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# Mayhew 'confident' on Stormont success

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# TALKS CUTTINGS

# Mayhew 'confident' on Stormont success

By **William Graham**  
Political Correspondent

SECRETARY of State Sir Patrick Mayhew last night claimed Northern Ireland was experiencing "changes" at a dramatic pace and there was a new feeling of hope throughout the community.

At an engagement in Germany Sir Patrick said he hoped with "quiet confidence" there would be a successful outcome to the constitutional talks.

The Secretary of State said: "Whereas formerly the divisions in the Northern Ireland community were widely thought to be unbridgeable — indeed to attempt to put a bridge in place would have been a dangerous exercise — today there is apparent a very different atmosphere.

"This is especially true among the younger generations, but is by no means limited to them. People are looking less at the past and more towards the future — and in Ireland that is a radical change indeed."

Sir Patrick was speaking during a visit to Bonn to coincide with a Northern Ireland Week being held in the Bundestag.

**E** People are looking less to the past and more to the future

Sir Patrick Mayhew

Addressing the Parliamentary Gesellschaft (an association of members and former member of the German Parliament) the Secretary of State, referring to the Stormont political talks, said: "We have come a long way already, and we certainly have a long way still to go.

"There is a feeling of hope not only among the participants but throughout Northern Ireland which is quite new. You can perhaps imagine what a sense of responsibility we all find, who have the privilege of playing a part. I can report to you that all participants are trying very hard."

Emphasising that Northern Ireland was a good place to do business, Sir Patrick said more

than 150 companies owned overseas were profiting from this — German companies such as Arntz Optibelt, Elastic Berger, Hoechst and Huco among them.

Huge investments had also been successfully made by businesses domiciled in, for example, Korea, France and the United States. In markets around the world their products, like those of our own indigenous companies, were increasingly competing with the world's best.

The Secretary of State referred to Northern Ireland's top quality infrastructure, excellent industrial relations, and highly-developed linkage between industry and education, producing a well educated and highly motivated workforce.

Meanwhile, the Strand Two political talks continue at Stormont today. A sub-committee is preparing a report which is expected to be submitted to a full plenary session on Thursday.

Also, on Friday a Strand Three meeting involving the Irish and British governments, to be held in London, will examine the latest progress in the overall talks process.

## Talks ~~X~~ parties 'trying hard'

By MERVYN  
PAULEY

SIR Patrick Mayhew spoke last night of the "dramatic pace" of change in the Province.

"Whereas formerly divisions in the community were widely thought to be unbridgeable, today there is apparent a very different atmosphere," he said.

"This is especially true among the younger generation, but is by no means limited to them.

"People are looking less at the past and more towards the future — and in Ireland that is a radical change indeed."

The Secretary of State was speaking in Bonn to a 300-strong audience of members and former members of the German Parliament.

His visit coincided with a Northern Ireland promotional exercise being held in Bundestag.

Referring to the cross-party talks at Stormont, Sir Patrick said: "We have come a long way already, and we certainly have a long way still to go.

"There is a feeling of hope not only among the participants but throughout Northern Ireland which is quite new.

"I can report to you that all participants are trying very hard."

He admitted he could not say whether, or when, there might be a successful outcome to the talks.

Sir Patrick's comments came on the eve of more discussions at Stormont today involving the slimmed-down all-party negotiating committee.

It is searching for areas of common ground in strand two, dealing with North-South relations.

The committee meets again tomorrow to report to a plenary meeting of the full negotiating teams.

Dates have already been set for a three-day visit to Dublin later this month by unionist, SDLP and Alliance delegates.

## Belfast, London sessions in North talks

From Gerry Moriarty, in Belfast

GOVERNMENT Ministers involved in the talks on the future of Northern Ireland will be in Belfast and London for the rest of the working week trying to advance the process.

The Tanaiste, Mr Wilson, along with Ministers Flynn, Andrews and Molloy, will meet the other five participating delegations in the Strand Two North-South talks at Stormont today and tomorrow. The senior Ministers, with Mr O'Malley expected to replace Mr Molloy, will then travel to London on Friday for a Strand Three meeting with the British government.

The Ministers hope the committee formed last week to try to expedite the process will allow them make more progress in their negotiations with the British government, SDLP, DUP, Ulster Unionist and Alliance delegations.

The committee, which is attended, at most, by four members from each of the delegations, meets today and tomorrow at Stormont under the chairmanship of Sir Ninian Stephen. There also will be a full plenary North-South meeting later tomorrow.

At the meeting in London on Friday, the two governments are expected to review progress. Although there has been concern that the future of the talks could be jeopardised because of the DUP's demands over Articles 2 and 3, the Northern Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, was last night positive about the process.



Sir Patrick Mayhew: "We have come a long way already."

Speaking in Bonn, he told a meeting of members and former members of the German parliament that progress was being made. "We have come a long way already, and we certainly have a long way still to go. There is a feeling of hope not only among the participants but throughout Northern Ireland, which is quite new. All participants are trying very hard," Sir Patrick said.

The South's territorial claim to the North is again expected to be high on the agenda at this week's meeting in Stormont. Dublin insists that there can be no hope of substantive concessions on Articles 2 and 3 until, in accordance with the terms of the entire talks process, "everything is agreed".

The DUP, however, is demanding a copperfastened unconditional commitment from Dublin to hold a referendum on the territorial claim. The party is threatening to boycott the Strand Two talks planned for Dublin later in the month if no commitment is forthcoming. These three days of talks in Belfast and London will explore ways of breaking this apparent deadlock.

Meanwhile, the DUP deputy leader, Mr Peter Robinson, reiterated that unionists would withdraw if any of the participants were involved, directly or indirectly, in parallel talks with Sinn Fein.

His statement followed a call by Sinn Fein ard chomhairle member, Mr Caoimighin O Caolain, for his organisation to be included in the talks. Mr O Caolain accused the Dublin and London governments of "ignoring internationally accepted criteria for resolving conflict by excluding Sinn Fein, which represents a significant section of political and public opinion".



## RUC Begs for Help

THE RUC opened a campaign last night to recruit an army of informers.

It wants the public to act as its eyes and ears to catch terrorists red-handed.

