

Date and Time: Saturday, May 4, 2024 3:31:00AM EEST

Job Number: 223500083

Documents (95)

1. [*Protestants mount Belfast-wide street confrontations for 3rd straight night*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

2. [*Britain 's former Northern Ireland chief Mo Mowlam dies at 55*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

3. [*IRA: Give up the guns, go straight*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

4. [*Belfast slaying grays St. Patrick's Day in D.C.*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

5. [*Friday, February 11*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

6. [*AP News in Brief*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

7. [*Protestant crowds block Belfast roads, riot for third night*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

8. [*Protestant crowds block Belfast roads; police prepare for rioting*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

9. [*Sunday, September 4*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

10. [*Democracy's nasty surprises ; Change in the Mideast I*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

11. [*WRITING WOMEN INTO A CORNER DEMANDING*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

12. [*Wednesday, March 9*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

13. [*Putin: Iran poses no nuclear threat, so business as usual*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

14. [*Irish Playwright Speaks From Hideout*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31,

15. [*Tuesday, November 8*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

16. [*Special Branch shuts down*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

17. [*How to address the goals beyond Gaza GEOFFREY ARONSON*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

18. [*Terrorists will likely strike London's financial district: police official*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

19. [*Bombers come from cults of personality*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type

Narrowed by

News

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

20. [Terrorists will likely strike London's financial district, senior police official says](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

21. [London Financial Area May Be Terror Target](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

22. [In Ulster, skepticism on the IRA runs deep](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

23. [Monday, August 1](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

24. [Demands for justice throw IRA on defensive](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

25. [Sunday, March 13](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

26. [Sunday, February 27](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

27. [Sisters defy IRA by breaking code of silence: After a brutal killing, Irish Catholics in a Protestant neighbourhood are speaking out against the group that claims to protect them](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

28. [IRA says 'armed struggle' is over](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

29. [IRA assailed for offer to shoot its own: Victim's family demands justice, not revenge](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

30. [Revulsion as IRA offers to shoot two of its own: Attempt to atone for killing backfires on paramilitaries](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

31. [Did sisters bring down IRA?: Hardening attitudes toward terrorism could be one reason for surprise decision](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

32. [Peak-hour peril ends Olympic joy](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

33. [Bomb kills two U.S. soldiers, wounds third in Afghanistan](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

34. [George Best, Soccer Star and Pop Icon, Is Dead at 59](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

35. [EUROPE AT 1100GMT EDITORS: The following is a digest of Europe's top general news.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

36. [London attacks tied to suicide bombers; Police turn up explosives and arrest one](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

37. [Agony of the lost souls search](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

38. [Outside View: Arab 'imagine' revolution rolls on](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

39. [EUROPE AT 1200GMT](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

40. [Women in vanguard of push for peace](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

41. [Relying on cameras to catch criminals: After the London bombings, there is a push to add more cameras here](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

42. [Usually Volatile Mayor Wins Praise for Low-Key Presence](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

43. [LETTERS TO THE EDITOR](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press

Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

44. [*The Illusions of London*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

45. [*IRA gives up armed struggle*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

46. [*Farewell to arms*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

47. [*'To get on with our lives is a matter of pride'*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

48. [*Victims' kin face down Ulster terrorists*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

49. [Indian - American community exerts growing clout back home](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

50. [Turning back is not an option; SINN FEIN ARD FHEIS 2005](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

51. [Walker's World: The Nobel Curse](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

52. [WORLD at 1700GMT](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

53. [Murder victim's sisters return to more hostile climate in Belfast: The McCartney family's trip to the US is part of a wider plot to harm Sinn Fein, some republicans allege](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

54. [John DeLorean, 80, Automotive Entrepreneur](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

55. [WORLD at 0200GMT](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

56. [Iraq 's dispossessed Sunnis seek new strategy: The relative success of last month's elections has forced the former ruling minority now at the heart of the insurgency to rethink its tactics. Charles Clover reports](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

57. [I'll drink to the end of Third World debt](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

58. [YOUR SAY](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

59. [WORLD at 0200GMT](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

60. [IRA losing battle in blood-soaked city: McCARTNEY KILLINGS I Even working-class Catholics say the IRA has become a criminal gang](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

61. [EUROPE AT 1200GMT EDITORS: The following is a digest of Europe's top general news.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

62. [New formula for terror?; U.S. authorities have been tracking a nationwide theft ring specializing in shoplifted infant food and over-the-counter medicines. The money trails run to 'fences' with Middle Eastern ties.](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press

63. [*Is black-market baby formula financing terror?*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

64. [*Group on U.S. terror list lobbies hard*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

65. [*'We won't allow anyone within republican ranks to criminalise this party or this struggle'*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

66. [*AP News in Brief*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases,Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

67. [*A different path*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type

News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

68. [Show, life go on: Bustling, vibrant city pauses but only briefly](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Irish Republican Army"**Search Type:** Natural Language**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

69. [EUROPE AT 1730GMT](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Irish Republican Army"**Search Type:** Natural Language**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

70. [EUROPE AT 1330GMT](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Irish Republican Army"**Search Type:** Natural Language**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

71. [Why they believed Newsweek](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Irish Republican Army"**Search Type:** Natural Language**Narrowed by:****Content Type**

News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

72. [WORLD at 0200 GMT](#)**Client/Matter:** -None-**Search Terms:** "Irish Republican Army"**Search Type:** Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

73. [2005 year in review](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

74. [4 From Britain Carried Out Terror Blasts, Police Say](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

75. [THIS TIME, LONDON; Terrorists bring fear, death to England](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

76. [Lensman; in eye of storm](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

77. [Sinn Fein fails to clear murky waters surrounding McCartney killing](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

78. [How seven brave women stood up against the IRA's men of violence](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

79. [The week](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

80. [WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING, SEPT. 26](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

81. [STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES BACKGROUND NOTE ON IRELAND](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by

Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

82. [STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES BACKGROUND NOTE ON UNITED KINGDOM](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

83. [The Almanac](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

84. [WHITE HOUSE CONDUCTS DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, SEPT. 26](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

85. [The Politics of Ibrahim Parlak](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

86. [Irish sisters in snub to Thatcher](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

87. [Murder charge set for Omagh](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

88. [*Police arrest IRA dissident for involvement in Omagh bombing*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

89. [*Police arrest suspect in Northern Ireland 's deadly Omagh bombing*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

90. [*Irish women to brief Bush on IRA*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

91. [*McCartney sisters reject Sinn Fein warning*](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

92. [Bank employee in court over Northern Ireland robbery](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

93. [Wrongly-jailed N. Ireland woman given medal in one of late pope's last acts](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

94. [No Headline In Original](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

95. [Canada at a Glance: PM](#)

Client/Matter: -None-

Search Terms: "Irish Republican Army"

Search Type: Natural Language

Narrowed by:

Content Type
News

Narrowed by
Publication Type: Newswires & Press
Releases, Newspapers; Timeline: Dec 31, 2004 to Dec 31, 2005

Protestants mount Belfast-wide street confrontations for 3rd straight night

The Canadian Press (CP)
September 12, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 Press News Limited, All Rights Reserved

Section: FOREIGN GENERAL NEWS

Length: 816 words

Byline: BY SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Body

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) _ Crowds of Protestant hard-liners blocked key roads in Belfast and rioted for a third straight night Monday in a long-building explosion of frustration at Northern Ireland's peace process.

At least 50 officers were wounded over the weekend when extremists fought riot police and British troops in the worst Protestant violence in a decade. The British governor and the territory's police chief said two outlawed Protestant paramilitary groups mounted machine-gun and grenade attacks on police.

The rampage followed British authorities' refusal Saturday to permit the Orange Order, Northern Ireland's major Protestant brotherhood, to parade as it usually does each year along the boundary of Catholic west Belfast.
AP

Monday's road blockades, formed by men, women and children, caused traffic jams that lasted for hours. Adding to the chaos were people who called Belfast businesses and, pretending to be police officers, ordered them to send workers home and close early on security grounds.

Protestant riots resumed at nightfall Monday in several parts of Belfast, although the mobs were smaller, the level of destruction much less severe and the intensity of violence greatly reduced from the weekend. No new injuries were reported.

