cathedral in the corner of the square, I saw a soldier going in to light a candle with other worshippers. Before Mr Yeltsin's time he could have been sent to a

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MOTHER OF ALL T

Planning started late, but the party will be early: the newly-appointed Millennium Festivals manager, Doireann Ní Bhríain, talks to Robert O'Byrne



HERE is an opinion widely held in this country that only now, a decade after our European neighbours, is Ireland going through the 1980s. If true, then the notion that we defer our celebrations of the new millennium for another 10 years might also have some justification. After all, unlike most other countries, the Irish Government has only belatedly begun putting in place structures and organisations to mark the year 2000. Because of this tardy start, there will be no equivalent here of the Millennium Dome now being built on the banks of

Clinton's efforts still vital in push for NI peace

Mary Holland



EVEN before he touches down at Aldergrove airport this morning President Clinton's visit to Ireland has had a dramatic effect. We have been told — and there is no reason to doubt the reports — that the momentous events of recent days are the result of a great deal of "political choreography" by the US administration, in co-operation with the British and Irish governments.

Gerry Adams's statement that the violence of the past 30 years "must be for all of us now a thing of the past, over, done with and gone"; the announcement that David Trimble has invited the Sinn Féin leader to a round table meeting at Stormont on Monday; judicious leaks that Martin McGuinness is to work with Gen. John de Chastelain's body on decommissioning; taken together these constitute the most important developments in the peace process since the referendums in May.

We are a long way from Van Morrison singing *Days like This* and the euphoria of President Clinton's first visit to Ireland in 1995. We have become more cautious about expressing our hopes for fear of tempting fate. But we have also learned that the political process of creating a peaceful society in the North rarely happens as expected. No side gets quite what it wants when it wants it, or in the words demanded.

There has, inevitably, been criticism that Gerry Adams has failed to utter the phrase "the

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g you ever wanted to



the happy couple went on to produce four children.
The production of Kinsey's two major books: *Sexual Behaviour of the Human Male* (1948) and *Sexual Behaviour of the Human Female* (1953) took a little longer.
The Kinsey report, as the books are collectively known in common parlance, are similar, in one way, to Joyce's *Ulysses*: everyone knows about it but few have read it. Better

informed on biology than people were in the 1930s and 1940s, and with laws relating to certain sexual behaviour less punitive now than they were then, the research practices of Kinsey's team cannot but seem bizarre in the 1990s. Because of that, it is worth looking at the moral climate of the day and the legal restrictions under which the team operated.
Christian churches in the US

held the view that the sole drive the so-called sex problem was a sin. The teaching of the offending word to "with time") Homosexual as well as oral sex were throughout the United States in Indiana, where Kinsey la

whose network of support in the US predates his dialogue with Gerry Adams and was central to the republican movement's decision to move away from violence and into politics.
But the *realpolitik* of the situation is that it was only with the arrival of a president who was prepared to become actively engaged that the breakthrough became possible.
We can all recall the critical decisions taken by President Clinton in those early days — the visa for Gerry Adams, the huge political boost given to the Sinn Féin leader, the even more controversial decision to allow Joe Cahill to visit the United States to steady the nerves of militant republican supporters. These were taken against the advice of more conservative officials in the State Department and flew in the face of long-established US policy.
President Clinton's sometimes reckless choices and/or his personal pressure persuaded other powerful figures to become involved in the often frustrating search for peace, most notably Senator George Mitchell. We do not know how much influence Mr Clinton brought to bear on Tony Blair but, at the very least, his constant encouragement to the British Prime Minister to stick with the peace process must have helped him and others through some very dark patches.
And then there was the open door policy at the White House, the chivvying and cajoling of politicians and former paramilitaries, many of them taking their first, faltering steps towards dialogue.
Yesterday, in this newspaper, Seamus Mallon laid out an inspiring blueprint of the possibilities for the future, of creating a society in Northern Ireland where people would at last be able "to shed the millstone of a bloody, divisive history and together walk down the road towards a new way of life, with a new vision and above all the confidence to hope".
The final words of this sentence are perhaps the most important. From the very beginning of the long march away from violence and towards peace the most difficult task has been to keep hope alive. On so many occasions, particularly, the obstacles have seemed insurmountable. It was in these bleak hours that the determined optimism of the most powerful political leader in the world, his belief that the peace process could work were, literally, irreplaceable.
We have now reached a point where the road ahead seems somewhat less frightening and the politicians more sure-footed. Miraculously, the terrible events of the summer, which in the past would have certainly driven both sides further apart, seem to have brought people closer together in their determination not to lose the peace. It may be that we are close to being able to manage on our own. But this has been a momentous week in the process of securing peace and it is fitting to express our gratitude to the American President who has done so much to help us achieve it.

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A wave of support in Limerick yesterday for a beleaguered President Bill Clinton before he flies home to face the Starr report (Report)

Trimble puts his faith

First Minister confident that weapons will be destroyed

by Henry McDonald
and Patrick Wintour

DAVID TRIMBLE, Northern Ireland's First Minister, yesterday staked his credibility on the good faith of Sinn Fein by asserting that the decommissioning of IRA weapons was now inevitable. In return he promised a transformation in political relationships and seats for Sinn Fein

Adams, the Ulster Unionist leader said he would be satisfied if the IRA destroyed the weapons itself rather than handed them over to the international body on decommissioning.

Trimble's new found optimism came as British government sources expressed unprecedented private confidence that the IRA had decided to decommission. It is expected that Sinn Fein in

early release tomorrow, the first releases in Northern Ireland under the Good Friday agreement. But government sources also reported improved intelligence in the wake of the Omagh bombing, suggesting some IRA cooperation in rooting out the the Real IRA, the group responsible for the Omagh bomb.

The bombing claimed its twenty-ninth victim yesterday with the death of Sean

now expect the Irish Security forces to use its new powers, passed by the Dail, to round up Real IRA suspects.

Home Secretary Jack Straw will now consider further legislation to make police telephone intercepts admissible as evidence in court. Northern Ireland Security Minister Adam Ingram will also consider offering an amnesty to farmers storing IRA arms.

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Trimble's commissioning Sinn Fein's point Martin cooperate with tional body.

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President Bill Clinton before he flies home to face the Starr report (Reports on pages 2, 16, 17).

Photograph by Larry Rubenstein/Reuters

Clinton puts his faith in IRA

He says IRA weapons will be destroyed in return for Assembly power

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In his interview, the Ulster Unionist leader tempered his confidence by warning that he would not shake the hand of Adams when they talk on Tuesday.

The Ulster Unionist execu-

tive yesterday unanimously agreed to sanctioned the meeting, but Trimble said: 'Inevitably there will be a degree of reserve . . . you have got to be careful about the signals you send to people.'

Trimble's confidence on decommissioning stemmed from Sinn Fein's decision to appoint Martin McGuinness to cooperate with the international body. He said: 'They have put themselves on an escalator and the escalator will inevitably lead to actual decommissioning. The sooner that happens the better because that will clearly transform relationships and make

it so much easier to progress.'

He revealed that he will use the meeting to tell Adams that he cannot enter into a government with Sinn Fein unless decommissioning starts. He is also expected to point out that this is now the position of the American President Bill Clinton and will argue that he has now pushed his Ulster Unionist party so far that if he was to push them any further 'he would fall off the edge'.

The unanimous support from the 109-strong executive for Trimble's meeting with Adams suggests he now enjoys an unparalleled command of his party. The DUP

did not even have to face a vote from the floor on his strategy during the three-hour meeting at the party's Belfast headquarters.

The decision came as Bill Clinton closed his three-day tour of Ireland with a passionate final call on the people of Ireland not to throw away the chance of peace. He told cheering crowds in Limerick: 'As we mourn the losses of Omagh and the three little boys taken from their parents' arms, remember there will still be efforts by the enemies of peace to get you to turn back. Don't do it.'