The move follows the murder of the Moy couple, Charles and Theresa Fox, and the gun attacks on two Roman Catholic homes

in north Belfast.

The RUC chiefs said: "Terrorists can only be brought before the court if there is immediate information to enable police to catch them in the act or if sufficient evidence can subsequently be obtained to substantiate a case.

"Either way, the public have a crucial role to play in adding their eyes and ears to the efforts of the security forces."

So far this year, 62 people have been killed in the troubles — 27 by loyalist gunmen.

North Belfast SDLP councillor Alban Maginness said: "It is essential that information be given to the police in order to curtail the activities of paramilitaries from both sides of the community divide."

Police chiefs were seriously concerned about the recent outbreak of violence which was directed particularly against the nationalist community, he said.

"There is a need for increased police activity to prevent a recurrence of these attacks, for it is quite clear there is a concerted loyalist paramilitary campaign of violence against the nationalist population in certain areas of Belfast and in rural districts.

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## 'RUC begs for help'

● From Page One

"All efforts must be taken by the security forces to defeat this campaign.

"Ultimately, the success of a police force depends on cooperation and support of the community as a whole and I appeal to the people generally to cooperate with the police in the investigations of these crimes."

The police headquarters statement described the killing of Mr and Mrs Fox and the gun attack on the two houses at Belfast's Crumlin Road as "atrocious and horrifying crimes".

Both were being vigorously investigated and the police appealed to the public for information which would assist them.

The statement said the RUC was committed to preventing and detecting crimes from whatever quarter and pointed out that, in the past 5½ years, 1,412 republicans and 982 loyalists had been charged with terrorist-type offences.

"The determined efforts of the police, supported by the Army, can be reinforced by the practical help of the community," said the statement.

"It must be made clear beyond question, as tragedy follows tragedy, that republican and loyalist terrorists have nothing to offer except more bereavement, suffering and misery.

"We ask the public to reject that and to help us in our duty of protecting the whole community against these murder gangs who are intent on inflicting further suffering."

# Collusion claim by UVF victims' family denied

From Gerry Moriarty, in Belfast

RUC headquarters last night described Sunday's killing of an elderly Catholic couple in Co Tyrone and last Monday's gun attack on a Belfast house as "atrocious and horrifying crimes". In a statement, the RUC also denied claims by the children of the murdered Tyrone couple, Mr Charlie and Mrs Teresa Fox, that there had been security-force collusion in their murders, which were claimed by the Ulster Volunteer Force.

Over the past number of years Mr and Mrs Fox and their children had been subjected to continued harassment from the RUC and the UDR, and several threats had been issued against their lives, the Fox family said in a statement.

Both Patrick Fox, recently sentenced to 12 years for possession of explosives, and another son had been told by the RUC Special Branch that "if they could not get them then the entire family would be targeted, according to

the statement issued to the BBC.

In the past week there had been a heavy security presence in the vicinity of their home outside Moy, and last week the family's dog had had to be put down. The vet said the animal had suffered a severe blow to the head.

The RUC statement said that the force was committed to preventing and detecting crimes from whatever quarter, and that despite comments to the contrary, the RUC had no knowledge of its officers having delivered warnings to the Fox family that information about them was in the hands of loyalist terrorists.

The Security Minister, Mr Michael Mates, yesterday said that the security forces were determined to bring the killers to justice.

Referring to the clashes with local people last May involving the Parachute Regiment, after which the regiment was severely criticised, Mr Mates said he had heard from the local commanders about positive steps being taken to improve relations between the

army and the community.

Meanwhile, two men have been arrested following an attack on Catholic homes on the Crumlin Road in north Belfast on Monday night. A 16-year-old girl and a 45-year-old neighbour suffered minor injuries when gunmen from the loyalist Shankill area fired indiscriminately into their houses. New-born babies in each of the houses narrowly escaped being killed.

Mrs Geraldine Toolan, whose 16-year-old daughter was hit in the leg when she tried to remove her infant brother David from a cot to safety, said the family could no longer live in the area.

In Castlewella, Co Down, yesterday the security forces made an arms find in a house consisting of two RPG7 warheads, two hand grenades, part of a drogue bomb, a radio scanner and a length of command wire. A purpose-built hide was also discovered in the house.

A former moderator of the Presbyterian Church, Dr Jack Weir, stated that he would be pre-

pared to speak to the UVF, or anyone else who might influence the organisation, to try and persuade it to end its campaign of violence.

Dr Weir made his offer during a period which has witnessed an upsurge in loyalist violence in the North and which has heightened tensions and fears, particularly in east Tyrone and Belfast.

Dr Weir who, with his colleague, the Rev Godfrey Brown, also a former Presbyterian moderator, has met Sinn Fein and the UDA in separate talks aimed at promoting peace, said he had a Christian responsibility to try and plead for peace, and point to the futility, folly and evil of violence.

For this reason he would be prepared to meet the UVF, although he knew no one in the outlawed organisation. Dr Weir said he was disappointed that there was not a greater sense of urgency that action must be taken to promote an end to violence.



and both

## Killers of Moy couple 'will be brought to justice'

By **Fabian Boyle**  
and **Mary McCollum**

DEFENCE minister Michael Mates said yesterday the security forces were determined to bring to justice the UVF murderers of an elderly Catholic couple in Moy.

Visiting army bases in Co. Tyrone, the minister called for information which might lead to the arrest of the people who gunned down Charles Fox (63) and his 53-year-old wife Tess sometime before 11pm on Sunday.

And the RUC denied media reports that police had delivered warnings to the Fox family that information about them was in the hands of loyalists.

Armagh councillors have united to condemn the UVF attack on the couple at their Listamlet Road home, just outside the council's boundary.

The UVF claimed responsibility for the murders and the loyalist killer King Rat was blamed by a local councillor for the attack, said to be a carbon copy of the killing of a neighbouring couple 17 years ago.

SDLP councillor John P Kernan denounced the killings as "atrocious". He said it was brutal and savage to burst into a house and shoot dead a defenceless couple.

He spoke of the fear and terror now existing in the area and appealed for no retaliation.

The funeral of Mr and Mrs Fox will leave the family home at 10am today for 11am Mass in St John's Church with burial immediately afterwards in the adjoining cemetery.