Protestants threw fire bombs at a heavily fortified police base on the line between British Protestant and Irish Catholic turf in west Belfast. Gangs pelted passing cars on the city's two major highways with stones, forcing police to divert traffic to smaller roads.

Gangs also hijacked and burned more vehicles on the Crumlin Road in north Belfast, although police prevented the hijacking of a bus and seized crates of Molotov cocktails and paint-filled balloons.

Several thousand police equipped with shields, body armour, flame-retardant suits, guns loaded with plastic bullets, armoured personnel carriers, mobile water cannon and tear gas were on standby in fortified barracks across this city of 600,000. About 1,200 British soldiers also were deployed to support the police.

British governor Peter Hain and police commander Hugh Orde said the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force and Ulster Defence Association, which are supposed to be observing cease-fires in support of Northern Ireland's 1998 peace accord, carried out the weekend attacks on police.

Protestants mount Belfast-wide street confrontations for 3rd straight night

Hain said he would issue a policy statement within the next few days, raising widespread expectations he will withdraw Britain's recognition of the groups' 1994 cease-fire. Their truce has been repeatedly violated over the past decade, but rarely so brazenly as over the weekend.

"The evidence I have seen is absolutely clear cut. If it wasn't clear cut before, it's absolutely categorical now," said Hain, who viewed surveillance footage of the weekend's riots at the police headquarters in east Belfast.

Police have accused the Ulster Volunteer Force, which wields brutal authority in many Protestant parts of Belfast and runs a range of criminal rackets including counterfeiting and smuggling cigarettes, of killing four Protestant men this summer in a turf war with a breakaway drug dealing gang.

Hain could order a return to prison for dozens of UVF and UDA convicts who received prison paroles as part of the 1998 peace deal. Catholic leaders demanded sterner action against both groups.

But police and political analysts warned that the deep-seated Protestant alienation fuelling the riots required a diplomatic rather than security solution. Protestant politicians said rioting was inevitable given the belief of many Protestants that Britain has focused a decade of peacemaking on the demands of Catholics and the outlawed **Irish Republican Army**.

"Quite clearly, what you have here is a politics of fatalism, a community that sees itself as not being listened to," said University of Ulster social scientist Peter Shirlow.

Confrontations over Protestant parades, particularly near Catholic areas, have triggered riots in the past. The most widespread violence happened from 1996 to 1998, when Catholic militants blockaded Protestants' parade routes.

Since then, a government-appointed Parades Commission imposed restrictions on disputed Protestant parades.

When the commission ordered Saturday's marchers to parade through a factory site instead of the main road, Orange leaders called for illegal sit-down protests all over Belfast. Orangemen refused to accept any responsibility for the rioting.

Mitchell Reiss, President Bush's envoy to Northern Ireland, accused Protestant leaders of making bogus excuses for rioters.

"I think all of us are pretty disappointed with the abdication of responsibility by many (Protestant) unionist leaders," Reiss said in Belfast. "No political party, and certainly no responsible political leadership, deserves to serve in a government unless it co-operates and supports fully and unconditionally the police, and calls on its supporters to do so."

Load-Date: September 13, 2005

Britain's former Northern Ireland chief Mo Mowlam dies at 55

The Canadian Press (CP)

August 19, 2005 Friday

Copyright 2005 Press News Limited, All Rights Reserved

Section: FOREIGN GENERAL NEWS

Length: 747 words

Body

LONDON (AP) _ British politician Mo Mowlam, whose no-nonsense negotiating as Northern Ireland secretary helped forge the province's landmark peace accord, died Friday, a family spokesman was quoted as telling Britain's Press Association news agency. She was 55.

Prime Minister Tony Blair paid tribute to his former Cabinet minister, saying she had transformed the politics of Northern Ireland and played a key role in the revival of his Labour Party.

"Mo was surely one of the most remarkable and colourful personalities ever to come into politics. Great company, utterly irreverent, full of life and fun," Blair said in a statement released by his Downing Street office.

AP

Mowlam was admitted to King's College Hospital in London earlier this month, reportedly after hitting her head in a fall. She was transferred last week to a hospice in Canterbury, southern England.

The Press Association said Mowlam had never regained consciousness, and had suffered balance problems after receiving radiotherapy treatment for a brain tumour.

Mowlam died at 8:10 a.m. at the Pilgrim's Hospice in Canterbury, family spokesman Brian Basham said. The Press Association reported that Mowlam earlier had asked not to be resuscitated, and that hospice carers later withdrew food and water.

"Her family wishes to thank the many well-wishers who have sent cards, messages and flowers and to say that, although, the funeral will be a private family occasion, there will be a memorial event in a few months," Basham said.

Mowlam's family requested that people not to send flowers, but instead make donations to the hospice where she died, Basham said.

Mowlam was one of Britain's most popular politicians, admired by the public for her willingness to speak frankly, her bravery in fighting the brain tumour and her role in Northern Ireland's peace process.

She was appointed Northern Ireland secretary soon after Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labour Party came to power in 1997, and served until 1999.

Britain 's former Northern Ireland chief Mo Mowlam dies at 55

A blunt-spoken former university lecturer, Marjorie Mowlam _ universally known as Mo _ oversaw the negotiations that led to the landmark Good Friday peace agreement and the revival of Catholic-Protestant power-sharing in the British-governed province.

She was recovering from the brain tumour as she attempted to revive the peace deal.

Observers of the 22 months of negotiations that led to the 1998 accord cited Mowlam's approachability as a key factor. Although some Protestant politicians objected to her informality, her tenure appeared to encourage the **Irish Republican Army**-tied Sinn Fein Party to participate in the peace process.

A popular figure on the left of the Labour Party, Mowlam eventually fell out with Blair's centrist government. She was moved to a lower-profile position in 1999 and left politics in 2001.

In a 2002 memoir, Mowlam said she quit the government and politics partly because Blair's advisers were spreading rumours that her battle with a brain tumour had left her intellectually unfit.

"My health was used against me all the way through the whispering campaign," she told a Channel 4 television documentary in 2002. "They'll stop at nothing. ... (It was) vicious, violent, appalling behaviour by the people that did it. Some might say that's politics. I think it's just despicable."

Blair's office denied the claim.

In a memoir, Momentum, published the same year, Mowlam said the campaign against her intensified after she refused Blair's request that she run for mayor of London.

She also accused Blair of being too controlling, not trusting those around him and dismissing the views of anyone who disagreed with him.

"It gradually became clear to me that I was being treated as a girlie _ a popular **female** commodity who would be useful with the voters," she wrote.

Nevertheless, Blair paid a warm tribute to Mowlam after her death was announced.

"She was a key architect of New Labour, but had support across the spectrum," the prime minister said. New Labour is the term used to describe the modernized Labour Party, which swept to power in 1997 after 18 years in opposition.

"Of course she came into her own in respect of Northern Ireland. It is no exaggeration to say she transformed the politics not just of Northern Ireland itself, but crucially of relations between the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom, and it was this transformation that created the culture in which peace-making could flourish," Blair's statement said.

Mowlam is survived by her husband, Jon Norton.

Load-Date: August 20, 2005

IRA: Give up the guns, go straight

The Philadelphia Inquirer

MARCH 16, 2005 Wednesday CITY-D EDITION Correction Appended

Copyright 2005 Philadelphia Newspapers, LLC All Rights Reserved

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Found on Philly.com

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. A19

Length: 703 words

Byline: Trudy Rubin

Body

St. Patrick's Day is here. But Sinn Fein - the political wing of the **Irish Republican Army** - is being snubbed this week by the White House. Even a Boston Irishman like Sen. Ted Kennedy is turning up his nose.

For the first time since 1995, Sinn Fein leaders won't be invited to the White House for shamrock celebrations. The reason: The IRA has turned from fighting for a political cause to barroom brawls and bank heists. And Sinn Fein, whose leaders have been "outed" as IRA leaders, can't escape responsibility for IRA crimes.

IRA "hard men" are still reluctant to give up their arms in a verifiable fashion, despite the 1998 Good Friday peace accord between Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland. The IRA stands accused of robbing a bank in the Irish Republic of \$50 million in December. Other IRA members used knives to slit the throat of Catholic Robert McCartney in a Belfast bar on Jan. 30.