Focus Ireland

A FRANTIC RA

Patrick Wintour, Mary Holland and Henry McDonald report on how Blair and Ahern brought in their biggest weapon – Clinton – to revive the flagging peace process

WHEN THE OMAGH bomb exploded at 3.10pm on 15 August, it seemed the Northern Ireland peace process was about to be destroyed, not just the 29 lives the bomb has now claimed. The two communities would be pulled further apart and the already waning euphoria following the Good Friday agreement would be finally dissipated.

Three weeks later, Ireland seems closer than ever to peace. Confidence in Downing Street, Dublin and Washington is higher than ever.

This remarkable turnaround did not come through chance, or historic inevitability. It was the product of frenetic behind-the-scenes work and an unprecedented level of political co-operation between Washington, Dublin and London. 'In Northern Ireland,' one Cabinet Minister said, 'the public get to see about a third of what is really going on.'

When the bomb exploded, the British were caught flat-footed. Prime Minister Tony Blair and Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, were on holiday and the initiative lay with Dublin. The Irish announced new laws to sweep up members of the Real IRA. Successive British Ministers had rejected such legislation, but Blair felt he could not be seen to let the Irish take a harder line than his own government. There was also important symbolism in being

source said: 'We use Clinton sparingly. If we are not getting anywhere we get him to place a call and work his magic.'

In addition Blair would work to persuade David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist Party leader, to welcome any Sinn Fein concessions and to give private commitments that he would meet Adams face to face soon after.

All this was easier planned than done. Not just Trimble, but the entire UUP were insisting that Sinn Fein could not join the executive unless decommissioning started.

From the Sinn Fein perspective, the weeks were starting to tick away following the excitement of the Good Friday agreement. Republicans were becoming restive at the slow progress over setting up the Assembly. Basic things had yet to be agreed.

Blair and Ahern agreed they needed a statement from Sinn Fein — a commitment that the war was over and a promise to co-operate with the decommissioning body. In return Sinn Fein would get assurances that Trimble would respond positively.

Last weekend, leaks possibly from the Irish government and designed to put pressure on Sinn Fein revealed that McGuinness had already held private meetings with the head of the Arms Decommissioning body, General John de Chastelain. It was also sug-



Clinton and Hillary met the people of Limerick yesterday. He was brought in

ing would satisfy Trimble. But Clinton was also needed: before leaving for Russia, he rang Adams to tell him the statement was now essential.

However, there was deep concern in British circles when, last Sunday night, a distinctly unpromising interview with an IRA spokesman was released to the media in advance of publication in *An Phoblacht*. The IRA recog-

on the text of a speech by Blair during the referendum campaign on 14 May, it read: 'Sinn Fein believes the violence we have seen must be, for all of us now, a thing of the past, over, done with and gone.'

In May Blair had said Sinn Fein's sincerity would be tested against whether it gave a 'clear and unequivocal commitment that there is an end to violence for good... and the so-called war is finished, done with gone.'

trusted lieutenant Trimble duly cautious welcome. probably a further careful co-operation issued a statement would, in his capacity as Minister, be representatives along with the parties at Stormont. It gave the momentum.

The following day the

Irish Times
9/3/1997

A FRANTIC RACE FROM

Patrick Wintour, Mary Holland and Henry McDonald report on how Blair and Ahern brought in their biggest weapon – Clinton – to revive the flagging peace process

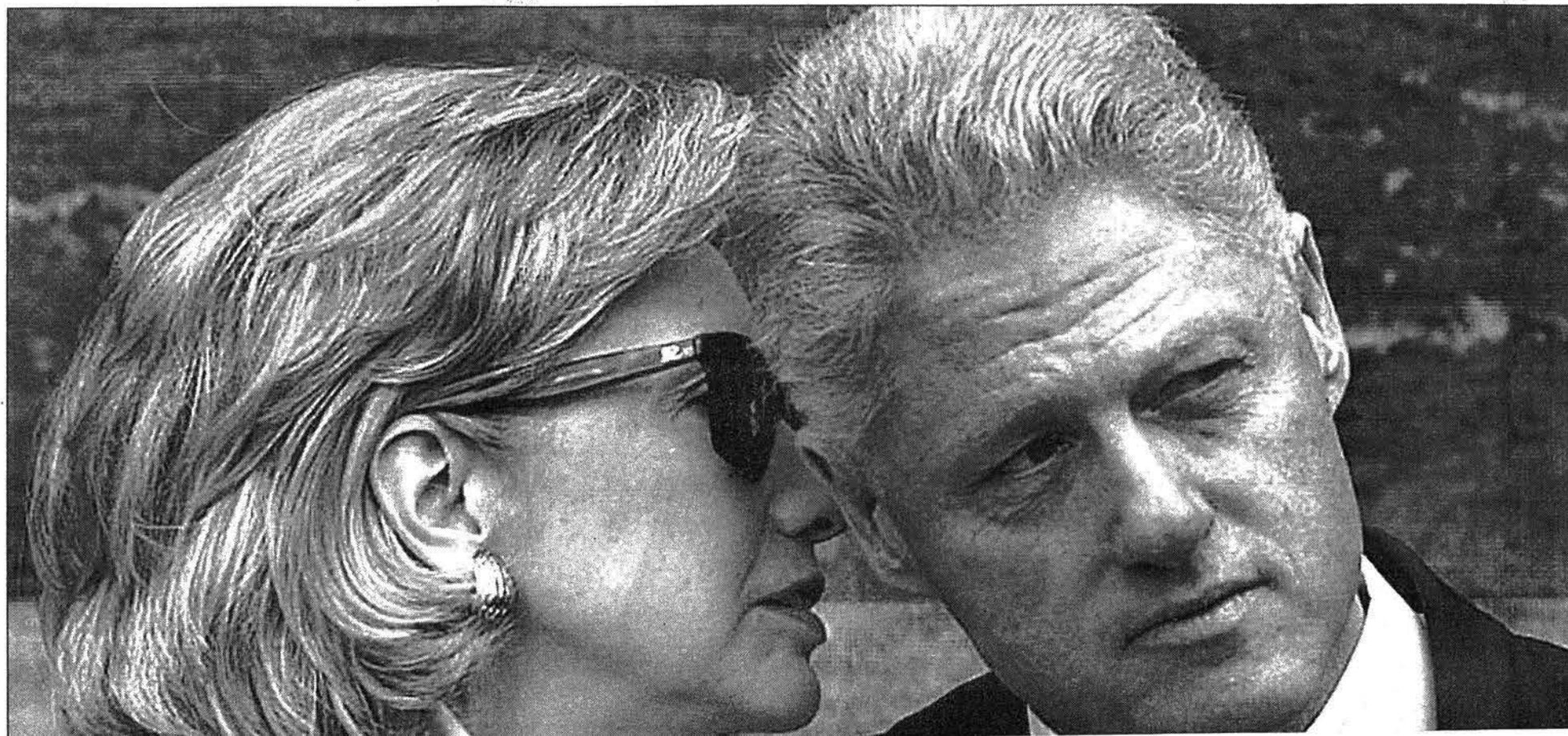
WHEN THE OMAGH bomb exploded at 3.10pm on 15 August, it seemed the Northern Ireland peace process was about to be destroyed, not just the 29 lives the bomb has now claimed. The two communities would be pulled further apart and the already waning euphoria following the Good Friday agreement would be totally dissipated.

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source said: 'We use Clinton sparingly. If we are not getting anywhere we get him to place a call and work his magic.'

