

Court told of plan to bomb Republic

THE loyalist Ulster Defence Association (UDA) had plans to bomb selected targets in the Republic and had also a mass of details on republican suspects, including the Sinn Fein president, Mr Gerry Adams, it has been revealed.

Details of the plan were given as five men, including the former UDA leader, Mr Tommy "Tucker" Lyttle, went on trial in Belfast yesterday accused of possessing leaked security force documents which were uncovered by the Stevens inquiry into the RUC.

Shaw honoured in native city

Seventy years after he had dismissed Dublin as offering him only "failure, poverty and obscurity", the final volume of George Bernard Shaw's biography was launched last night in the European City of Culture 1991.

The author, Michael Hoiroyd, will speak at the first international summer school on Shaw, which is being opened by the former President, Dr Patrick Hillery, in Kevin Street College, Dublin tonight.

Cross moved for safe keeping

The Cross of the Scriptures (916) at Clonmacnoise — one of the country's best known early Christian monuments — has been removed from its site by the Office of Public Works and a replica cross put in its place. The cross was moved because of erosion of the carvings. It is intended to display the original work in the visitors' centre at Clonmacnoise.

Papers show divers

THE LEADER of the Democratic Unionist Party, Dr Ian Paisley, said in his submission to the talks at Stormont that the unionist people "are not interested in any cosmetic exercise or in some slight tinkering with the existing frameworks. Our delegation has not come to these talks to enter into a discussion on such proposals... we are looking for the highest possible degree of devolution within the United Kingdom."

But according to Mr Molyneaux, "We cannot accept as stable or constructive any system of governance which could not equally be applied to any other regional entity within the United Kingdom... it is futile to tinker with any exotic experiment which would lack widespread support."

The concrete proposals put forward by Mr Molyneaux so far relate to reform of procedures at Westminster.

The DUP is widely believed to regard such matters as "a cosmetic exercise" and "slight tinkering". The UUP leadership is widely suspected of seeing Mr Paisley's high degree of devolution as an "exotic experiment."

At this early stage, the lines have at least been drawn openly and clearly. The two unionist parties have outlined their different attitudes to what they want

out of the talks. It took John Hume's submission on Monday to unite them.

Mr Hume's comments on the Anglo-Irish Agreement were as predictable as the unionists' loyalty to them. A document on the SDLP's analysis of the nature of the problem in Northern Ireland declares: "The Anglo-Irish Agreement represents an irreconcilable breakthrough in understanding and tackling the underlying causes of Anglo-Irish conflict."

"The abiding reality, recognised by the Anglo-Irish Agreement, is the right of the Irish Government to involvement in the affairs of Northern Ireland. In this way, it is acknowledged that the political union of Northern Ireland with Britain is different from, say, the participation of Yorkshire in the Union."

Unionists spent a lot of time questioning Mr Hume on these points. After all, they got into talks to replace the Anglo-Irish Agreement, not to recognise it.

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ability of "men who occupy high positions in Stormont" to tackle the problems of Northern Ireland. "Only our members can solve this problem."

"We on this side resent the incursion of southern politicians into our affairs... Perhaps our members opposite resent the incursion of British politicians on this side also. The interference of British politicians," he said.

Mr Paisley made clear that he believed substantial powers could be given to "a provincial assembly," and that they should include security powers.

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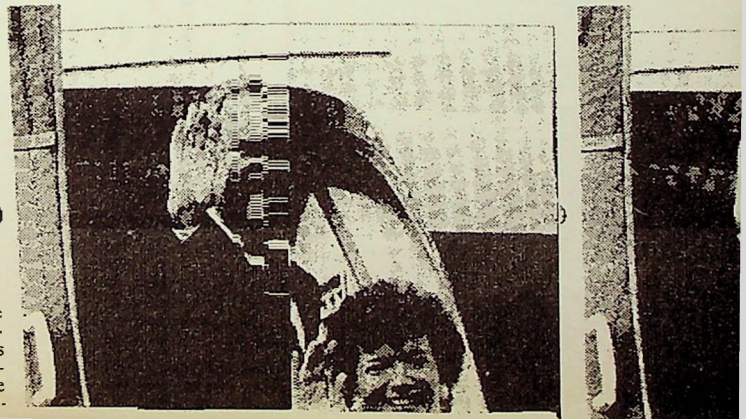
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Portugal welcomes President with pomp

From Renagh Holohan, in Lisbon

PORTUGAL displayed all the pomp and pageantry of its imperial past when the President, Mrs Robinson, arrived in Lisbon yesterday on her first state visit. The



How divergence between unionists

took John Monday to

The submissions to the inter-party talks on Northern Ireland this week revealed a significant divergence between the UUP and the DUP. Mark Brennock, Northern Editor, who has seen the documents from all four parties, reports.