To paraphrase U.S. Rep. Richard Neal (D., Mass.), a longtime Sinn Fein supporter, the Irish republican movement seems to have "morphed into the mob."

Time was when residents of Belfast's Catholic slums were grateful to the IRA, which fought for Catholic rights and defended them against vicious attacks by Protestant militias. But times have changed.

The Good Friday accords are temporarily frozen, but sectarian violence in Northern Ireland has halted. The economy is booming, and unemployment has dropped to 4.7 percent, as investment rises. There are excellent prospects for stronger economic and political ties between Northern Ireland and the prosperous Irish Republic. People don't want to live in the past.

So when the five sisters of the murdered Robert McCartney decided to break the code of silence Catholics normally observe about IRA activities, they got support in their community. The sisters called on the IRA to stop protecting the killers. The White House invited the McCartneys to the St. Paddy's Day party instead of Northern Irish political leaders. Even Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams has praised the **women**.

But none of the 70 witnesses to the murder - including two Sinn Fein political candidates - has gone to the police.

IRA: Give up the guns, go straight

The IRA did ask the McCartneys whether they wanted the organization to handle the matter. It offered to shoot the offenders. The sisters angrily declined. The fact that such an offer could be made, in this day and age, in Europe, shows how out of touch the IRA has become.

Despite a bitter history of British repression, of discrimination by Protestants against Catholics in Northern Ireland, despite the anti-Catholic bigotry of Protestant leader Ian Paisley, the age of bullets has been replaced by the time of ballots.

Catholics now have a legitimate way to address grievances and seek power. Sinn Fein has gained strength as a political party in Northern Ireland and in the republic. In the words of Mitchell Reiss, President Bush's special envoy on Northern Ireland: "There's no place in 2005 in Europe for a private army associated with a political party."

Reiss called for the IRA to disband. But what is most important is whether the IRA gives up its guns.

"It doesn't matter [if the IRA is disbanded] if it doesn't carry out criminal activity," says Paul Murphy, British secretary of state for Northern Ireland. "Those days are gone. Sinn Fein must go down an exclusively political road."

Several thousand miles away, the militant Lebanese group Hezbollah is facing a similar choice. As it showed by turning out 500,000 demonstrators, Hezbollah is a major political force in Lebanon - on the streets and in parliament. But the group, which has carried out terrorist operations in the past, insists on keeping its armed militia, despite U.S. and United Nations calls for it to disarm.

Surely, Northern Ireland is more politically advanced than Lebanon. Even Gerry Adams has said he hopes the IRA will disband, but "in a dignified way."

Surely old republican fighters can find other employ than becoming a new mafia. It's time for Sinn Fein and its supporters to demand that the IRA become the Old Comrades Association and to pension its members off.

Contact columnist Trudy Rubin at 215-854-5823 or trubin@phillynews.com. Read her recent work at <http://go.philly.com/trudyrubin>.

Notes

Worldview

Load-Date: September 8, 2005

End of Document

Belfast slaying grays St. Patrick's Day in D.C.

USA TODAY

March 18, 2005, Friday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2005 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 691 words

Byline: Richard Willing

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

WASHINGTON -- Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, facing unprecedented American criticism over the **Irish Republican Army**'s role in a recent Belfast killing, accused Northern Ireland police on Thursday of dragging out the investigation to harm him and other backers of a unified Ireland.

"There's politics in all this," said Adams, whose Sinn Fein is the legal political partner of the predominantly Catholic IRA. There is an "attempt to protract the investigation" to "smear all of Sinn Fein with this event," he said at a St. Patrick's Day appearance at the National Press Club.

Adams was referring to the Jan. 30 pub brawl in Belfast in which Robert McCartney, a Catholic and 33-year-old father of two, was stabbed and beaten to death by members of a crowd that included at least three IRA members. The IRA and Sinn Fein (pronounced shin fayn) want equality for Northern Ireland's minority Catholic population and an end to British rule.

McCartney's five sisters and his partner have accused the IRA, a paramilitary group, and Sinn Fein of destroying evidence from the killing and discouraging witnesses from coming forward to name his assailants.

The six **women** were also in Washington on Thursday for St. Patrick's Day and met with President Bush at the White House to ask for support in "gaining justice for our brother," group spokesperson Catherine McCartney said.

Adams said that, contrary to the **women**'s claims, police had received offers of aid from at least 30 people, including one man regarded as a suspect in McCartney's killing. He said police had not yet conducted a lineup or otherwise begun to "act like police officers."

By telephone from Belfast, Ed Cooley, partner of Catherine McCartney, disputed Adams' claims. He said witnesses continue to fear coming forward because neither the IRA nor Sinn Fein has guaranteed that they will not face reprisals.

He disputed Adams' claim that the killing had been committed by "rogue Republicans." Cooley noted that one IRA man, now suspended for his alleged role in the affair, held high rank, and another had been a top aide to a Sinn Fein official.

Sinn Fein was one of several parties that committed to peace in Northern Ireland in 1998. It encouraged its IRA affiliate to maintain a cease-fire while it joined Protestant parties that favor continued union with the Great Britain in

Belfast slaying grays St. Patrick's Day in D.C.

a coalition government. The coalition government has been suspended and the peace process has stalled over the IRA's reluctance to prove that it has destroyed all of its weapons.

Along with fallout from McCartney's killing, Irish police allege the IRA was behind a \$50 million Belfast bank robbery last December. Controversy over the two incidents made for a solemn St. Patrick's Day for the 56-year-old Sinn Fein leader.

Thirty-four million to 44 million Americans claim some Irish ancestry. In the past, the USA has been fertile fundraising territory for Sinn Fein and the IRA.

In addition, Adams and other prominent politicians from Northern Ireland and Ireland have been welcomed to the White House each St. Patrick's Day. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., a leading supporter of the Northern Ireland peace process, refused to meet with Adams for the first time since 1998. Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., renewed calls for the IRA not just to disarm but to disband.

President Bush did not invite Adams to the traditional White House reception in honor of Ireland's patron saint. Instead, he hosted the McCartney sisters and Bridgeen Hagans, Robert McCartney's partner.

Bertie Ahern, prime minister of Ireland, accompanied the sisters to the White House and presented Bush with a traditional bowl of shamrocks.

"When (Bush) began his conversation with the sisters, he said, 'Welcome to the White House and God bless you,' " White House spokesman Scott McClellan said after the meeting.

"He talked about what brave souls they were . . . and let them know that out of evil can come great good, and thanked them for their efforts," McClellan said.

Adams said he planned to return to Belfast today to continue work on restarting the peace process. "A huge amount has been accomplished, not the least because of Irish America," he said.

Graphic

PHOTO, B/W, Eric Draper, White House via AFP/Getty Images; PHOTO, B/W, Alex Wong, Getty Images; Victim's family: President Bush and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, right, meet the family of slaying victim Robert McCartney. Adams : Not invited to White House or to meet with Sen. Edward Kennedy this year.

Load-Date: March 18, 2005

Friday, February 11

Associated Press International

February 3, 2005 Thursday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 777 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Body

Today is Friday, Feb. 11, the 42nd day of 2005. There are 323 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1254 - The British Parliament first convenes.

1531 - King Henry VIII is recognized as Supreme Head of the Church in England.

1744 - Naval battle of Toulon begins between Britain and combined Franco-Spanish fleet.

1798 - French forces take Rome.

1812 - Massachusetts Governor Elbridge Gerry signs a redistricting law that favors his party - giving rise to the term "gerrymandering."

1888 - King Lobengda of Matabele, Rhodesia, accepts British protection.

1889 - Constitution is granted in Japan, with two-chamber Diet, but Emperor retains extensive powers.

1922 - Nine-power treaty is signed in Washington for securing China's independence and maintaining "open door" policy; United States and Japan sign naval agreement.

1929 - Italy signs the Lateran Treaty; establishing an independent Vatican City.

1944 - U.S. carrier planes strike heavy blows against Japanese positions in Marshall Islands in Pacific during World War II.

1945 - U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Soviet leader Josef Stalin sign the Yalta Agreement during World War II.

1956 - Referendum in Malta favors integration with Britain.

1967 - Military rule is imposed in Beijing during civil strife in China.

1968 - Communist troops execute 300 civilians in South Vietnam and bury them in a mass grave during fighting for city of Hue.