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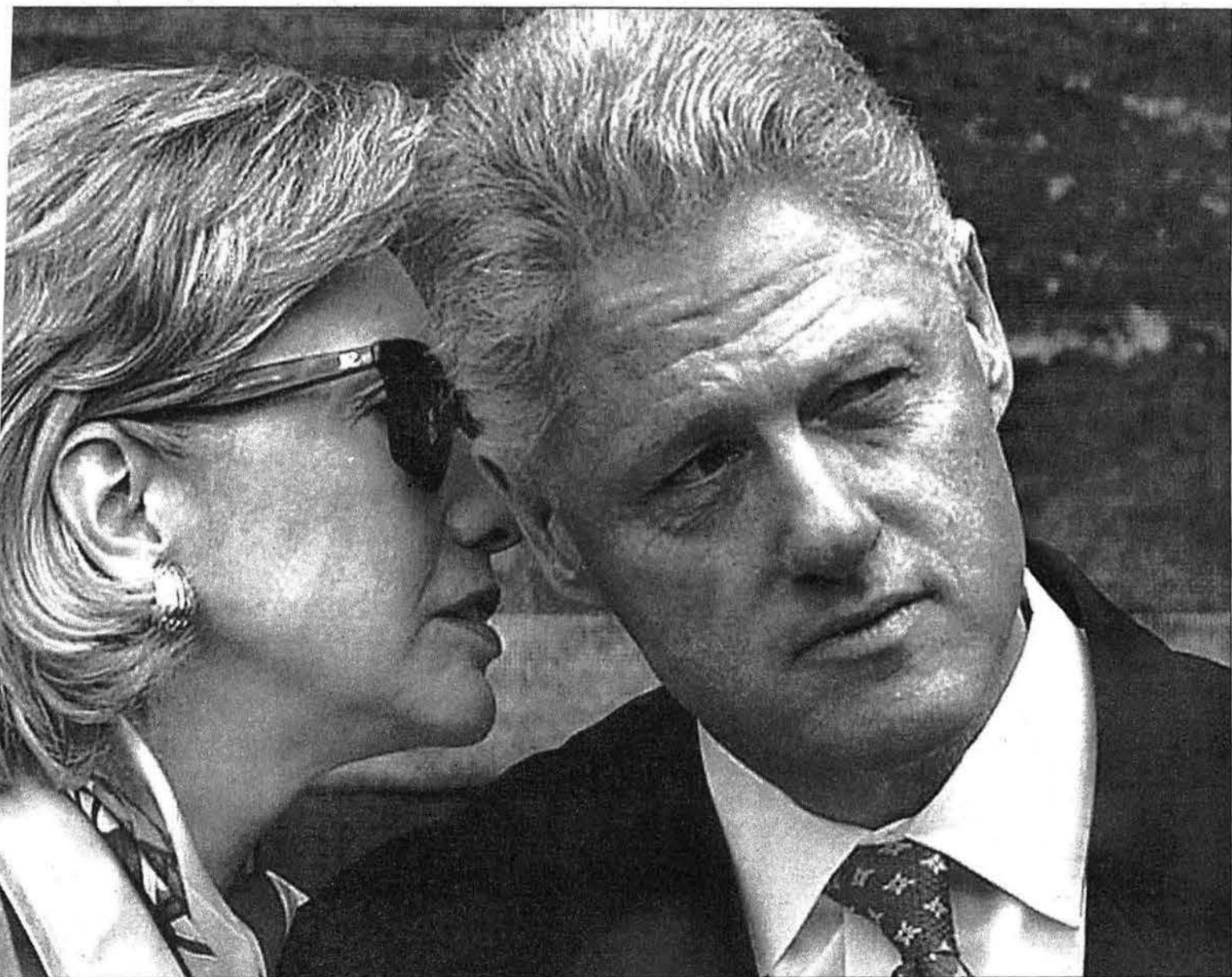
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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

6 September 1998 **The Observer**

C RAGE FROM



of Limerick yesterday. He was brought in 'to work his magic', according to government sources.

Photograph by Larry Rubenstein/Reuters

... text of a speech by Blair
... the referendum cam-
... on 14 May, it read: 'Sinn
... believes the violence we
... seen must be, for all of us
... a thing of the past, over,
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... May Blair had said Sinn
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trusted lieutenants.

Trimble duly issued a cau-
tious welcome. In what was
probably a further element of
careful co-ordination, he
issued a statement saying he
would, in his capacity as First
Minister, be meeting two
representatives of Sinn Fein
along with the other political
parties at Stormont on Mon-
day. It gave the desired sense

paved the way for the coming
release of the first IRA prison-
ers this week by releasing the
two Scots guards convicted of
murdering an unarmed Cath-
olic in 1992. The release was
probably inevitable, but in an
unhappy blunder she failed to
contact the father of the mur-
dered man, Peter McBride, be-
fore the announcement.

Except for this error, the
... had been set for the

more intermediaries. It had
been the goal Clinton and
Blair had been working
towards, and thought so un-
likely in the wake of Omagh.

Trimble was furious at the
leak, blaming Downing Street
and insisting to colleagues he
had given no promise. The
leak may have led to the harsh
tone of Trimble's remarks last
Thursday saying there was no
place in the Assembly execu-

stituency includes Omagh.
Reg Empey, the UUP vice-
president and one of Trimble's
closest aides, said: 'We are all
united on the decommission-
ing question. There are no
divisions regarding that.'
However, despite the Trimble
bluster, the meeting with Ad-
ams will go ahead: Trimble
confirms the interview oppo-
site. He and Government Min-
isters are also convinced that

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The Adams statement duly came last Tuesday. Drawing

Street had issued a welcome response. Clinton also had warm words ready from Moscow. Trimble had been given warning hours in advance.
'We knew something big was coming from Sinn Fein, something about the war being over but we didn't know how far Adams was prepared to go,' said one of Trimble's

dent newspaper by the Prime Minister. He stopped for a second on the tarmac and read the front-page headline 'Trimble agrees to meet Adams for peace talks'. Trimble, it said, would not just meet Adams with other political leaders on Monday, he would meet him again separately one-to-one. There would be no

weapons and explosives by the unionists is in part due to a new unity of purpose inside the fractious UUP. Over the past few weeks Trimble has tried to build bridges with a number of his leading sceptics, including the Lagan Valley MP Jeffrey Donaldson and Willie Thompson, the MP for West Tyrone, whose con-

that came badly unstuck was closer to home. For it was at Westminster, and at the hands of the British judiciary, that Blair faced his most trenchant criticism.
The erosion of the Criminal Justice (Terrorism and Conspiracy) Bill amazed MPs. For it was not until late last Thursday night that Ministers finally admitted a suspect could be imprisoned simply if a police officer said he believed the accused was a member of a proscribed organisation and the accused then remained silent, or withheld relevant information under questioning. No other evidence would be required.
After the bill's lightning passage in the Commons it was in the Lords the following day that the government faced its most devastating criticism. Lord Lloyd, who completed a wide-ranging review of British counter-terrorist legislation last year, dismissed the bill as 'a mouse'. He argued police officers would not be able to back up their opinion that someone was a member of the Real IRA, since to reveal his evidence in open court under cross-examination would be to jeopardise his sources.
The legislation nevertheless reached the statute book unamended. It is likely to be used north and south of the border for sweeps, and may yet force the Real IRA into a permanent ceasefire.
Threatening late-night visits by Provisional IRA members to the homes of the Real IRA may also provoke a collapse. Either way, it looks as if once again the politicians, rather than the terrorists are back in the driving seat in Northern Ireland. The dream of peace is still alive, but it was a close-run thing.