Police yesterday issued an urgent appeal for help from the public in the wake of the murders and the gun attack in north Belfast on Monday night which left two people injured.

A statement from police headquarters said: "The RUC is investigating both, and appeals to the public for any information which will assist their investigations.

"The RUC is committed to preventing and detecting terrorist crime from whatever quarter and bringing those responsible to justice".

# Rural communities in fear as terror hangs over Ulster's murder triangle

FAMILIES IN rural districts of Northern Ireland are braced for further violence after the killing by Loyalist gunmen of Charles and Teresa Fox in an area of the province known as the "murder triangle" since a series of tit-for-tat sectarian murders in the mid-1970s.

Politicians and church leaders responded swiftly to the latest sectarian killings with earnest appeals, supported by the murdered couple's family, for no retaliation.

In the climate of apprehension inspired by the killings, and earlier incidents, there was little confidence yesterday that gunmen from either side would heed their words any more now than in the past.

"The two communities are in a state of terrible fear and feel powerless to do anything to help each other," said Fr Denis Faul, a Roman Catholic priest in Dungannon, Co Tyrone.

Post-mortem examinations have disclosed that Mr Fox, 63, and his 53-year-old wife were shot repeatedly with a rifle in the head and body when the Ulster Volunteer Force gang burst into their isolated cottage near Moy, Co Tyrone on Sunday night.

The "murder triangle" stretches south from Po-

## Collin Randall examines the toll on residents of the latest sectarian killings

meroy to the border at Aghnacloy and east to Portadown, a strongly Loyalist town from which it is believed the killers may have launched their attack, using the motorway link to reach the couple's isolated home near Moy.

Between 1973 and 1975, three elderly Catholic couples were murdered by Loyalist paramilitaries, each case apparently involving an element of mistaken identity. Rival terrorist gangs carried out a string of other attacks and counter-attacks.

The victims of Sunday night's killings were not suspected of involvement in terrorism. Mr Fox, was a known Republican supporter, helping Sinn Fein at elections though not a party member, but neither he nor his wife had a criminal record.

Their 23 year-old-son, Patrick, was jailed for 12 years last month as an IRA bomber. One of their four daughters, Patricia, said it was a "lie" for the UVF to suggest in its statement admitting responsibility for the double murder that the house was used as an IRA meeting place.

Fr Faul added yesterday that if the shooting of the Foxes indicated that terror-

ists now regarded the parents of convicted adversaries as legitimate targets, the result could be widespread slaughter leading to full-scale civil war.

After a period of some improvement in local security conditions, tension has been rising again in the area

killed and his uncle died later from his injuries.

The IRA recently caused further anxiety by sending bullets to three Protestant fast-food retailers in an attempt to force them to stop serving members of the security forces. Two have already complied, the wife of one of



The Foxes: shot repeatedly in the head and body

since shortly before Christmas, when a Protestant student was murdered by the Irish People's Liberation Organisation in Moy.

This was followed in the New Year by a shooting in a butcher's shop in the same street. Kevin McKearney, the Foxes' son-in-law, was

them apparently reduced to a nervous wreck by the threat.

Mr Kenneth Maginnis, the Ulster Unionists' security spokesman and MP for the area, said there was no reason to trust either IRA statements lifting death threats against individuals or UVF figures glorying in such

pseudonyms as the "Jackal" and "King Rat".

"There is no doubt people are dreadfully frightened," Mr Maginnis said. "People on both sides seek protection and get it where possible. But whereas you might be able to protect a man when he is at his main street shop, the same degree of protection is not available when he goes home, perhaps to his isolated little cottage."

Security sources acknowledge that despite some early successes by the police and Army in reducing violence in the area, the "determination and ruthlessness" of terrorists makes further attacks impossible to prevent.

However, an RUC spokesman pointed out that while the situation was serious, it was not as grave as earlier in the present troubles.

Asked about allegations from the Fox family that there was collusion between security forces and Loyalist killers, a police spokesman said anyone with "the merest scrap of information" about the couple's murder should contact the RUC.

● A mother whose week-old baby narrowly missed being shot in an apparently random sectarian attack in which her 16-year-old daughter was slightly wounded said yester-

day she was frightened to return to her home.

Mrs Geraldine Toolan, who lives in a predominantly Catholic area of Crumlin Road in north Belfast, said bullets passed just over the body of her newly-born son, David, as he lay in his cot.

"It's a miracle my baby is still alive," she said. "I am just too scared to go home."

Gunmen fired through the living room on Monday night after failing to break in. The shots also missed three of David's sisters but one grazed the leg of Mary, aged 16. Before fleeing, the attackers shot and slightly injured a 45-year-old man living next door.

Both he and Mary Toolan were reported to be in a satisfactory condition yesterday.

Police later made two arrests after recovering a car believed to have been used by the gunmen. It had been stolen in the Loyalist Shankill Road earlier.

SDLP local councillor Dr Brian Feeney said the Army and police would have to take a long look at their security policy after the attack.

"They are going to have to consider their presence on the ground in loyalist areas," he said. "An area like (the Catholic) Ardoyne is saturated by security forces but 200 yards away there is no one."

Handwritten notes in the right margin: "Mrs Geraldine Toolan" and "16 Sept +".

## Gun law

**V**IOLENCE in Northern Ireland may be on a less dramatic scale than in other world trouble-spots, but it is no less chilling. The murder of an elderly couple in their home in Moy was a cowardly and depraved act, which has brought more sorrow to a family that has already felt the cutting edge of terrorism. Equally despicable was the indiscriminate attack on two north Belfast homes last night in which babies and young children found themselves directly in the firing line. Two people were slightly wounded, but lives were spared only by inches. Such is the narrow thread of survival in this country.

But the incidents cannot be viewed in isolation. Moy today is gripped by the real fear that the double murders there will lead to reprisals by some other self-appointed terrorist gang. The gunmen on both sides of the sectarian divide know full well that each atrocity is a catalyst for further terrorism. Brave men like Fr Denis Faul and Ken Maginnis can appeal for calm and for the community to turn in the terrorists, but their only armoury is words. The paramilitaries have the guns, bombs and commitment to violence — a more powerful arsenal when it comes to instilling fear and causing division.