Friday, February 11

1971 - Treaty banning nuclear weapons from ocean floor is signed by 63 nations in ceremonies at Washington, London and Moscow.

1975 - Margaret Thatcher becomes the first **female** head of the British Conservative Party.

1979 - Followers of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini seize power in Iran, nine days after the religious leader returns to his home country following 15 years of exile.

1986 - Jewish dissident Anatoly Scharansky walks to freedom in Berlin after almost nine years in Soviet captivity on espionage charges.

1989 - Barbara Harris becomes the first consecrated **female** Episcopal bishop in United States.

1990 - African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela is released after 27 years in South African prisons.

1991 - Iraq fires one Scud missile at Israel, which explodes and does no harm, and one at the Saudi Arabian capital, which is intercepted by U.S. missiles.

1992 - Security forces arrest four Muslim guerrillas and confiscate weapons in Algiers.

1993 - A Somali gunman hijacks a Lufthansa Airbus over Austria with 104 people aboard and orders it flown to New York, where he surrenders peacefully and releases his hostages unharmed.

1994 - A NATO-enforced cease-fire takes hold in Sarajevo.

1995 - Three Peruvian warplanes are shot down while attacking Ecuadorean bases in the nations' border war.

1996 - Powerful car bombs kill 17 people and wound 93 in Algiers.

1997 - Ecuador's Congress names Fabian Alarcon, president of Congress, as the nation's interim president.

1998 - U.S. military says it is ready to strike Iraq within a week, but the stand-off over inspections is defused before the attack comes.

1999 - The U.S. Justice Department closes the books on a \$1.6 billion reparations program for ethnic Japanese interned in American camps during World War II.

2000 - Britain strips Northern Ireland's Protestant-Catholic government of power in a bid to prevent its collapse over the **Irish Republican Army's** refusal to disarm.

2001 - About 7,500 counter-demonstrators turn out to demonstrate against a neo-Nazi march in western Germany that draws 250 people. Four police officers suffer minor injuries, and 17 demonstrators are arrested.

2002 - Jordan's State Security Court sentences U.S. born Raed Hijazi to death by hanging for plotting attacks on U.S. and Israeli targets in Jordan during New Year's 2000 celebrations.

2003 - Paraguayan President Luis Gonzalez Macchi survives impeachment proceedings when the Senate fails to procure the two-thirds majority, needed to remove him from office. The impeachment trial was on charges of corruption and embezzling public funds.

2004 - Iran marks the 25th anniversary of the the end of Iran's Western-backed monarchy.

Today's Birthdays:

Thomas A. Edison, U.S. inventor (1847-1931); Sidney Sheldon, U.S. author (1917--); Lloyd Bentsen, U.S. senator and former vice-presidential candidate (1921--); Burt Reynolds, U.S. actor (1936--); Tina Louise, U.S. actress (1937--); Sergio Mendes, Composer (1941--); Sheryl Crow, U.S. singer (1962--); Jennifer Aniston, U.S. actress (1969--); Brandy, U.S. singer/actress (1979--).

Friday, February 11

Thought For Today:

We had better live as we think, otherwise we shall end up by thinking as we have lived - Paul Bourget, French author (1852-1935).

Load-Date: February 4, 2005

End of Document

AP News in Brief

The Associated Press

March 9, 2005, Wednesday, BC cycle

Copyright 2005 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: Domestic News

Length: 1705 words

Body

Security forces find dozens of corpses in Iraq, including those of women and children

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Iraqi authorities found 41 decomposed bodies - some bullet-riddled, others beheaded - at sites near the Syrian border and south of the capital, and said Wednesday they included women and children who may have been killed because insurgents thought their families were collaborating with U.S. forces.

In Baghdad, a suicide bomber driving a garbage truck loaded with explosives and at least one other gunman shot their way into a parking lot in an attempt to blow up a hotel used by Western contractors. At least four people, including the attackers and a guard, were killed.

The U.S. Embassy said 30 Americans were among 40 people wounded in the blast. No Americans were killed. In an Internet statement, al-Qaida in Iraq purportedly claimed responsibility for the attack on the Sadeer hotel, calling it the "hotel of the Jews."

While Sunni Arab insurgents have repeatedly targeted Westerners in Iraq, Shiite Muslims, top Iraqi officials and civil servants, even Muslim women are no longer safe.

Lebanese legislators set to choose pro-Syrian premier again; Syrian army evacuates bases

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) - Bolstered by a massive pro-Syrian demonstration, Lebanese allies of Syria moved Wednesday to reinstate the prime minister, who recently was forced out by anti-Damascus protests. Their action ensures Syria's continued dominance of Lebanese politics.

Outgoing Prime Minister Omar Karami was virtually assured nomination after 71 legislators put forward his name during consultations with pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud, parliament members said. Under the constitution, the president is obliged to comply with the choice of a majority of the 128-member parliament.

Syria is keen to keep its hold on its neighbor's decision-making as it pulls its 14,000 forces back to Lebanon's Bekaa Valley and negotiates with the government in Beirut on the troops' full removal at a later date. As part of the pullback, forced by international pressure, Syrian soldiers evacuated Lebanese positions in the north and central mountains Wednesday.

Accuser faces Michael Jackson in molestation trial

AP News in Brief

SANTA MARIA, Calif. (AP) - Michael Jackson's young accuser took the witness stand Wednesday, saying he once considered the pop star now charged with molesting him "the coolest guy in the world."

The 15-year-old was not asked about the molestation allegations before court ended for the day, but described viewing adult Internet sites with Jackson present and said the singer told him to "call me daddy" during the taping of a documentary.

With an expression that appeared to verge on a sneer, the young cancer survivor said yes when District Attorney Tom Sneddon asked him if he recognized the defendant.

The accuser followed to the stand his 14-year-old brother, who testified he saw Jackson grope his sibling in 2003.

The boy gave the same account his brother had of looking at sexually explicit Web sites on their second night at Neverland after their parents gave them permission to sleep in Jackson's room. He said it was Jackson's idea that they sleep in his room.

U.S. envoy makes harshest criticism of **Irish Republican Army** to date; says it's time to disband

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) - In its bluntest criticism yet of the **Irish Republican Army**, the Bush administration told the IRA it should disband following the outlawed group's offer to shoot four men - including two recently expelled members - responsible for killing a Catholic civilian.

Wednesday's call from the U.S. envoy to Northern Ireland, Mitchell Reiss, came a week ahead of St. Patrick's Day when, for the first time in a decade, leaders of the IRA's Sinn Fein party won't be guests of the White House.

This year, the invitations are going elsewhere - to the five sisters of the IRA's most recent victim, Robert McCartney, a 33-year-old forklift operator and nightclub bouncer.

"It's time for the IRA to go out of business. And it's time for Sinn Fein to be able to say that explicitly, without ambiguity, without ambivalence, that criminality will not be tolerated," Reiss said.

Deadlock over Jericho handover centers on roadblock and casino

JERICHO, West Bank (AP) - Israel and the Palestinians deadlocked Wednesday over returning control of West Bank towns to Palestinian control, extending a stalemate that threatens to increase frustration and anger that could lead to increased violence after a monthlong truce.

Despite the risk of losing momentum in peace efforts, both sides clung to their positions.

The Palestinians insisted Israel remove army roadblocks around the towns and lift travel restrictions. Israel said it cannot take security risks until Palestinian security forces do a better job reining in militants.

The quiet, isolated oasis of Jericho was the unlikely focus of the disagreement. Its handover had been expected to be a relatively simple affair, and the unexpected stall raised concerns that the two sides would have worse trouble settling far thornier issues down the road.

LA mayor, Hispanic councilman to square off in runoff rematch

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Overcoming corruption allegations at City Hall and his own drab image, Mayor James Hahn survived a scare in his bid for a second term and advanced Wednesday to a runoff against the Hispanic councilman he beat four years ago.

AP News in Brief

Hahn and fellow Democrat Antonio Villaraigosa emerged as the top two vote-getters in Tuesday's election after a third candidate conceded on Wednesday. The two men will meet in a May 17 rematch of their bitter 2001 runoff.

Until midmorning Wednesday, Hahn appeared in danger of becoming the first Los Angeles mayor in 32 years to be ousted. But he shrugged off his second-place finish, saying, "Every day is a new day."