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A hard man to handle the hand-in

Martin McGuinness is well equipped for his vital new role, reports **Mary Holland**

'IT DOESN'T matter what Gerry Fitt says. It doesn't matter what John Hume says. We'll fight on until we get a united Ireland.' It was 1972, a rally in Derry's Bogside, and Martin McGuinness was standing on the back of a lorry, making his first public speech. He was 22 and looked younger — tall, blond, desperately earnest.
McGuinness was already a revered IRA leader in his native city. He has been at the heart of the republican movement for almost 30 years and, with Gerry Adams, has been one of the chief architects of the peace process. Last week's announcement that he is to act as 'liaison officer' between Sinn Fein and the official body on the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons is seen by the British and Irish Governments as perhaps the most important development of all in a momentous week for Northern Ireland.
McGuinness is regarded as the crucial link between the

IRA and Sinn Fein. While Adams is primarily a political animal, determined to move the whole Northern Ireland conflict away from violence, McGuinness is seen as the hard man who has accepted that the IRA cannot win a military struggle, but who is determined that the move to politics does not mean defeat, still less an abandonment, of the ideal of a united Ireland.
It has become fashionable to describe the Adams-McGuinness partnership as a 'soft cop, hard cop' act. This is too simplistic. Adams has the more subtle political intelligence, but McGuinness has developed into a formidable negotiator with considerable media skills.
Although they share a common background as working-class Catholics, the two men were forged by different forces. Adams came from a traditional Belfast republican family with a history of IRA involvement and was acutely aware of the vulnerability of the nationalist minority.



McGuinness: now facing his most dangerous challenge.

McGuinness is a product of the present troubles. Born in the heart of Derry's Bogside in 1950, he was part of a secure, albeit economically discriminated against, Catholic majority. His parents disapproved of violence and were horrified to discover he was in the IRA. McGuinness became involved by way of the civil rights movement, internment and Bloody Sunday. He was working in a butcher's shop when he joined the IRA in 1969, but left the trade soon afterwards.

He is in many ways a typical Irish republican hero — devout Catholic, devoted husband and father whose hobbies include chess and fly fishing. He has also held every top post in the IRA, from officer commanding in Derry to chief of staff.
By 1972 he was regarded as sufficiently important to be flown to London, with Adams and others, to meet Willie Whitelaw. At that time a senior British Army officer told me: 'He's exactly the kind of officer material we should be trying to recruit.'
The close partnership between McGuinness and Adams has been the foundation for the peace process. At difficult times, when it has seemed that Adams was moving too fast for the suspicious IRA rank and file, it has been McGuinness who has been sent in to reassure the militants. Like Adams, he has been determined from the start that this time the whole republican movement would move together. If, as both Governments hope, the majority of the IRA backs the peace process, that is largely thanks to McGuinness.
McGuinness accepted some

time in the late Eighties that the IRA could not win in a straight contest with the British Army, and set about persuading the militarists of the need for another strategy.
But this does not mean he is prepared to accept that the IRA has been defeated. He was reputedly furious when secret talks were revealed in *The Observer* in 1993 and the Government claimed to have received a message from the IRA — in fact, written by the priest who acted as go-between — that 'the conflict is over'. McGuinness wants an honourable peace where no side is seen as the loser, and he believes that the Good Friday agreement, if implemented in full, provides the basis for such a settlement.
That is why the issue of decommissioning is so fraught with difficulties. No armed republican group in Ireland has ever handed over its weapons, which have instead been left to rust in hides north and south of the border. It has been suggested that decommissioning would be unacceptable to many IRA members who have gone along reluctantly with the Good Friday accord, and that

they would be prepared to break with Adams and McGuinness on the issue. Hence the constant emphasis in media interviews by Sinn Fein leaders on the need 'to take all the guns, from all sides, out of Irish politics'.
Against this, unionists and the two governments argue that, if the war is really over, then there is no justification for the IRA to keep its arms.
They point to the fact that there has already been slippage in weapons and expertise to the dissidents in the Real IRA. Besides, the Belfast agreement provides for decommissioning to take place within a specified time scale, and Sinn Fein knows this will have to be met.
It is possible to see the outline of a way forward. For example, the IRA could hand over some arms, including Semtex, in exchange for a scaling down of the British security presence in south Armagh. But these negotiations are likely to prove some of the most complex in the peace process.
For Martin McGuinness, IRA fighter turned politician, this could be his greatest and most dangerous challenge.

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The Observer 9/6/1998

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acting so closely with the Dublin on security issues.

That would be given added strength if the two parliaments passed similar measures at the same time.

Blair duly swallowed hard and decided to follow the Irish. However, both he and Bertie Ahern, the Irish Taoiseach, knew that repression was not enough. Politics was also needed. In nationalist circles, the perception was gathering that the peace process was sliding into reverse.

As Blair himself has repeatedly said, if the process is not going forward, it starts to atrophy. He regards deadline setting as the only way to force the province's politicians into agreement. He duly met Ahern on Wednesday 26 August — the day after his visit to Omagh — for a two-hour strategy meeting at Ashford Castle, Co Mayo. They agreed the imminent visit by Bill Clinton could be used as a convenient deadline to regain the momentum. Maximum pressure needed to be applied to the Ulster Unionists and Sinn Fein to make further concessions before the visit.

The conundrum facing Ahern and Blair was that the Northern Ireland Assembly could not go ahead without a functioning executive, and the executive could only function if the Unionists allowed Sinn Fein to take up their two Ministerial seats. The Unionists would only allow that if there was some IRA decommissioning and a statement that the armed conflict was over. Yet there was no sign of movement from Sinn Fein.

At Ashford Castle, Ahern agreed to work on Sinn Fein — Blair had met with Martin McGuinness the day before — and it was decided that Clinton would speak to Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein President. One British government

statement from Adams to the effect that 'the war is over' would be made before Clinton arrived in Northern Ireland last Thursday.

In truth Adams was already in negotiation with Ahern, Blair and Clinton by phone over the terms of his statement. It is understood that texts were even sent back between Downing Street and Sinn Fein to ensure the word-

ment as 'a significant development', but repeated its hard line on decommissioning.

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WITHIN MINUTES, Downing Street had issued a welcome response. Clinton also had warm words ready from Moscow. Trimble had been given warning hours in advance.

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A hard man to handle

Martin McGuinness is well equipped for his vital new role, reports **Mary Holland**

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IRISH TIMES

DUBLIN, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 1998

No. 45,236 SPECIAL

SOUND & VISION

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John Cale on
life since
the Velvet
Underground



Sizzling
Francis
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again in
new movie

OPINION

Research Risks
Fintan O'Toole
checks the
pulse of the
Irish economy



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Peace process is an example to the world, says Clinton

By Déaglán de Breadún,
Northern Editor

THE Northern Ireland peace process was an example to the world, President Clinton told a cheering crowd in Armagh last night as he ended the first day of his visit to both parts of the island.

"When I go now to other troubled places," he said, "I point to you as proof that peace is not an idle daydream, for your peace is real and it resonates around the world."

Mr Clinton flew to Dublin late last night. After staying overnight at the official residence of the US Ambassador to Ireland, Ms Jean Kennedy Smith, in the Phoenix Park, he will go to Government Buildings for talks with the Taoiseach, Mr Ahern, and senior Ministers this morning.

Mr Ahern will fully brief the US President on his range of security measures passed through the Dáil and Seanad in the last two days.

After an hour-long meeting, the two leaders will cross St Stephen's Green for a reception hosted by Mr Ahern and his partner, Ms Celia Larkin, at the headquarters of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland.

In their addresses, both men will speak about the links between them and their countries during the peace process.

After lunch, Mr Ahern and Mr Clinton will make a further joint appearance at the Gateway 2000 computer factory, on an industrial estate near Dublin airport. There they will make hi-tech history by becoming the first two national leaders to seal a joint communiqué using electronic signatures, rather than the traditional pen and ink.