Nevertheless, there are people in this province who know the identities of terrorists. It is their duty to give that information to the security forces. That information can be given in secrecy and can help remove some of those who cause so much grief. There is no cause worthy of wanton murder and no perpetrator of such deeds deserves sanctuary. People cannot hide their heads in the sand for they don't know when the gunmen will come knocking at their door. Terrorism is the enemy of everyone. We have more than 3,000 deaths to testify to that.

## Little sympathy at a conference 'Beyond Hate' for victims of double murder

By **Garbhan Downey**

ANOTHER row has broken out at the international Beyond Hate Conference in Derry — over a motion of sympathy for the family of Charlie and Tess Fox, murdered by the UVF on Sunday night.

At yesterday afternoon's round table discussion session in the Guildhall, Mutual of America Life Insurance Company board chairman Bill Flynn — one of the main sponsors of the event — proposed the conference should express condolences to the Moy family and relatives of all innocent victims of the Northern Ireland conflict.

Then Alliance Party leader John Alderdice said that while he understood the hatred of the atrocity, people should be careful not to single out one incident because of "sensitivities".

Conference director Sister Carol Rittner said there was no facility available for such a motion and Mr Flynn withdrew his proposal.

Ms Kathleen Kennedy-Townsend, daughter of assassinated US president Robert

F Kennedy, had seconded Mr Flynn's proposal and disagreed that it should be withdrawn.

And Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness said he agreed the motion should be tabled but could see no reason why the conference could not express sympathy to the relatives of all victims, whether members of the security forces, republicans or loyalists.

SDLP chairman Mark Durkan said he supported Mr McGuinness on the issue but added that the conference should nonetheless be careful because too often expressions of sympathy were confused with condemnation.

Mr Durkan said he was saddened that the conference was trying to ration its sympathy.

The discussion, which involved up to 20 delegates, delayed yesterday's conference proceedings by almost an hour.

Last night it was left unresolved.

This morning the motion was being considered by the conference organising committee.

It is likely that the issue will be debated again today.

# Sympathy is beyond conference

By IAN STARRETT

ARGUMENT flared at the Beyond Hate conference in Londonderry yesterday after a delegate suggested a sympathy vote over the killing of Charles and Theresa Fox in Tyrone and the ANC supporters shot dead in South Africa.

American William Flynn, chairman of the Mutual of America insurance company, condemned the "ruthless killing of Mr and Mrs Fox, grandfather, grandmother, in these their twilight years".

His motion also sympathised with "all the innocents in Northern Ireland who have been terrorised and killed in this continuing violence".

When Mr Flynn finished reading his motion, there was applause from some delegates.

Chairman John Roth asked for a vote and conference director Carol Rittner said there was no procedure for such a vote and asked that the conference organising committee be given time to discuss the matter.

Alliance Party leader John Alderdice voiced



JOHN ALDERDICE  
'frustration'



MARTIN MCGUINNESS  
'honourable'

doubts about Mr Flynn's motion, saying it might be unwise to single out an incident which happened to coincide with the conference — "especially if it's merely a displacement of our own frustration at not achieving what we want to in this conference".

Mr Flynn said the motion included "all innocents who had been terrorised and harmed".

After further discussion, he offered to withdraw the motion.

His seconder, American Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, refused to withdraw.

It was decided to leave a decision on the matter until this morning.

Later, Sinn Fein's

Martin McGuinness proposed that the conference recognised the bereavement of everyone over the past 23 years in the Troubles and the people shot on Monday in South Africa.

"I want us to sympathise with the families of everyone who has died, with the families of loyalists, with the families of British soldiers, with the families of RUC men, UDR men and with the families of republicans.

"I think that is the Christian, honourable thing to do."

SDLP chairman Mark Durkan seconded and said he was disappointed that they had spent 15 minutes talking about "calculating our sympathy".

## City 'an example to rest of world'

LONDONDERRY is a perfect example to the world's warring communities, a Government minister said last night.

Minister of Trade Richard Needham, who was the longest serving Northern Ireland minister, paid the tribute to the people of Londonderry when he addressed the Beyond Hate Conference in the Guildhall.

After speaking to delegates from 22 countries about conflicts and hatred in communities all over the world, Mr Needham said: "This city politically, socially, economically, is signalling the way to the people of Ulster, to the beleaguered people of Central Europe, in practical ways, of what needs to be done."

"To the people of Israel and Palestine and South Africa. Nothing I believe

can now stop this city from finding harmony with itself."

And Mr Needham told the citizens of Londonderry who had overcome their differences and who were now working together for the good of the city: "It is an example of which you the people can be immensely proud."

The four-day conference ends today with an address by SDLP leader John Hume.

# Bullet-proof glass demanded after infant survives shooting

By **Conor Macauley**

THE RUC is considering a request to install bullet-proof glass in homes on the edge of one of Northern Ireland's worst sectarian flashpoints.

SDLP councillor Brian Feeney met senior officers yesterday and said he believed they would sanction the installation of 11 millimetre reinforced glass in houses in Belfast's Ardoyne which front onto the Crumlin Road.

He was speaking after visiting several Ardoyne families whose homes were attacked by loyalist gunmen on Monday night.

In one house six children were sitting in the living room when it was sprayed with gunfire at 9.30pm.

A one-week-old baby slept, bullets passing inches from his head, during the attack.

Mr Feeney said immediate security measures were needed to

save lives. He called on the RUC and British army to step up patrols in loyalist areas.

The Housing Executive, he said, should raise a security wall and he had been assured that a gate which controlled pedestrian access to the houses, but had been removed, would be replaced.

Seven-day-old David Toolan was lying in his cot beside the front living room window when several gunmen fired through drawn blinds.

His father, who left the house minutes before the attack, said yesterday it was a "miracle" his son had survived. Two men are being questioned about the murder bid.

The bullets passed just above David, one of them hitting his 16-year-old sister Mary in the thigh.

The round missed the bone and she is not thought to have been seriously injured. A 45-year-old

neighbour was also hit in the arm when the gang fired through his window.

Stone-throwers broke windows in the same homes last week.

The Tolan home is set back behind a high wall which hid the gunmen from sight, but allowed them easy access through a pedestrian entry.