He said he will stick to his message that crime is down and the economy is growing. "There's not going to be a new Jim Hahn," Hahn told cheering union supporters. "I've got to do a better job of communicating with voters."

Kodak develops faster X-ray film that halves radiation exposure

ROCHESTER, N.Y. (AP) - Eastman Kodak Co. is rolling out a higher-speed X-ray film that can halve a patient's exposure to radiation without blurring image quality. Anyone who gets the shakes around doctors, be assured: It lessens the need for retakes.

It is the first X-ray film in a generation to offer a 50 percent or better drop in radiation dosage, company researchers say. And with the rise of digital radiography, it could help Kodak slow the steady erosion of its film-based analog business, which boasts fatter profit margins.

Developed over the last 18 months and tested this winter at children's hospitals in Kentucky and South Carolina, the 800-speed, general-purpose medical film was being shipped this month to hospitals, imaging centers and doctors' offices around the United States and Canada.

"The last time a change this significant was made was about 20 years ago when the marketplace converted from a 200-speed system to what has become the standard 400-speed of today," said Eileen Heizyk, manager of the film systems unit in Kodak's health group.

Dan Rather signs off as 'CBS Evening News' anchor

NEW YORK (AP) - Dan Rather echoed a word he once used every night to sign off the "CBS Evening News" - courage - in anchoring the program for the final time after 24 years on Wednesday.

In a brief statement at the end of the broadcast, Rather paid tribute to Sept. 11 terrorist victims, tsunami survivors, American military forces, the oppressed, those in failing health and fellow journalists in dangerous places.

"And, to each of you," he said. "Courage."

He seemed to savor each word of his signoff: "For the 'CBS Evening News,' Dan Rather reporting. Good night."

Rather's reporting career spanned from the Kennedy assassination to this winter's tsunami, and he's been the public face of CBS's legendary news division since replacing Walter Cronkite on March 9, 1981.

His first newscast included a story about English girls imitating the hairstyle of Prince Charles' bride-to-be, Diana. On Wednesday, the lead story was oil prices causing a bad day on Wall Street.

Stocks sink on prospect of higher rates, volatile oil prices

NEW YORK (AP) - Volatile oil prices and a weak dollar sent stocks sliding Wednesday as the prospect of inflation and rising interest rates sank in on Wall Street. Yields on long-dated Treasuries surged to an eight-month high and the Dow Jones industrial average skidded 107 points.

AP News in Brief

A gradual acceleration of inflation and a rally in commodities have made investors increasingly nervous about stocks, as many on Wall Street predict a slowdown in corporate profits for 2005. Those concerns were in high relief Wednesday as the feeble dollar and bearish bond market combined with a rise in gold and oil prices to create a storm of selling.

"Profit margins have peaked, inflation is on the way up, and those aren't generally good things for stocks," said John Caldwell, chief investment strategist for McDonald Financial Group, part of Cleveland-based KeyCorp. "So weakness in the bond market on top of that tends to make people skittish. ... It just makes people question their thinking that much more."

Canseco, McGwire, Giambi subpoenaed by congressional committee

NEW YORK (AP) - Jose Canseco, Jason Giambi, Mark McGwire and four other current major league players were subpoenaed Wednesday to testify before a congressional committee investigating steroids policy, a move baseball's leadership vowed to fight all the way to court.

Curt Schilling, Sammy Sosa, Rafael Palmeiro and Frank Thomas also were subpoenaed to appear at the March 17 hearing of the House Government Reform Committee along with players' association head Donald Fehr, baseball executive vice presidents Rob Manfred and Sandy Alderson and San Diego general manager Kevin Towers.

Stanley Brand, a lawyer for the baseball commissioner's office, criticized the committee for an "an absolutely excessive and unprecedented misuse of congressional power." He said the committee was interfering with the federal grand jury investigation in California into illegal distribution by subpoenaing Giambi, a grand jury witness who might have to testify at a trial.

Load-Date: March 10, 2005

End of Document

Protestant crowds block Belfast roads, riot for third night

AP Worldstream

September 12, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 869 words

Byline: SHAWN POGATCHNIK; Associated Press Writer

Dateline: BELFAST, Northern Ireland

Body

Crowds of Protestants blocked key roads in Belfast and rioted for the third straight night Monday in what analysts called a long-building explosion of frustration at Northern Ireland's peace process.

At least 50 officers were wounded over the weekend when extremists fought riot police and British troops in the worst Protestant violence in a decade. The British governor and police chief in Northern Ireland said two outlawed Protestant paramilitary groups were responsible for mounting machine-gun and grenade attacks.

The rampage followed British authorities' refusal Saturday to permit the Orange Order, Northern Ireland's major Protestant brotherhood, to parade as they usually do each year along the boundary of Catholic west Belfast to an isolated Orange hall.

Monday's road blockades, formed by men, women and children, caused massive traffic jams that lasted for hours. Compounding the rush-hour chaos were troublemakers who called Belfast businesses and, pretending to be police officers, ordered them to send their workers home and close early on security grounds.

Protestant riots resumed at nightfall Monday in several parts of Belfast, although the mobs were smaller, the level of destruction much less severe, and the intensity of violence greatly reduced. No new injuries were reported.

Protestants tossed several Molotov cocktails at a heavily fortified police base on the sectarian fault line between British Protestant and Irish Catholic turf in west Belfast. Gangs pelted passing cars on the city's two major highways with stones, forcing police to divert traffic to smaller roads.

Gangs also resumed hijacking and burning vehicles on the Crumlin Road in north Belfast, although police disrupted the rioters' plans there, preventing the hijacking of a bus and seizing crates of Molotov cocktails and paint-filled balloons.

Several thousand police equipped with shields, body armor, flame-retardant suits, plastic-bullet guns, armored personnel carriers, mobile water cannons and tear gas stood ready in fortified barracks across this city of 600,000. About 1,200 British troops also were deployed to support the police.

British governor Peter Hain and police commander Hugh Orde agreed that the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force and Ulster Defense Association - supposed to be observing cease-fires in support of Northern Ireland's 1998 peace accord - carried out the most dangerous attacks on police.

Protestant crowds block Belfast roads, riot for third night

Hain said he would issue a policy statement within the next few days, raising widespread expectations he will withdraw Britain's recognition of the joint UVF-UDA cease-fire of 1994. Their truce has been repeatedly violated over the past decade, but rarely so brazenly as over the past weekend.

"The evidence I have seen is absolutely clear-cut. If it wasn't clear-cut before, it's absolutely categorical now," said Hain, who viewed surveillance footage of the weekend's riots at the police headquarters in east Belfast.

Police have accused the UVF - which wields brutal authority in many Protestant parts of Belfast and runs a range of criminal rackets - of killing four Protestant men this summer in a criminal turf war with a breakaway drug-dealing gang.

Hain could choose to order back to prison scores of UVF and UDA convicts who received early prison paroles as part of the 1998 peace deal. Catholic leaders demanded sterner action against both groups.

But police and political analysts warned that the deep-seated Protestant alienation that is driving the riots requires a diplomatic rather than security solution. Protestant politicians stressed that rioting was inevitable given many Protestants' belief that Britain, during the past decade of peacemaking in Northern Ireland, has focused chiefly on the demands of Catholics and the outlawed *Irish Republican Army*.

Confrontations over Protestant parades, particularly near Catholic areas, have triggered riots with deeper motives. The most widespread violence happened from 1996 to 1998, when Catholic militants blockaded Protestants' parade routes. Such clashes pitted Catholics' demands to be free from Orange harassment against Orangemen's freedom of assembly.

Since 1998, a government-appointed Parades Commission imposed restrictions on disputed Protestant parades. Until now, Orangemen have usually accepted with sullen resignation.

But when the commission ordered Saturday's marchers parade through a factory site instead of the main road, Orange leaders called for illegal sit-down protests all over Belfast. Orangemen refused to accept any responsibility for the rioting.

"Quite clearly, what you have here is a politics of fatalism, a community that sees itself as not being listened to," said University of Ulster social scientist Peter Shirlow.

Mitchell Reiss, U.S. President George W. Bush's envoy to Northern Ireland, accused Protestant leaders of making bogus excuses for rioters.