In his keynote speech in Northern Ireland yesterday, the President pledged US political and economic support for further consolidation of the peace process and the implementation of the Belfast Agreement. "America is with you," he said. "The entire world is with you."

The President outlined a programme of action for the North's politicians, including decommissioning of weapons, formation of an executive council, changes in policing, an end to paramilitary beatings, the early release of prisoners, the strengthening of human rights and pursuit of equality measures.

He also called on the people of Northern Ireland to grasp the opportunity for peace: "Do not let it slip away. It will not come again in our lifetimes. Give your leaders the support they need to make the hard but necessary decisions."

Sharing a platform with President Clinton at Belfast's Waterfront Hall, the First Minister, Mr David Trimble, gave his strongest hint yet that he was prepared to



President Clinton shakes hands with well-wishers at the gathering for peace yesterday in Armagh. Photograph: Adam Butler/AP

INSIDE

Clinton says peace must not slip away: President in talks on Assembly **page 7**

Protests take place in several cities over attacks by US; America may contribute \$1.5m to new education project: **page 8**

Survivors speak of unbearable grief after Omagh bomb: **page 9**

Trimble provides one sour note in otherwise celebratory occasion: **page 14**

Editorial Comment: **page 15**

Traffic disruption in Limerick and Dublin today: **page 2**

work with Sinn Féin to consolidate the peace process, but he warned that "each part of the agreement, including decommissioning, must be implemented".

Mr Trimble is expected to secure the approval of his colleagues in the Ulster Unionist Party leadership at the weekend for a meeting with the Sinn Féin president, Mr Gerry Adams, next week.

The British Prime Minister paid full tribute to Mr Clinton's role in the peace process. "There's no President of the USA that has done more for peace in Northern

Ireland than you," Mr Blair said.

Later, Mr Clinton expressed his strong approval of the statement issued by Mr Adams, proposing that violence be a "thing of the past, over, done with and gone". Mr Clinton said these words "were music to the ears all across the world and they pave the way for the progress still to come."

After a private meeting with the President, Mr Adams said they had discussed the need to move urgently to establish the executive and other bodies provided for in the agreement.

Mr and Mrs Clinton had an emotional meeting with relatives of the Omagh bomb victims in the town's leisure centre. They laid a wreath and unveiled a plaque near the site of the blast which claimed the lives of 28 people.

In his Belfast speech, Mr Clinton expressed the belief that the Omagh bomb would be followed by others. "The terror in Omagh was not the last bomb of the Troubles; it was the opening shot of a vicious attack on the peace."

As speculation grew about an imminent widespread swoop by the police forces, North and South, on suspected members of the "Real IRA", and reports that prison space was being cleared for

a fresh intake, the organisation's political counterpart complained of harassment and threats by mainstream republicans.

The 32 County Sovereignty Movement said "fellow republicans" had threatened its supporters. "This sullies the name of republicanism and we want these people to stop making threats against us," the organisation said.

Republican Sinn Féin, which is politically aligned with the Continuity IRA, protested against the "highly co-ordinated intimidation of members of the 32 County Sovereignty Movement by groups of Provisionals".

It stressed it had no links with the 32 County group.

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CLINTON

Clinton says peace must not slip away

From Joe Carroll, in Belfast

PRESIDENT Clinton has appealed to the people of Northern Ireland not to let the present hope for peace "slip away". He said "it will not come again in your lifetime".

In a speech at the start of his one-day visit to the North, Mr Clinton both painted glowing hopes for the future and issued warnings about difficult times to come.

"This has been a magic thing to see unfold — this developing will for peace among the people. Together, people and leaders are moving Northern Ireland from the deep freeze of despair to the warm sunlight of peace."

Addressing an audience of some 2,000 in the new Waterfront Hall in Belfast, the President also appealed to members of the new Assembly present to avoid fighting among themselves.

"Whenever possible, you must try to act in concert, not conflict; to overcome obstacles, not create them; to rise above petty disputes, not fuel them."

In a speech in which he tried to sound mostly inspiring and optimistic, Mr Clinton also struck a sombre note when he warned there would be "hard roads ahead".

He declared with apparent certainty that

well may be." He said there would also be divisive debates.

The question was how the Northern Ireland people would deal with future differences. "Can the bad habits and brute forces of yesterday break your will for tomorrow's peace?" Mr Clinton asked.

The President did not try to answer the question but finished with a portrayal of a community which should be more united than divided. In a rhetorical flight he told his almost exclusively middle-class audience: "You aspire to the same things — to live in peace and security, to provide for your loved ones, to build a better life and pass on brighter possibilities to your children. These are not Catholic or Protestant dreams, these are human dreams, to be realised best together."

Mr Clinton was given a standing ovation when he was introduced by the First Minister and Ulster Unionist Party leader, Mr David Trimble. Earlier, there had been speeches by the British Prime Minister, Mr Tony Blair, the Deputy First Minister, Mr Seamus Mallon, and Belfast's Lord Mayor, Mr David Alderdice.

Among those listening to the President's address were Mrs Hillary Clinton, Mrs Cherie Blair, Mrs Trimble, former senator



The Irish Times 9/4/1998

PHOTOCOPY PRESERVATION

ON VISIT



ireland Assembly, Mr David Trimble (left), points to the grounds of Stormont, the seat of the British Prime Minister.

Irish Times
9/4/1998

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

responsibilities under the Belfast Agreement to dismantle their terrorist organisations," Mr Trimble said. However, he added that he accepted people could change and was prepared to work with anyone who had the interests of peace at heart.

In comments clearly directed at Sinn Féin, the First Minister said he would lead anyone who took the road of peace. He acknowledged the "welcome developments" this week — a reference to the Sinn Féin president, Mr Gerry Adams's statement that violence must be a thing of the past and the decision to nominate Mr Martin McGuinness as the party's representative on the arms decommissioning body.

But "words alone could not heal the mistrust; deeds will," said Mr Trimble. "People want not just to hear of peace, they want to

Mr Blair said there were those in Northern Ireland, "who can give you 15 reasons for staying still, 1,500 reasons for going back, but not one for going forward. Yet this is the time to go forward, carefully, yes, but with the certainty that there is no alternative but to carry on".

Sinn Féin gave a guarded welcome afterwards to Mr Trimble's speech. Mr McGuinness, sitting in the front row with Mr Adams, said the UUP leader's speech was disappointing and that the best way to resolve difficulties was to engage in dialogue. Mr Adams said there were issues that his party could not deliver on.

"The reality of the situation is that I have welcomed David Trimble's words but all of us need to move into implementing and ful-

filling a mission which is not understood. The Deputy First Minister Mr Seamus Mallon, shared this sentiment. He pledged that the Assembly would deliver on the Belfast Agreement and ensure that it became a "beacon of hope for this generation".

Mr Mallon paid tribute to Mr Clinton, who, he said, had helped Northern Ireland break free from the violent impasse of the past 30 years. He also praised the unwavering support of Mr Blair and the Taoiseach, Mr Ahern, particularly during the "concluding days of the multi-party negotiations". He reserved special tribute to Senator George Mitchell who chaired the talks.

However, it was now up to the local politicians to ensure that the terms of the Belfast Agreement were honoured and implemented in full.

McAnespie's mother gives Clinton letter

By Clare Murphy, in Belfast

THE relatives of people killed by the British security forces in the North were present yesterday at the Waterfront Hall in Belfast for President Clinton's visit.

Mrs Elish McCabe, a spokesperson for Relatives for Justice, whose brother, Mr Aidan McAnespie (23), was shot dead by the British army in 1988, presented Mr Clinton with a letter outlining how almost 400 people in the North have been killed by British troops.

Also present was Mrs Jean McBride, the mother of Mr Peter McBride. The two soldiers convicted of killing her son were released from prison on Wednesday after serving six years of their life sentences for murder.