Mr Feeney said: "They're going to have to put a gate at this entrance so that gunmen can't come behind this wall and do their dirty work without anyone in the street seeing them.

"Something the security forces are going to have to consider, is their presence on the ground in

loyalist areas, because places like Ardoyne are saturated and yet, 200 yards away, there's nobody."

Sinn Féin also called for a "meaningful security protection" for families in the area. Councillor Gerard McGuigan described the attack as a "mass murder attempt on nationalist families".

Democratic Left's Seamus Lynch said it was a priority that the gang responsible be caught and convicted.

Six of Geraldine Toolan's seven children were in the house when the gunmen, wearing baseball caps and leather jackets, pulled up in a stolen car.

The dark Austin Maestro had

been stolen in the Shankill area and was found shortly afterwards on the Crumlin Road.

The gang tried to kick the door down, but were stopped by a bolt that held when the door frame split. The paramilitaries then stepped back and began shooting through the window.

Up to six shots were fired and at one stage a gunman lifted the blinds and poked a weapon through in a bid to identify a target.

Two bullets passed through an armchair narrowly missing the head of a six-year-old girl who was watching television.

One round passed through the T-shirt of another daughter who was sitting on the floor doing her homework, others ploughed into the walls.

The children's father, who did not want to be named, said the attack had been the work of "lunatics".

"My wife is in hysterics, I can't take her back here at all, she's too badly shocked.

"It was completely indiscriminate, they weren't worried who or what they were shooting. The child slept through it, that's the merciful thing, that he won't remember anything about it."

Irish News

## Security in a sad state

IT is a sad state of affairs when innocent people need to have a wall built specially to protect them from vicious attacks by terrorists.

After a series of murderous incidents residents living in the Crumlin Road area of North Belfast have demanded that a peace wall be erected on their side of the road.

Police have said that security is under review in that part of the city and in the New Lodge Road area. But it has been under review for some considerable time now, and that has not prevented terrorists from doing their evil work.

The erection of peace walls is a public admission that the security forces cannot, for whatever reason, protect innocent people. That is not a good reason for refusing to put them up when residents have had more than enough evidence of the very real dangers they face every day and night of the week.

In a lame enough statement last night RUC Headquarters said it was vigorously investigating the murders of Mr and Mrs Fox in Tyrone and the attack on homes at Crumlin Road.

It listed the successes the police have had in bringing terrorists to justice and said that the public had a significant part to play in providing police with the information necessary to catch terrorists red-handed and to provide the sort of evidence that will hold up in court.

All of that is true. But what the public really want is that crime be prevented. Only the security forces can do that satisfactorily.



## Churchman offers talks to Loyalist killer group

**FORMER** Presbyterian Moderator Dr Jack Weir said yesterday he was prepared to talk to the outlawed loyalist UVF in an effort to end the North violence.

Dr Weir, who has had talks with Sinn Fein and the UDA, said that while expressions of horror and condemnation were necessary, actions spoke louder than words and he appealed to other churchmen to try to impress on the terror groups the futility of violence.

The former Moderator said he would talk to the UVF or to those who had influence over the group, although he had no idea who to contact regarding his initiative.

Dr Weir's offer of talks followed a four-day period in which three people, including an elderly Tyrone couple, were murdered by the UVF.

Loyalist gun gangs were also believed to have been responsible for attacks in North Belfast on Monday night, when two adjoining homes occupied by Catholic families were sprayed

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**By DOMINIC CUNNINGHAM**

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with bullets. Two people were slightly injured.

Meanwhile, in Castlewellan, Co Down yesterday security forces found parts for an rocket propelled grenade launcher, two warheads, two hand grenades and a radio scanner in what was described as a well concealed hide in the basement of premises close to the Dublin Road.

As the hunt for the UVF killers of Charlie Fox (63), and his wife Teresa (53) continued yesterday, Stormont Security Minister Mr Michael Mates visited troops and police in east Tyrone and pledged that the security forces were determined to bring those responsible to justice.

The funerals of Mr and Mrs Fox, who were gunned down in their isolated home near the village of Moy, will take place today.

# Former moderator offers to

By **William Graham**  
Political Correspondent

FORMER Presbyterian Moderator Dr Jack Weir, who is already involved in dialogue with Sinn Féin, yesterday offered to talk to the UVF or to anyone who could in-

fluence them.

Commenting on the latest UVF killings, Dr Weir said his reaction was one of sadness and horror.

During a BBC Radio Ulster interview he wondered "how on earth one can get through to these people — it is not defending Ulster

or defending loyalists or anything like that".

"It is easy enough making denunciations, condemnations, calling on people to do things. I think it is more effective if you can speak to people face to face."

He said he would be prepared

to talk to the UVF or anyone who could influence them. He was not a politician, and was not in the government, but he had a Christian responsibility to try to appeal, plead, and urge an end to violence.

Asked if only churchmen should

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## open talks with UVF

be involved in such dialogue, Dr Weir replied: "Oh no. I speak as a churchman because that is what I am. But I think any human being — this is a humanitarian question as well as a religious question — should be involved."

Dr Weir expressed some disap-

pointment that there had not been more of a sense of urgency over the situation.

"Actions speak louder than words. We have plenty of words, but our actions are that we just do accept this situation for the most part until something terrible comes

along and then we hold up our hands in horror.

"People should do something and not just express horror and condemnations, which is correct enough, but then not just carry on as if nothing had happened."

# Press commission rejects Orange Order complaint against the Irish News

THE body overseeing newspaper ethics and standards has dismissed a complaint made by the Orange Order about *the Irish News*.

The Press Complaints Commission has this week told the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland it believes editors are entitled to express views in their leader columns and that it will not seek to censor their freedom.

At the centre of the affair was an *Irish News* editorial on July 18. It dealt with an Orange Order march — itself highly controversial — along Belfast's Ormeau Road. The march went past the scene of loyalist killings at Sean Graham's betting shop in spite of objections and a legal challenge from residents.

*The Irish News* leader column quoted Secretary of State Sir Patrick Mayhew who claimed the behaviour of the marchers would have "disgraced a tribe of

**■ The commission will not seek to censor freedom of expression**

**Press complaints**

cannibals". It also described the march as "provocative and offensive".