"I think all of us are pretty disappointed with the abdication of responsibility by many (Protestant) unionist leaders," Reiss said in Belfast. "No political party, and certainly no responsible political leadership, deserves to serve in a government unless it cooperates and supports fully and unconditionally the police, and calls on its supporters to do so."

Load-Date: September 13, 2005

Protestant crowds block Belfast roads; police prepare for rioting

The Associated Press

September 12, 2005, Monday, BC cycle

Copyright 2005 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: International News

Length: 821 words

Byline: By SHAWN POGATCHNIK, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: BELFAST, Northern Ireland

Body

Crowds of Protestant hard-liners blocked key roads in Belfast and rioted for a third straight night Monday in a long-building explosion of frustration at Northern Ireland's peace process.

At least 50 officers were wounded over the weekend when extremists fought riot police and British troops in the worst Protestant violence in a decade. The British governor and the territory's police chief said two outlawed Protestant paramilitary groups mounted machine-gun and grenade attacks on police.

The rampage followed British authorities' refusal Saturday to permit the Orange Order, Northern Ireland's major Protestant brotherhood, to parade as it usually does each year along the boundary of Catholic west Belfast.

Monday's road blockades, formed by men, women and children, caused traffic jams that lasted for hours. Adding to the chaos were troublemakers who called Belfast businesses and, pretending to be police officers, ordered them to send workers home and close early on security grounds.

Protestant riots resumed at nightfall Monday in several parts of Belfast, although the mobs were smaller, the level of destruction much less severe and the intensity of violence greatly reduced from the weekend. No new injuries were reported.

Protestants threw fire bombs at a heavily fortified police base on the line between British Protestant and Irish Catholic turf in west Belfast. Gangs pelted passing cars on the city's two major highways with stones, forcing police to divert traffic to smaller roads.

Gangs also hijacked and burned more vehicles on the Crumlin Road in north Belfast, although police prevented the hijacking of a bus and seized crates of Molotov cocktails and paint-filled balloons.

Several thousand police equipped with shields, body armor, flame-retardant suits, guns loaded with plastic bullets, armored personnel carriers, mobile water cannon and tear gas were on standby in fortified barracks across this city of 600,000. About 1,200 British soldiers also were deployed to support the police.

British governor Peter Hain and police commander Hugh Orde said the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force and Ulster Defense Association, which are supposed to be observing cease-fires in support of Northern Ireland's 1998 peace accord, carried out the weekend attacks on police.

Protestant crowds block Belfast roads; police prepare for rioting

Hain said he would issue a policy statement within the next few days, raising widespread expectations he will withdraw Britain's recognition of the groups' 1994 cease-fire. Their truce has been repeatedly violated over the past decade - but rarely so brazenly as last weekend.

"The evidence I have seen is absolutely clear-cut. If it wasn't clear-cut before, it's absolutely categorical now," said Hain, who viewed surveillance footage of the weekend's riots at the police headquarters in east Belfast.

Police have accused the Ulster Volunteer Force, which wields brutal authority in many Protestant parts of Belfast and runs a range of criminal rackets including counterfeiting and smuggling cigarettes, of killing four Protestant men this summer in a turf war with a breakaway drug dealing gang.

Hain could order a return to prison for dozens of UVF and UDA convicts who received prison paroles as part of the 1998 peace deal. Catholic leaders demanded sterner action against both groups.

But police and political analysts warned that the deep-seated Protestant alienation fueling the riots required a diplomatic rather than security solution. Protestant politicians said rioting was inevitable given the belief of many Protestants that Britain has focused a decade of peacemaking on the demands of Catholics and the outlawed **Irish Republican Army**.

"Quite clearly, what you have here is a politics of fatalism, a community that sees itself as not being listened to," said University of Ulster social scientist Peter Shirlow.

Confrontations over Protestant parades, particularly near Catholic areas, have triggered riots in the past. The most widespread violence happened from 1996 to 1998, when Catholic militants blockaded Protestants' parade routes.

Since then, a government-appointed Parades Commission imposed restrictions on disputed Protestant parades. Until now, Orangemen usually accepted with sullen resignation.

But when the commission ordered Saturday's marchers to parade through a factory site instead of the main road, Orange leaders called for illegal sit-down protests all over Belfast. Orangemen refused to accept any responsibility for the rioting.

Mitchell Reiss, President Bush's envoy to Northern Ireland, accused Protestant leaders of making bogus excuses for rioters.

"I think all of us are pretty disappointed with the abdication of responsibility by many (Protestant) unionist leaders," Reiss said in Belfast. "No political party, and certainly no responsible political leadership, deserves to serve in a government unless it cooperates and supports fully and unconditionally the police, and calls on its supporters to do so."

Graphic

AP Photos XBFT101-103, 106-107; AP Graphic NIRELAND BELFAST

Load-Date: September 13, 2005

Sunday, September 4

AP Worldstream

August 27, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 809 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Body

Today is Sunday, September 4, the 247th day of 2005. There are 118 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

422 - St. Boniface I ends his reign as Catholic Pope

476 - Romulus Augustulus, last Roman emperor in west, is deposed

1571 - Marian Party in Scotland stages successful coup in which regent Lennox is killed.

1576 - Members of the Netherlands Council of State suspected of Spanish leanings are imprisoned.

1627 - Turks sign treaty with Holy Roman Emperor Ferdinand II.

1669 - Venetians surrender Crete to Turks after one of the longest sieges in history, begun in 1648.

1781 - Los Angeles is founded by Spanish settlers.

1872 - Anglo-French dual control of Egypt is re-established.

1894 - Some 12,000 tailors in New York City go on strike to protest sweatshops.

1916 - British forces take Dar-es-Salaam in Tanganyika.

1917 - The American expeditionary force in France suffers its first fatalities in World War I.

1929 - German dirigible Graf Zeppelin completes trip around world.

1932 - France and Poland sign mutual assistance agreement.

1939 - South Africa and Canada declare war on Germany.

1948 - Queen Wilhelmina abdicates the Dutch throne for health reasons.

1951 - In America's first live coast-to-coast television broadcast, U.S. President Harry Truman addresses the nation from the Japanese peace treaty conference in San Francisco.

Sunday, September 4

1957 - Egypt and Syria form economic union.

1964 - British Commonwealth troops move against Indonesian guerrillas in Malaya.

1970 - In Chile, Salvador Allende becomes the first Marxist freely elected president in the Western hemisphere.

1972 - U.S. swimmer Mark Spitz wins a record seventh Olympic gold medal in the 400-meter relay at the Munich Summer Olympics.

1974 - United States establishes diplomatic relations with East Germany, the last major western nation to do so.

1975 - Representatives of Egypt and Israel sign interim peace agreement in Geneva, Switzerland.

1980 - According to Iraqi count, the Iran-Iraq war starts this day with Iranian shelling of Iraqi border posts.

1987 - U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar says Iran has agreed to negotiate implementation of U.N. peace plan to end its war with Iraq.

1990 - Prime ministers of South and North Korea meet for first time; U.S. President George Bush asks Congress to write off Egypt's \$7 billion debt to the United States as a sign of appreciation for help in Gulf War.

1991 - Croatian guardsmen shoot four people at roadblock and Serb rebels block the Zagreb-Belgrade highway.

1992 - Fearing an influx of arms from Afghanistan, four former Soviet republics send troops to guard the Tajikistan border.

1993 - Fighting breaks out in eastern Liberia and spills over for the first time into the Ivory Coast.

1994 - A car bomb explodes outside the offices of the ***Irish Republican Army's*** Sinn Fein political allies. An outlawed Protestant paramilitary group, the Ulster Volunteer Force, claims responsibility.

1995 - The U.N. ***women's*** conference opens in Beijing.

1996 - New Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shakes the hand of Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat at a meeting on the Israel-Gaza border to help clear the air of animosity.

1997 - Three Buddhist nuns acknowledge in Senate testimony that their Los Angeles temple illegally reimbursed donors after a fund-raiser attended by U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

1998 - The first genocide sentence by an international court is handed down by U.N. tribunal in Arusha, Tanzania, which condemns a former Rwandan prime minister to life in prison for the slaughter of more than 500,000 Rwandans.