Bruton again calls on IRA to disarm

The Fine Gael leader, Mr John Bruton, has again called on the Provisional IRA to disarm, and criticised the Government for negotiating with Sinn Féin.

Addressing journalists in Edenderry, Co Down, Mr Bruton said it was neither right nor acceptable that Cabinet ministers should sit at a table with members of a political party that was linked to a private army which has refused to disarm and who had private means of using violence to achieve its political ends.

Mayor to wear robes only for charity

The Mayor of Limerick will wear the ceremonial robes for the Mr Clinton's visit tomorrow if they are sponsored for charity.

Independent councillor, Mr Joe Harrington, who normally refuses to wear the robes, said yesterday that Milford Hospice in Limerick is having its major fund-raising day on Sunday and this will be a good cause for people to contribute to. "If people want me to wear the robes they'll have to pay up for charity."

De Rossa's concern over US attacks

The leader of Democratic Left, Mr Proinsias de Rossa, has called on the Taoiseach to convey to President Clinton the concern felt by many Irish people at the recent US missile attacks on Sudan and Afghanistan.

Mr de Rossa said in a statement yesterday that Mr Ahern should also tell the president that Ireland will support moves at the UN to establish an international inquiry into the attack on the Khartoum plant.

Paisley criticised by Father Faul

Dr Ian Paisley was criticised yesterday by the parish priest of Carrickmore, Co Tyrone, for using Commons parliamentary privilege last Wednesday to allege that four men from the county "were known by Sinn Féin to be members of the so-called 'Real IRA'".

Mgr Denis Faul described as "outrageous" such use of parliamentary privilege. "I am convinced that these men are completely innocent and are not members of any illegal or subversive organisation and certainly are not members of the 'Real IRA' or the 32-County Sovereignty Movement."

Attacks on businesses condemned

Sinn Féin has strongly criticised the attacks on two Catholic-owned businesses in Portadown, Co Armagh. Ms Dara O'Hagan, claimed the incidents on Wednesday night formed part of a concerted campaign by loyalists to intimidate the nationalist community, and urged unionist and community leaders to use their influence to bring about an end to the attacks, which are only serving to increase tension in the town.

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The Irish Times
9/4/1998

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9/4/1988

CLINTON V

Clinton and Blair pay

By Paul Cullen,
in Belfast

PRESIDENT Clinton and the British Prime Minister paid tribute to the Sinn Féin leader for his role in furthering the peace process.

However, an expected public handshake between both leaders and Mr Gerry Adams failed to materialise during Mr Clinton's visit to the West Belfast MP's constituency.

At a site dedication ceremony for the new £70 million Springvale education campus, Mr Clinton said the Sinn Féin leader's comments this week about ending violence were music to ears around the world. "I thank Gerry Adams, who has worked hard to bring justice and a better life to the people of this

constituency," he told an audience of 150 educationists and local politicians.

In a speech which quoted from Van Morrison and Seamus Heaney, Mr Clinton said Springvale would become a "living, breathing monument to the triumph of reconciliation". "The future has begun," he declared.

Mr Tony Blair said many people had played a part in delivering the Belfast Agreement but he singled out Mr Adams.

He continued: "I know Gerry, like so many other people, wants to get to the situation in Northern Ireland where the basic elements are in place that should form the major part of any political debate."

Springvale, a joint venture between the University of Ulster and the Belfast Institute

of Further and Higher Education, aims to provide a "seamless progression route" for learners at all levels of higher education. The campus is located on old industrial land close to the peaceline between nationalist and unionist parts of west Belfast.

Mr Clinton said he was glad to be in Mr Adams's constituency: "There is much to be done by people on all sides. But his words, and I quote: 'the violence must be a thing of the past — over, done with, gone' — those words were music to ears all over the world and they paved the way for the progress still to come. Thank you, Sir."

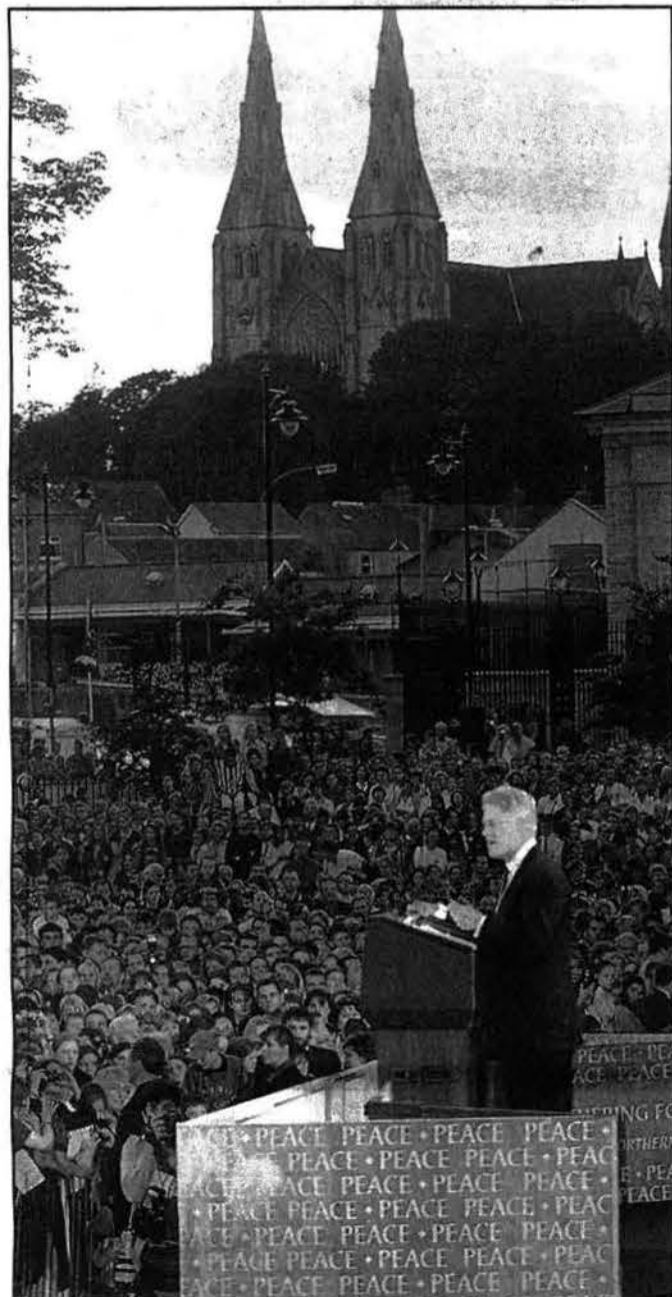
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President Clinton and the British Prime Minister



CLINTON VISIT

Clinton and Blair pay tribute to Adams

Clinton and the British Prime Minister pay tribute to the Sinn Féin leader during the peace process.

Clinton and Mr Gerry Adams met during Mr Clinton's visit to the constituency.

Clinton and Mr Adams met during the inauguration ceremony for the new Springvale education campus, the Sinn Féin leader's constituency. About ending violence were discussed around the world. "I thank you who has worked hard to bring a better life to the people of this

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He also referred to those violently opposed to the peace process: "There are people who would oppose the vision you share for

reconciliation and tolerance. Thank God they live in the past and their support is dwindling".

Little local interest in the visit was apparent, perhaps because police had scaled off the area hours in advance of the President's arrival. A few nearby houses displayed the Stars and Stripes and small knots of residents gathered in vain for a glimpse of Mr Clinton as he emerged from the marquee in which the sod-turning ceremony was held.

Mr Blair said it was "awesome" to have the will of the whole world behind the efforts for peace in Northern Ireland. Today's young people deserved a better future and a better chance of prosperity than their parents had.