It said: "The Orange Order is a loyalist and explicitly anti-Catholic organisation which proclaims the Protestant Ascendancy.

"Its members carry loyalist flags and emblems on their marches, and the bands that accompany them play sectarian tunes."

Through its solicitors the Grand Orange Lodge of Ireland wrote to the Press Complaints Commission in London claiming "there has

been a lack of proper balance exercised by *the Irish News* in its editorial and that the newspaper has deliberately sought to incite hatred within the community by its intemperate and inaccurate attacks".

The Orange Order alleged inaccuracies in the editorial and said that while some participants in the march, in the words of the article, "danced in the street", there was no foundation for the allegations that several did so, or made provocative chants.

The Orange Order claimed the newspaper in this instance had failed to distinguish between participants and those who were "followers and/or hangers on".

It also denied "the suggestion that it is an explicitly anti-catholic organisation which proclaims the Protestant Ascendancy" and said it did not accept the editorial's reference to "sectarian tunes".

It told the commission: "The tunes in question apply to various songs of different origins."

When the matter first arose in August, *Irish News* editor Nick Garbutt wrote to the Orange Order's solicitors saying he was "astonished" that a letter should have been sent to the Press Complaints Commission "when you have not troubled to contact this newspaper to draw our attention to these alleged inaccuracies".

The letter also pointed out that the *Irish News* offered a right of reply to those people who felt aggrieved by the material it publishes.

This week the commission told the Orange Order it holds "editors are entitled to express views in their leader columns" and said it "will not seek to censor freedom of expression by prohibiting publication of such material".

Mr Tony Austin, a representative of the independent body which oversees press self-regulation, added: "In any event, the commission noted that the newspaper has a policy of offering a right of reply to groups who feel wronged by material they publish.

"I understand that you did not ask to be allowed to reply to the charges made against you in the newspaper's editorial, an action which would have resolved the complaint."

He said that after careful consideration the commissioners did not find that the substance of the Orange Order's complaint suggested that the code of newspaper practice had been breached by *the Irish News*.

Mr Garbutt said last night. "The position is that *the Irish News* has offered the Orange Order a right to reply which it has as yet failed to take up."

and Belfast Morning News

Let me stay, pleads IRA kneecap victim

# Expulsion order hangs over man who lost leg in 'punishment' shooting

By **Francis Mooney**

THE IRA had still not responded last night to an emotional plea from a kneecap victim to be allowed to stay in the country.

An expulsion order still hangs over 20-year-old Mickey Sherlock, who lost a leg last week after being shot by an IRA gang who forced their way into his Dungannon home almost three weeks ago.

Mr Sherlock yesterday issued a desperate appeal from his hospital bed for permission to return to his Dungannon home, claiming he could die if forced to go abroad alone.

He admitted that he had been involved in petty crime, but now his life had been shattered.

Speaking just four days after surgeons amputated his right leg as a result of the so-called punishment shooting, he said he would not be able to cope in exile abroad and appealed to the IRA to reverse its order for him to quit Ireland.

The IRA admitted responsibility for the shooting and ordered Mr Sherlock to get out of the country within 24 hours of his release from hospital, claiming he had received a number of warnings about "anti-social behaviour".

Close to tears, he said yesterday: "I'm an invalid now, a cripple. Who will look after me if I have to go away to England or somewhere?"

I don't know how I would cope. All I can do is ask the IRA to

**All I want is to be able to get back home and try to rebuild my life with my family**

reconsider their demand and allow me to return to Dungannon.

"I've suffered enough, surely losing a leg is punishment enough."

Mr Sherlock admitted involvement in petty crime, and agreed he deserved to be punished.

He said: "But I didn't deserve to lose my leg. Now I'm handicapped for the rest of my life. I was due to start a job in a meat factory but now I don't think I'll ever work again." He said he desperately wanted the chance to rejoin his girlfriend Anthea and their son Michael, who celebrated his third birthday on Monday.

"I couldn't go away and leave them. All I want is to be able to get back home and try to rebuild my life with my family."

Mr Sherlock is expected to stay in Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital for some time where he is recovering after his amputation.

A leader who failed to grasp the facts of life

ONE OF the perks of being president of the Irish Republic is that the president can visit the enclosed religious orders.

There is one such order of nuns in the Simmonscourt Road in Dublin's Ballsbridge, not far from the Royal Dublin Society.

A few decades ago, the presidency of Ireland was held by the man who called himself Eamon de Valera.

Mr de Valera invoked his constitutional privilege to have tea one afternoon in the convent in the Simmonscourt Road.

There, that afternoon, surrounded by ~~de~~ little nuns, the president's tea and cake were rudely interrupted by one of the older sisters asking him this question:

"Mr President, I wonder if you could tell us here why is that, having started the civil war in 1922 and because of the oath to England's king George, five years later, in 1927, you took that same oath and entered Dáil Éireann?"

Mr de Valera nearly choked on his cake, metaphorically and, perhaps, literally.

The little nun who had asked him that question was no more than five feet tall, if she was that. She had a happy, round, gentle face and an innocent, beatific smile.

Her eyes, though, were the key to her: those eyes showed intelligence, strength and great courage.

Mr de Valera had met his match all right.

The cake having been removed from the presidential gullet, he explained to the sisters that, in taking the oath to enter Dáil Éireann, he had placed his flattened hand above the holy Bible, but: "My hand did not touch the Bible as I said the oath."

The sisters were not impressed. The tea continued to its conclusion with an air of presidential embarrassment mingled with most un-nunlike contempt.

I was told this story by the little nun concerned a few years ago. She was behind iron bars as we talked.

Later that day, I telephoned Michael Collins of Waterford, who had given me the introduction to her. I told him the story

## De Valera dynasty

### Denis Lehane

she'd told me. Michael burst out laughing.

"And I can guess which ruffian asked him that question!" he exclaimed.

He was right. The "ruffian" was Sister Margaret Mary. She had been born Una O'Connor, daughter of Batt O'Connor.

Batt O'Connor was one of the key figures in the Irish war of independence. He was a close friend to General Michael Collins to whom he was a father figure. It was Batt O'Connor who, in October 1921, made General Collins go to London as one of the plenipotentiaries to the talks with the English leaders.