2000 - Four people are killed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo when militiamen armed with guns and machetes launch a pre-dawn raid on a camp in a gorilla reserve in the rebel-held border town of Bukavu.

2001 - Mahendra Chaudhry, Fiji's first ethnic Indian prime minister, is elected to Parliament along with the George Speight, who overthrew Chaudhry's government 16 months ago.

2002 - A court in Jakarta, Indonesia's capital, convicts the speaker of parliament, Akbar Tandjung, on charges of abuse of power and corruption, sentencing him to three years in prison.

2004 - A suicide attacker detonates a car bomb outside the Iraqi police academy in the northern city of Kirkuk as hundreds of trainees and civilians are leaving for the day, killing at least 20 people and wounding 36.

Today's Birthdays:

Sunday, September 4

Francois Chateaubriand, French author (1768-1848); Anton Bruckner, Austrian composer (1824-1896); Daniel Burnham, U.S. architect/city planner (1896-1912); Antonin Artaud, French poet (1896-1948); Henry Ford II, U.S. industrialist (1917-1987); Dawn Fraser, Australian Olympic swimming champion (1937--); Damon Wayans, U.S. actor/comedian (1960--).

Thought for Today:

Labor is the great producer of wealth; it moves all other causes - Daniel Webster, American statesman (1782-1852).

Load-Date: August 28, 2005

End of Document

Democracy's nasty surprises ;
Change in the Mideast I

The International Herald Tribune

March 25, 2005 Friday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: OPINION; Pg. 6

Length: 808 words

Byline: Geoffrey Wheatcroft

Dateline: BATH, England

Body

Nearly 73 years ago one of the greatest democracies on earth held a general election under universal suffrage. None of several parties won an absolute majority, but one was the clear winner, doubling its vote to 37.4 percent to become the largest group in Parliament.

That autumn, President Herbert Hoover was up for re-election and the Republican convention managers might perhaps have produced a satisfied voter from that faraway country, in the way a grateful Iraqi was flourished in Washington recently by the Bush administration. Not surprisingly, they didn't do so. The country was of course Germany, and the triumphant party was the National Socialists, led by Hitler.

International Herald Tribune

That 1932 election showed that democracy often raises as many problems as it answers, a lesson we may soon learn again in the Middle East. Western enthusiasm for what Tony Blair calls "a ripple of change" toward democracy there rests on two assumptions: in particular that a democratic Middle East will prove peaceable and friendly to America, and in general that democratic government is benevolent. Both assumptions deserve closer inspection.

To say that democracy will always defeat tyranny is much too simple. Sometimes it can lead to it. When the colonial powers departed Africa in the 1950s and 60s, they left behind model constitutional arrangements, regular elections, bicameral legislatures, even replicas of the speaker's mace from the House of Commons.

And all too often the outcome was, in the sarcastic phrase, "one man, one vote, one time." When the British wanted to extricate themselves from the last of these territories, then called Rhodesia, they held a national election. It was won by Robert Mugabe, with results that have been seen ever since.

Before the Iraq war even began, neoconservatives used a debating trick. If you don't want to bring democracy to the Middle East, you must be a racist who thinks that Arabs are congenitally unfit for self-government. That was answered by the sociologist Amitai Etzioni: There is of course no genetic defect that makes any people unsuited for democracy. But it is not something that can be learned overnight, or acquired like membership of a club; it is a system that evolved over centuries of sometimes violent struggle.

When it did take root, it was in countries that were already stable, reasonably prosperous and largely homogeneous, unlike Iraq and those failed African states. If that has a ring of Eurocentric condescension, look at

Democracy's nasty surprises ; Change in the Mideast I

Northern Ireland. There, democracy has not softened communal divisions but notably hardened them. Not long ago, the largest party on the Protestant loyalist side was the Ulster Unionists, and on the Catholic nationalist side the peaceable Social Democratic and Labor Party.

Since the 1998 Belfast Agreement, and in a succession of free elections, those moderate Unionists have been supplanted by the more intransigent Democratic Unionist Party, while the Social Democrats have been swamped by Sinn Fein, the political front of the terrorist **Irish Republican Army**.

Behind all this is a deeper problem. Democracy is implicitly founded on the belief that electorates will act responsibly and rationally. Nations can in the end acquire the habits of political responsibility, it's true, as the Germans have done in the second half of the 20th century. But then to look back at the first half is a reminder that they learned the hard way.

It has been said that it is a denial of the whole experience of the past century to suppose that men will reject their passions in favor of their interests. If men or **women** always followed a rational political course, would so many Germans have voted for Hitler in 1932? Or would have more than a third of Czech voters voted Communist in the free elections of 1946, making the takeover less than two years later much easier?

All this is far from academic today. Assuming the sincerity of the ideological proponents of the Iraq war, they must have believed that bringing democracy to the Middle East would lead people there to vote for parties that are sensible, moderate and pro-American. It doesn't seem to have occurred to them that the more democratic Iraq might become, the more strongly nationalist or Islamist, or both, it might be and the more bitterly hostile to America as well as Israel.

No doubt democracy is what Churchill called it, the worst system except for all the rest, and it often has nasty surprises up its sleeve. We may yet see some alarming leaders emerge in the Middle East, for all that they are "chosen by Parliament and confirmed by democracy" the phrase one cynical Nazi used to describe the way his fuhrer came to power soon after that election in 1932.

**

Geoffrey Wheatcroft is the author of "The Strange Death of Tory England."

[Not to be reproduced without the permission of the author.]

Load-Date: March 25, 2005

WRITING WOMEN INTO A CORNER DEMANDING

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

March 20, 2005 Sunday

TWO STAR EDITION

Copyright 2005 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: EDITORIAL,

Length: 772 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

Last week I had planned to write a column about Sinn Fein, the political front organization for the **Irish Republican Army**, whose leaders have recently been linked to acts of murder and grand larceny. I chose the subject because I wrote often about the IRA while living in Britain in the 1990s, because I've worked as a reporter in Belfast, because it's timely -- it was the week of St. Patrick's Day -- and because there might be lessons in the story for Hamas and Hezbollah, terrorist groups that may or may not be able to make the transition to democratic politics as well.

These thoughts arose, in other words, out of work I've done as a journalist and columnist for nearly 20 years. But last week I discovered that I am not just an ordinary journalist or an ordinary columnist. No. I am a token.

That, at any rate, is what I conclude from the bumper crop of articles, columns and blogs that have pointed to the dearth of **women** on op-ed pages. Several have pointed out that I am, at the moment, The Washington Post's only regular **female** columnist. This was not the case when I moved here, just over two years ago. At that time both Mary McGrory, a fixture for several decades, and Marjorie Williams, a witty and accomplished journalist, were writing regularly as well. By tragic coincidence, both died in the past year.

Possibly because I see so many excellent **women** around me at the newspaper, possibly because so many of the Post's best-known journalists are **women**, possibly because I've never thought of myself as a "**female** journalist" in any case, I hadn't felt especially lonely. But now that I know -- according to widely cited statistics, which I cannot verify -- that only 10.4 percent of articles on my newspaper's op-ed page in the first two months of this year were written by **women**, 16.9 percent of the New York Times' op-ed articles were by **women** and 19.5 percent of the Los Angeles Times' op-eds were by **women**, lonely is how I feel. Or perhaps the right phrase is "self-conscious and vaguely embarrassed."

This conversation was sparked, as media junkies will know, by a bizarre attack launched on Michael Kinsley, now the editorial and opinion editor of the Los Angeles Times, by Susan Estrich, a self-styled feminist. In a ranting, raving series of e-mails last month, all of which were leaked, naturally, Estrich accused Kinsley of failing to print enough articles by **women**, most notably herself, and of resorting instead to the use of articles by men, as well as by **women** who don't count as **women** because they don't write with "**women**'s voices."

Here I declare an interest: Michael Kinsley hired me to write an op-ed column when he was the editor of the online magazine Slate. As for Estrich, I don't know much about her at all, except that she's just launched a conversation that is seriously bad for **female** columnists and writers.