The attendance at the ceremony included

prominent Sinn Féin figures such as Mr Gerry Kelly and Mr Alex Maskey. However, few unionists attended and the PUP leader, Mr David Ervine, said later he was disappointed at their turnout.

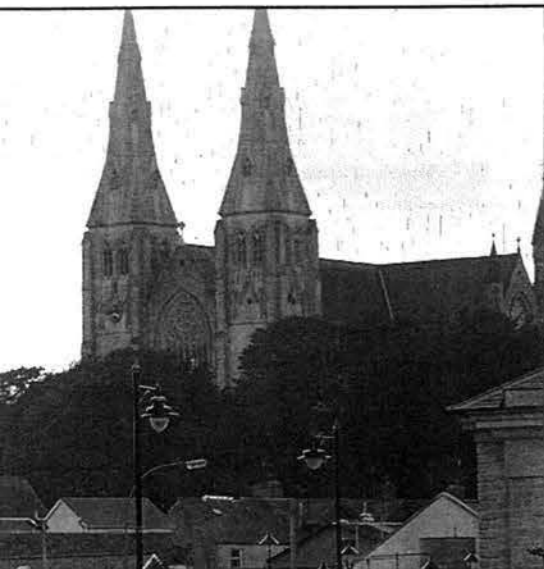
Both leaders were flanked by their spouses for the visit; Mrs Cherie Blair was making her first visit to Northern Ireland with her husband.

The biggest applause was reserved for the Northern Secretary, Dr Mowlam, who promised that Springvale would be inclusive of both communities and deliver all levels of higher education. "If we're talking about a new future for Northern Ireland, it has to be a new future for everyone."

The ground-breaking ceremony was per-

formed by two local teenagers, one Protestant and one Catholic. Gerard Quinn (15) said he had discovered a "common purpose" with young people in the other community when playing on the same football team. "I would want all of my generation to have the same opportunities as I have had, and I appeal to all of those involved in the peace process to have the courage to make it work."

Margaret Gibney (13), from the Shankill Road, came to prominence last year when she wrote to Mr Blair urging him to press forward with the peace process. "No matter what the conflict is, it is always children who suffer most — they lose their parents, they lose their homes and, sometimes, they even lose their lives," she said.



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Irish trip. It has been adapted specifically to meet Irish circumstances, north and south, and will be undertaken in collaboration with the Centre for Civic Education in California.

It will be co-ordinated by Co-operation Ireland, formerly Co-operation North. Administrative details have still to be finalised.

The project will consist of two broad components. Firstly, there will be a greatly increased level of school and youth group exchanges, and joint work particularly in areas such as the environment, urban and rural regeneration, education reform and cultural heritage.

Secondly, teachers, youth and community leaders will come together to do work on issues of common concern.

Peace in several stages by US

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In Derry, 14 people took part in a rally in the Diamond at lunchtime.

The rally, organised by the Socialist Workers' Party, was good-natured and captured the attention of a group of 30 American tourists whose bus arrived in the Diamond at the war memorial just as the rally started.

"I didn't expect this in Derry, but I guess that's democracy for you. We have lots of them at home against President Clinton, so why not one here?" said one of the touring party.

In Galway, a dozen or so people congregated outside Moons Corner in protest at the Clinton visit, chanting "Bill Clinton, USA, how many bombs did you drop today?"

There was little interest from passers-by, but a petition criticising the Taoiseach's welcome for the US President after the recent bombings in Afghanistan and Sudan collected about 150 signatures. It will be sent to Mr Ahern.

In Cork, members of the Socialist Workers' Party also held a small protest and had a petition for signing.

Irish fashion for Cherie



CHERIE Blair made her own contribution to Anglo-Irish relations yesterday when she opted to wear clothes by Irish designer Louise Kennedy, writes Robert O'Byrne.

A marled herringbone trouser suit in muted tones of fern green and oatmeal was complemented by a Lycra-base T-shirt and velvet devoré wrap in darker green with a falling leaf pattern.

During the past year, Mrs Blair has joined the ranks of Tipperary-born Kennedy's admirers. The British Prime Minister's wife bought a large number of pieces from the Kennedy spring/summer collection which she has worn on a number of high-profile occasions. Last week, she was photographed attending the London première of Robert Redford's film *The Horse Whisperer* wearing a Louise Kennedy oyster linen long skirt and jacket with a dandelion motif; both items were woven and hand-printed in Belfast. In July.

Photograph shows Mrs Blair and Mrs Hillary Clinton on a visit to Lagan Meadows, Belfast, yesterday.

Irish Times

9/4/1998

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

CLINTON VISIT

Sombre president tries to ease the grief of Omagh

By Suzanne Breen,
in Omagh

THEY came in wheelchairs or on crutches and walking sticks, their friends and relatives lovingly supporting them. There were bandaged hands and arms, faces and legs. Even those physically well carried huge emotional scars.

They wore their Sunday best but pain and grief were still etched all over their faces. Normally, those invited to meet a President are bubbling with excitement and grinning ear-to-ear. But this was a very different sort of meeting.

They weren't looking for autographs from Bill Clinton or to get their pictures on television yesterday. They simply wanted to share their grief. Three of those still in hospital — Una McGurk and Laura and Nicola Hamilton — were released for the day.

It was the first time many of the bereaved and injured in the Omagh bomb were reunited under the one roof. They gathered in the town's leisure centre which three weeks ago was the scene of so much suffering.

Then it had been an incident centre. That's where so many found out their loved ones were dead or injured. Some families found it difficult to return to Omagh.

Bernie Doherty from Buncrana, whose son Oran (8) was killed, said: "I feel so sad. It's very hard coming here today. I remember Oran going off to Omagh so happy that morning. He never came back."

Donna Maria Barker who lost her son, James (12), said: "It is very upsetting but

President Clinton, as a world leader, can give us hope. He is a man of peace and we want the violence to stop. Time isn't easing the pain of losing James. It's getting harder by the day."

The normally jovial President was in sombre mood as he entered the gymnasium with the First Lady and Tony and Cherie Blair. First of all, President Clinton and Mr Blair addressed the hall. Hundreds of people listened in silence. Then, slowly, they made their way through the crowd. They spent about an hour listening to the stories.

The first person the President spoke to couldn't see him. The young girl's eyes were still covered with bandages. He stopped to chat to a boy in a Leeds United shirt. The boy couldn't shake the President's hand. His hands were still bandaged.

Stanley McCombe, whose wife Anne was killed, found it was very emotional meeting the President. "It was wonderful to talk to him man-to-man. He was very understanding of what we have been through."

"He came to grieve and shake hands with me. I asked him to do what he could to bring peace to Northern Ireland and bring the perpetrators of this ghastly deed to justice."

At first the mood in the leisure centre was heavy but as the President moved around it lightened. He met Clare Gallagher, whose eyes were badly damaged in the bomb.

Her father Seamus said: "The President said he would do anything he could to help us. He told Clare to keep her chin up and keep up her good work on the piano."

A spokesman for Mr Blair said the British Prime Minister had found the courage and determination of the people he met "positively inspirational".

He said: "Just as on the Prime Minister's previous visit to Omagh, many of the people told him to keep going with the peace process. It was obviously harrowing to hear some of the stories told by the victims and their families."

President Clinton, the First Lady, and the Blairs then moved out on to the streets where thousands of people were waiting to greet them. They stood in High Street where the shoppers had last month walked, in their innocence, to Market Street and the car bomb.

There were bunches of flowers everywhere — outside shops, on the bridge, at street corners — in memory of the dead. In streets, as in the leisure centre, the mood was sombre at first. Some people waved US flags and carried cameras but most didn't. Standing on the exact spot where the bomb exploded, the President wiped tears from his eyes.