Collins had known that the request he go to London was a trap deliberately laid by Mr de Valera, who knew that a republic could not be gained and that a compromise would have to be made.

Collins refused to enter the trap. All his close friends and associates — President Arthur Griffith, General Richard Mulcahy, the soon-to-be President William T Cosgrave — had failed to make him change his mind.

And so, they sent him to Batt O'Connor, and he and O'Connor sat up until dawn one night discussing the matter. Finally, at last, Collins agreed to go.

It was Batt O'Connor, the man from east Kerry, who persuaded Collins to go. O'Connor was the only man who could get Collins to change his mind — he was that important, yet he is unknown today in Ireland.

General Collins was the uncle of Mr Michael Collins, of Waterford. My meeting with Sister Margaret Mary was arranged by Mr Collins because I am writing a book on his uncle.

Sister Margaret Mary knew General Collins. As a child, when he would visit her father in their home in Brendan's Road, Donnybrook, little Una and her brothers and sisters

would clean the bicycle of the man they knew as Micheál — her "Meehawl."

She is still alive, thank God, though she is completely blind now, I've been told. She remains the tough, intelligent, gentle little nun who put Mr de Valera in his place that afternoon many years ago.

Poor de Valera! Even in his old age, he never could be sure that, wherever he may be — including, it should be said, in his home, for Bean Sínead de Valera adored Collins, too, and refused to allow any member of Fianna Fáil into her home till the day she died — he might not be confronted by a Collins man or woman, or, indeed, nun!

Senator Eamon O Cuiv is the grandson of that old man in the convent that afternoon who, for most of his life, called himself Eamon de Valera.

This would make the senator the great-great-nephew of Baron Atkinson, the former unionist Attorney General in Ireland under Coercion Balfour's regime, and later a lord of appeal in his native England.

But that is another story, for another time, perhaps.

Senator O Cuiv represents the Connemara Gaeltacht in Seanad Éireann.

His admiring constituents call him "Dev Óg." He recently hit the headlines down here in the Free State by calling for the 26 counties to rejoin the British Commonwealth.

By so doing, Dev Óg argued, there, once again, could be a 32-county Ireland.

"Let's rejoin the Commonwealth — O Cuiv" was the front-page headline in Dublin's *Evening Press*, a newspaper founded by Mr de Valera and still partly-owned by Dev Óg's uncle Eamon.

"De Valera's grandson wants Ireland re-united within the Commonwealth" was the strap headline.

"There was strong, but mixed, reaction today from the Fianna Fáil backbenchers," the story began, "to a radical proposal from Senator Eamon O Cuiv, grandson of the late President de Valera, that Ireland should rejoin the British Commonwealth."

It went on to record hostile

comments from Fianna Fáil politicians.

"Britain is squatting in this country," said former Fianna Fáil cabinet minister, Deputy Vincent Brady.

"I've nothing against the British personally, but they are occupying the six north-eastern counties of our country. We in Fianna Fáil have always said that the British should leave in a peaceful way." Deputy Brady's comments were representative of those from his party.

The message was clear: Fianna Fáil was opposed to re-entering the British Commonwealth, for whatever reason.

Now, strange as it may seem, Dev Óg's call to rejoin the Commonwealth, despite the hostile reaction from his Fianna Fáil colleagues, was utterly consistent with his grandfather's policies.

Having led the irregular terrorists in the civil war with the objective of murdering, at birth, the first free and independent Irish state in more than seven centuries, once Mr de Valera accepted the treaty in full — including the oath to King George — he was, for the rest of his life, an ardent supporter of the British Commonwealth.

(The oath, by the way, was not one of allegiance to King George as king of Ireland, but a modest, insignificant affair in which the Irish accepted that England's king was head of the Commonwealth — no different, for example, than An Taoiseach, Albert Reynolds TD, swearing an oath acknowledging Dr Boutros Boutros-Ghali as secretary general of the United Nations.)

After Fianna Fáil came to power in 1932, Mr de Valera was a staunch supporter of the British Commonwealth, and, though being taoiseach continuously for the next 17 years, the last thing in his mind was withdrawal.

In 1948, a young Fianna Fáil TD, Ruairi Brugha — son of the late Cathal Brugha — quizzed the old man about this. Why, Deputy Brugha asked Mr de Valera, did he remain inside the British Commonwealth? "He said," Mr Brugha himself once told me, "that he wanted to stay in the Commonwealth so that he could bring in the north." It was

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the Fine Gael-led coalition government of Deputy John A Costello, in 1949, which took the Irish Republic out of the Commonwealth.

Had Mr de Valera not been defeated at the polls, Ireland would have remained within the Commonwealth, at least until Fianna Fáil eventually was beaten.

It is in this context, therefore, that Dev Óg's recent comments should be viewed.

It is part of the legacy which his late grandfather has left Ireland that the British Commonwealth should be regarded as the vehicle by which the two parts of Ireland might be reunited.

No doubt we will hear more from the de Valera family about this stratagem as time passes.

It is, of course, as a means of ending partition, ludicrous nonsense.

The unionists in the north-east of this island don't want to be part of a united Ireland, unless it is as part of a reconstituted United Kingdom under the English crown.

They are British, not Irish, they say, and they want no part of Ireland, unless it is British.

Ireland is not British: it is Irish, all of it and there is no place for a large population of disaffected and troublesome Britishers in any part of the country.

That it is the self-proclaimed Britishness and anti-Irishness of the unionists in the north-east that is the root and branch of the problem is the fundamental of a series of stark realities about the horror on this island.

In his long life, the first Mr Eamon de Valera always chose to ignore the realities.

His grandson, evidently, has inherited this facility.

By so doing, he has merely perpetuated a family tradition.

For it is the failure to address the realities — whether it be by placing a flattened hand a millimetre above a Bible to "avoid taking" an oath, or by refusing to recognise the reality of a million anti-Irish British planters in the north — which is the real and lasting legacy of the man known as Eamon de Valera.

# Sentence review



**SUSAN CHRISTIE**  
*jealous lover*

THE five-year sentence given to Susan Christie, the jealous soldier who killed the wife of her Army officer lover, is to be reviewed.