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the ability of "men who occupy high positions in Stormont Castle" to tackle the problems of Northern Ireland. "Only Ulstermen can solve this problem."

"We on this side resent the incursion of southern politicians into our affairs. . . . Perhaps members opposite resent the incursion of British politicians. Some of us on this side also resent the interference of British politicians," he said.

Mr Paisley made clear that he believed substantial powers should be given to "a province-wide assembly," and that these should include security powers. A Northern Ireland assembly and government "would not have the least chance of survival if it were denied influence in security policy and affairs."

The status of Northern Ireland as part of the UK would also have to be spelled out in any new

agreement. That was why unionists wanted to discuss the territorial claim in Articles Two and Three of the Republic's Constitution in strand two of the talks.

Mr Molyneux went over the familiar ground of Westminster parliamentary procedures, saying that Northern Ireland MPs at the moment are unable to amend or debate adequately most legislation relating to Northern Ireland.

To counter this, he wanted a select committee on Northern Ireland to be established at Westminster, and an end to the practice whereby Northern Ireland legislation is by Orders in Council and are unamendable.

He devoted much of his speech to the need to re-establish "a clear understanding of the union". Adopting his familiar integrationist tone, he called for a clear statement from the British Government that Northern

Ireland was as much a part of the UK as any other part.

"It is now surely incumbent on HMG (Her Majesty's Government) to re-establish, as far and as quickly as it can, a clear understanding of the union, and to reinforce this with constitutional arrangements which show that the supreme body is presently (sic), and will remain, the Queen in Parliament"

"Ulster, in the political sense and more recently in the economic sense, has been quarantined for far too long from the mainstream of life in the United Kingdom."

Such integrationist declarations jarred greatly with Mr Hume's assertion that the right of the Irish Government to involvement in the affairs of Northern Ireland was irreversible. It was his apparent assumption that the nationalist advances in the Anglo-Irish Agreement were not up for nego-

tiation which peeved unionists the most.

The SDLP document went over the familiar ground of defining the problem as the failure to devise political structures which accommodate the differences between the two identities in Northern Ireland. "The two traditions must aim to reach agreement on how best to share the island of Ireland," it says.

A major factor in the failure of previous attempts to bring peace and stability "has been unionist distrust of the rest of the people of the island. That was the reason why they rejected Home Rule with all the consequences of that rejection. That was why they excluded the nationalist population from any say whatsoever at any level under Stormont."

It brought Stormont down, and caused unionists to oppose Sunningdale and the Anglo-Irish Agreement.

Therefore, says the SDLP, "it seems logical to us that until that relationship is settled, to unionist satisfaction as well as to everyone else's, there can be no progress towards a satisfactory resolution of the conflict."

Like Mr Paisley, Mr Hume also referred to security and policing, but taking a markedly different approach. Despite many reforms, he said, the present police force

does not command the necessary support and confidence that exists in normal societies.

"Fundamental changes in policing will be crucial in any new wider arrangements which may emerge from the current process."

As with the other parties, the Alliance Party's opening submission was predictable, and consistent with its policy over the years of supporting a proportional power-sharing executive, an assembly in Northern Ireland and a tripartite structure between the British and Irish Governments and the Northern politicians.

Northern Ireland was a community, although a divided one. The primary objective must be the protection and valuing of minorities. There must be confidence in the administration of justice, and both governments and everyone in Northern Ireland had a contribution to make towards peace.

Admitting that there was little new in his proposal, Dr Alderdice quoted Tom Paine, who said in the conclusion of his book, "The Rights of Man": "The question is not whether these principles are new or old, but whether they are right or wrong."

It is a quote that could equally have been employed by the other party leaders this week.

O'Rourke rejects OECD teacher appraisal proposal

By John Walshe, Education Correspondent

THE Minister for Education, Ms O'Rourke, has rejected suggestions put forward in an OECD report for appraisal of teachers and for performance or merit pay awards.

She said that in other countries where these policies had been adopted the status of the teaching

schools to merge into four-teacher schools. She said that in general she favoured the retention of these small schools, except where the local communities wanted amalgamations.

At post primary level, the report said, Irish schools are also small by international comparisons — 28 per cent of secondary schools and over half the vocational schools have fewer than 300

would require a rethink in relation to a number of recent rationalisation proposals.

The report covers a wide range of issues in education and among the ideas put forward are a lengthening of the school year, appraisal of teachers, a strategic planning unit within the Department of Education, the appointment of a national advisory body, the creation of local education

The president of the Teachers' Union of Ireland, Mr Billy Fitzpatrick, described as positive the proposal to re-locate the responsibilities for public examinations with the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment. However, he was critical of the proposal to lengthen the school year, saying the argument on which it was based was extremely weak.