He appeared visibly moved by the sight of the filled-in crater and remaining debris. A commemorative plaque, draped in a black flag, stood in a stone plinth at the site. The President solemnly unveiled it and Hillary Clinton laid three white flowers.

The plaque read simply: "In remembrance of the men, women and children who died in the terrorist bomb of August 15th, 1998. May their memory serve to foster peace and reconciliation."

The President then went to Watterson's drapery shop where three of the dead had worked. Ann McCombe, Geraldine Breslin and Veda Shortt had a total of 40 years' service there. "They were like family, not staff," said owner Tom Watterson.

President Clinton laid a wreath outside the shop in memory of the women.

The President went next to the crowds which had waited patiently for him. A sea of hands stretched out to touch him all the way along the main street to the courthouse. He grasped as many as he could.

The crowds were now brimming with enthusiasm. "We want Bill! We want Bill!" they yelled, cheering and whistling as he approached. His dozens of bodyguards and long line of limousines followed in tow.

The President shook hundreds of hands. He spoke to as many people as possible, signed autographs and hugged children. Among those gathered were members of the emergency services who had treated many of the injured.

"He asked me if I had been working that day," said one nurse. "He said it must have been a horrendous scene. He said no one could ever repay the work of medical staff."

One man, Paddy Gallagher, who shook the President's hand was delighted with the visit. "These are wonderful scenes," he said pointing to the crowds. "Omagh has gone through so much pain. We're cried out. We need something positive, we need something to hold on to and to give us faith in the future. Bill Clinton has provided that."

CLINTON VISIT

Sombre p ease the

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in Omagh

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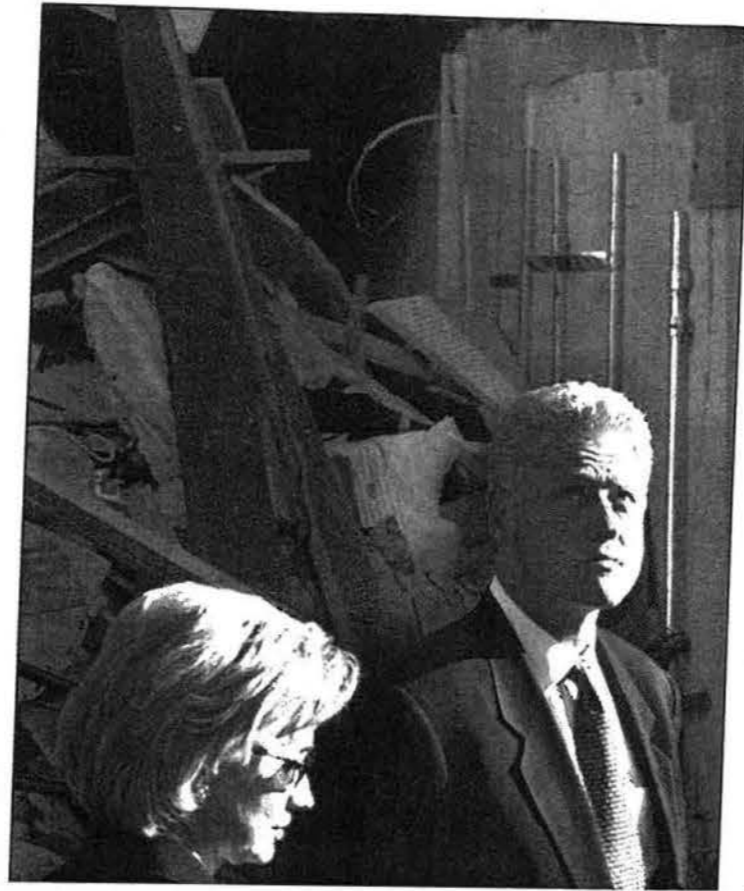
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PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

President and his wife, Ms Hillary Rodham Clinton, examine some of the bomb-damaged shops in Omagh town centre. Photograph: Scott Applewhite/AP

President Clinton and the British Prime Minister examine the bomb victims. Photograph: [unreadable]

News hounds try to stay with fast-moving leader

... began before dawn in Moscow with m. wake-up calls. The White House press secretary, Joe Lockhart, did not ... and Air Force One took off without the rest of us staggered down for breakfast the staff at the Hotel National ... provided at the ungodly hour.

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... ert, who is soon to take over from ... rry as President Clinton's spokes- ... it allowed to forget that he slept it ... scow and was lucky to get to Ireland ... White House support plane. ... er slept it out," crowed McCurry. ... took the ribbing in good form and

Joe Carroll recalls a long day from dawn in Moscow to Armagh at nightfall



Mr Clinton: enjoyed "a spectacular pastoral view"

issued a "statement" saying: "I take responsibility for my own actions. I deeply regret it. I'm dealing with the people I hurt the most. I'll have nothing further to say about it."

Very funny but maybe a little close to the bone if you're working for a President who is being badgered to apologise for the "hurt" he has caused over an "inappropriate" relationship.

The press corps scatters in "pools" to cover the fast-moving President at Stormont, the Waterside Hall in central Belfast, the Springvale educational village on the peace line, Omagh and Armagh. Each pool files a report for colleagues who are elsewhere.

A sample from the ride from the airport: "President Clinton got a spectacular pastoral view as his motorcade moved along the hill-road — past cows, sheep and rolling hills of green grass. There were clusters of friendly onlookers along the route... no signs, a few American flags... one couple came down the driveway in bathrobes."

On the way to the Waterfront Hall, some media people are given a quick tour of the Falls Road, the Shankill and the oddly named "peace lines", with appropriate commentary on a divided city.

As the President and his entourage go by helicopter to Omagh, most of the media take to the buses again, this time to Armagh where the press centre is in the Royal School. Three locals in 18th-century costumes greet us at the steps bowing gracefully. Moscow seems very far away.

But the day is not over yet. There is more to be written about the "Gathering for Peace" in Armagh as night begins to fall. Descriptive powers are also falling. It has been nearly 20 hours since the wake-up call and there is still a bus to Dublin to take.

Love movement urges Provisional IRA to lift threats against dissidents

By [unreadable] Breen

County Sovereignty Movement has urged the Provisional IRA to lift threats against dissident republicans. It has appealed to republicans to use their influence to avert a violent confrontation.

The movement follows demands by the IRA that the 'Real IRA' disband overnight, otherwise "action would be taken against members of both the paramilitary and the sovereignty

movement said it did not intend to take action against fellow republicans.

On Monday night, members of the movement visited 60 homes in south Armagh, Dublin and further south.

They issued the threats from the Army Council. Many knew the dissidents personally.

In some cases, there were violent confrontations. A 66-year-old man and his wife received minor injuries when they challenged those delivering the threats. In south Armagh, the sister of a dead IRA member chased men from her home.

It is understood 20 of those threatened have made affidavits to solicitors naming those they claim were involved. Provisional IRA sources are still refusing to comment on the situation. A Sinn Féin spokesman yesterday said he knew nothing about the threats.

The Ulster executive of Republican Sinn Féin claimed they were "proof of the Provisionals' role as the new Stormont death squads". It said those visited should not "succumb to any threats" and republicans should "take measures" to protect themselves.

It claimed the Provisional IRA had been "completely bought off" and asked whether it was prepared to "kill for Stormont". In its statement, the sovereignty movement said: "We publicly call upon the Provisional IRA and Oglagh na hÉireann ['Real IRA'] to refrain from taking action against fellow republicans. Such actions can only serve British interests and help the British prolong their rule in Ireland."

The group claimed using IRA members against dissidents "sullied the name of the IRA". It said it was disturbing that when decommissioning and a virtual declaration that the war was over were demanded by the British government, threats were then made against "true opponents of British rule". It said such threats had "apparently been made" without fear that Sinn Féin would be expelled from the new administration.

Irish Times

9/4/1998

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