The Court of Appeal in Belfast granted Attorney General Sir Nicholas Lyell's application for leave to review 24-year-old Christie's sentence on the grounds that it was unduly lenient.

Christie, a former UDR Greenfinch from Portadown, Co Armagh, was jailed for the manslaughter of Penny McAllister,

24, the wife of her lover Duncan McAllister, 31, a captain in the Royal Corps of Signals.

A jury at Downpatrick Crown Court acquitted Christie of murder last June on the grounds of diminished responsibility because of her infatuation with Capt McAllister.

Christie lured Mrs McAllister, from Arundel, West Sussex, to Drumkeeragh Forest Park, near Ballynahinch, Co Down, in March 1991 and cut her throat with a sharpened boning knife, the jury heard.

She then injured herself and told

police a man attacked them. At first police believed her but after Capt McAllister told them of their love affair, she admitted the killing.

The sentence provoked an outcry and within weeks Sir Nicholas announced he would apply for a review, which will now begin on October 12.

Yesterday's application was opposed by Christie's lawyer, Peter Smith, QC, who said the sentence was in accord with established principles laid down by the Court of Appeal in England.

He said the sentence was neither contrary to principles and precedent nor outside the range that the trial judge could have reasonably considered appropriate.

In his application, Sir Nicholas claimed the judge gave insufficient weight to the aggravating features in the case, particularly the presence of premeditation and the force involved. He said these matters warranted a more substantial jail sentence which would have reflected both the interests of the victim and society as a whole.

## Needham warns on army conduct

By Martin Cowley,  
in Derry

THE BRITISH government minister, Mr Richard Needham, spoke last night about the need for security forces always to act within the law, when he addressed an international conference in Derry.

He told the audience, which included a number of Sinn Fein councillors, that any over-reaction or harassment had to be dealt with immediately. The rule of law must be seen to be applied on the forces of the law with as much rigour as on those on whom the law was enforced.

Mr Needham, Minister of State for Trade, and a former Northern Ireland minister, said that international agreements had made it clear that no groups or countries would accept boundary changes achieved by force. "This makes bleak reading indeed for all those who accept violence." The reality was that the IRA was not only fighting Britain but also the European and world community on

this issue, he said. "These are heavy odds."

The conference, "Beyond Hate. Living with our deepest differences", is examining ways of coping with conflict. Yesterday a motion offering sympathy to the family of Mr Charlie Fox and his wife, Theresa, murdered by loyalist paramilitaries in Co Tyrone, prompted almost 45 minutes of discussion because of textual and procedural difficulties for some delegates. This was partly resolved when the Sinn Fein member, Mr Martin McGuinness, proposed and Mr Mark Durcan, chairman of the SDLP, seconded, that the organisers should "take on board" the views expressed during the discussions in overnight consideration of the matter.

The motion was introduced by Mr William Flynn, chairman of Mutual of America Life Insurance, one of the main conference sponsors, without prior notice to the organisers.



# Shorts takes aim

'DESKTOP' weapons training, giving troops deadly accuracy with anything from small arms to anti-tank missiles, will be available to the world's armed forces soon in a revolutionary development by Shorts.

The company disclosed details yesterday of its new advanced weapon simulation and training system it plans to sell worldwide at the

Farnborough Air Show.

The S-1 Multi Arms Trainer, developed jointly with Spartanics of the US, is claimed to be a generation ahead of anything else in the market.

It will let troops train with virtually any type of weapon without the need for costly 'live' firing range practice.

Roy McNulty, Shorts group president, said: "Both our companies believe it is a generation ahead of current market products and that,

because of its flexibility and development potential, it will be very successful in meeting the present and future requirements of armed forces worldwide."

The new simulator is the latest innovative product from Shorts Defence Systems division which, for a decade, has been a world leader in the development of guided weapons and their control systems.

Its ground to air and ground to

ground missiles acquitted themselves with credit in the Falklands and Gulf wars.

The division, while ranking third in the company in terms of turnover — £88.7 million last year — is probably the most profitable.

The company is very coy on this point.

It is not thought that even high sales of the new system will create many new jobs at the Belfast factory but it will help underpin its profitability.

# Workers rush in for power shares

by Michael Foster

AN OFFER of shares to workers at the Coolkeeragh power station, near Londonderry in Northern Ireland, has been oversubscribed 1.4 times.

The internal offer, a taster for a £250 million public offer of shares in the Northern Ireland Electricity distribution company, follows a £11.4 million management buyout at the power station.

The buyout was backed by Prudential Venture Managers, who were keen that workers and managers of the station should get a generous slice of the action.

The workers, 79% of whom applied for the £220,000 share sale, will end up with a 37% stake in the company.

Management will take a further 23%. Prudential and its fellow backers will get a gross return of around 25% from their backing for the venture.

Coolkeeragh will regularly receive income for making its power available to go into the local grid. Its function can be compared to a taxi standing with its meter running before the customer jumps on board.

The likely life of the power station is around 10 years. Longer term, its boss John Montgomery may pursue a diversification strategy. As the company stands, a stock market listing looks inappropriate.

Originally, the Coolkeeragh team hoped to be involved in a buyout of all Northern Ireland's power stations but the Government sold the other operations to British Gas and Belgian Tractebel.

NM Rothschild is handling the planned sale of NIE, which is the remaining chunk of Northern Ireland's electricity to be privatised. A precise date for an offer for sale has yet to be established, though November has been mooted.

# Army love killer faces jail review

ARMY girl Susan Christie, who killed her lover's wife, could face a heavier jail sentence after a court move yesterday.

Judges granted a prosecution plea for review of her "unduly lenient" five-year sentence.

Christie, 24, ex-Ulster Defence Regiment, was jailed in June for the manslaughter of Penny McAlister, also 24, by cutting her throat. She wanted Mrs McAlister's husband, Duncan, 31, a Signals Corps captain, for herself.

Attorney General Sir Nicholas Lyell told Belfast Appeal Court said yesterday that the trial judge gave too little weight to "aggravating features".

Defence QC Peter Smith said the sentence followed established principles. The review will be held next month.

Today P. 14

## Teenager shot

BELFAST: Loyalist gunmen injured a 16-year-old as she protected her week-old baby brother in an attack on Catholic households in the Crumlin Road yesterday.

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