WRITING WOMEN INTO A CORNER DEMANDING

None of the ones I know -- and, yes, I conducted an informal survey -- want to think of themselves as beans to be counted, or as "female journalists" with a special obligation to write about "women's issues." Most of them got where they are by having clear views, knowing their subjects, writing well and learning to ignore the ad hominem attacks that go with the job. But now, thanks to Estrich, every woman who gets her article accepted will have to wonder whether it was her knowledge of Irish politics, her willingness to court controversy or just her gender that won the editor over.

This is a storm in the media teacup, but it has echoes in universities, corporations and beyond.

I am told, for example, that there is pressure at Harvard Law School, and at other law schools, to ensure that at least half the students chosen for the law review are women. Quite frankly, it's hard to think of anything that would do more damage to aspiring female lawyers. Neither they nor their prospective employers will ever know whether they got there as part of a quota or on their own merits. There's nothing wrong with a general conversation about how women can be helped to succeed in law school or taught not to fear having strong opinions. But trust me, in none of these contexts do you want to start calculating percentages.

In the paragraph I have remaining (this, girls, is truly the hardest thing about newspaper columns: making the idea fit the space) I'm not going to discuss the thorny question of whether some affirmative action policies do some good, of whether newspapers matter anymore anyway, or even return to the subject of Sinn Fein. Those are complex, gender-neutral issues, and I've now used up my allotted weekly slot on a "women's issue" instead. Happy, Susan Estrich?

Notes

Anne Applebaum is a Washington Post columnist (applebaumanne@yahoo.com).

Load-Date: March 22, 2005

End of Document

Wednesday, March 9

Associated Press International

March 1, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 824 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Body

Today is Wednesday, March 9, the 69th day of 2005. There are 296 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1566 - David Rizzo, confidential secretary to Mary Queen of Scots, is murdered.

1661 - Cardinal Mazarin dies in France and King Louis XIV begins personal rule.

1715 - Portugal ratifies Peace of Utrecht, ending its war with Spain.

1796 - Napoleon Bonaparte, the future emperor of France, marries Josephine de Beauharnais.

1822 - Artificial teeth are patented by Charles Graham of New York City.

1846 - Treaty of Lahore ends first Sikh War in India, whereby Britain gains additional territory.

1860 - After centuries of isolation and years of delicate negotiations, Japan establishes diplomatic relations with the United States. The event is marked by Japanese ambassador Niimi Buzennokami's arrival in San Francisco.

1905 - Japan defeats Russian forces at Mukden.

1916 - Mexican rebel Francisco Villa attacks Columbus, a town in the U.S. state of New Mexico, setting off a punitive U.S. invasion of Mexico. It is the last time foreign troops invade the continental U.S.

1919 - Britain deports Egyptian independence leader Saad Zaghlul to Malta. Britain grants Egypt nominal independence in 1922.

1933 - Congress, called into special session by President Franklin Roosevelt, begins its 100 days of enacting New Deal legislation.

1942 - Japanese complete conquest of Dutch island of Java in Indonesia during World War II.

1945 - U.S. B-29 bombers launch incendiary bomb attacks against Japan, killing 80,000 people and leaves one million homeless in Tokyo.

1959 - Unsuccessful army revolt ends in Mosul, Iraq.

Wednesday, March 9

1964 - Fighting breaks out in Ktima, Cyprus.

1969 - Lt. Gen. Moneim Riad, chief of staff of Egypt's armed forces, is killed during Israeli-Egyptian gun battle across Suez Canal.

1970 - United States declines to recognize new white-ruled Republic of Rhodesia, and closes consulate in that African nation.

1976 - Cable car plunges to ground near northern Italian city of Trento, killing 42 skiers.

1987 - Iran accuses Iraq of using chemical bombs in war.

1990 - Two Germanys begin preliminary reunification talks.

1991 - Yugoslav military moves into Belgrade with dozens of tanks after thousands of anti-communist rebels clash with police in fierce street battles, leaving at least two people dead.

1992 - A demonstration against Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic and the war in Croatia gathers 50,000 people in Belgrade.

1993 - The first U.S. airdrop of food lands in Gorazde, a Bosnian town besieged by Serbs.

1994 - ***Irish Republican Army*** launches first of a series of mortar attacks on Heathrow Airport in London.

1995 - The United States and its allies sign a deal to supply North Korea with two nuclear reactors.

1996 - Socialist Jorge Sampaio is sworn in as Portugal's new president.

1997 - Albanian President Sali Berisha agrees to his biggest concession yet to quell the stubborn rebellion in southern Albania - a broad coalition government and new elections.

1998 - A Bosnian Serb pleads guilty to a crime against humanity for raping four Muslim ***women*** in 1992, resulting in the first rape conviction at the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

1999 - In the first visit by an Iranian president to a Western nation since the 1979 revolution, Mohammad Khatami arrives in Italy for a three-day visit, including a visit with the pope.

2000 - Fire sweeps through a locked dormitory at a high school in the South Pacific nation of Tuvalu, killing 18 teenage girls and their supervisor.

2001 - Ethnic Albanian rebels attack Macedonian forces near a northern village, trapping senior government officials in a remote area despite U.S. moves to cut the flow of supplies to the insurgents from Kosovo.

2002 - David Trimble, first minister of Northern Ireland, calls for a referendum on whether the province should remain part of Britain, as advocated by unionists, who are mostly Protestant; or merge with the Republic of Ireland, as desired by Roman Catholic nationalists.

2003 - Thai police say nearly 1,500 people were killed during a nationwide crackdown on methamphetamines.

2004 - Pakistan test-fires its most advanced missile, capable of carrying a nuclear warhead deep into archrival India. The launch of the Shaheen 2 from an undisclosed location in Pakistan with its 2,000-kilometer (1,250-mile) range is a vivid reminder of the fragile peace between the longtime enemies.

Today's Birthdays:

Amerigo Vespucci, Italian explorer for whom America is named (1451-1512); Mikey author, American author (1918--); Ornette Coleman, U.S. jazz musician (1930--); Yuri Gagarin, Soviet cosmonaut, first man in space (1934-1968);

Wednesday, March 9

Raul Julia, Puerto Rican actor (1940-1994); Charles Gibson, U.S. journalist (1943--); Juliette Binoche, French actress (1964--); Emmanuel Lewis, U.S. actor (1971--).

Thought For Today:

It is the nature of man to rise to greatness if greatness is expected of him - John Steinbeck, American author (1902-1968).

Load-Date: March 2, 2005

End of Document

Putin: Iran poses no nuclear threat, so business as usual

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

February 19, 2005 Saturday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2005 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 2A; Newspaper

Length: 783 words

Dateline: MOSCOW; PRETORIA, South Africa; DUBLIN, Ireland; HAVANA; BOSTON

Body

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday he is convinced Iran is not seeking to develop nuclear weapons and announced plans to visit the country, showing strong support for Tehran a week before a summit with President Bush.

Putin's expression of faith contradicts U.S. suspicions about the intentions of Iran, which Bush has labeled part of an "axis of evil" seeking weapons of mass destruction and supporting terrorists.

"The latest steps from Iran confirm that Iran does not intend to produce nuclear weapons," Putin said at a meeting with Iranian National Security Council chief Hassan Rowhani. He said Russia "will continue to develop relations in all spheres, including the peaceful use of nuclear energy."

Compiled from Times Wires

Russia is building a nuclear reactor for a power plant in Iran, an \$800-million project which the United States fears could be used to help Tehran develop nuclear weapons.

Russia has friendly ties with Iran and sees it as an important trade market for its industrial goods and services.

Bush said Friday the United States does not intend to attack Iran and he expressed hopes that a European diplomatic initiative would persuade Tehran to abandon any nuclear weapons project.

South Africa's AIDS death toll increases

PRETORIA, South Africa - Deaths in South Africa increased by 57 percent in the five years ending in 2003, with AIDS and related illnesses among the leading causes in adults, the state statistical service reported Friday.

AIDS was the fifth most common natural cause of death reported in South Africans aged 15-49 in 2001, the last year for which detailed figures were included in the report. The AIDS virus accounted for more than 7,500 - or 3.8 percent - of deaths in that age group.

The United Nations and World Health Organization say at least 600 South Africans of all ages die every day of AIDS-related causes.

Government officials acknowledged many AIDS deaths could have been attributed to associated illnesses like tuberculosis, influenza and pneumonia because of the stigma still associated with AIDS and the HIV virus.

Putin: Iran poses no nuclear threat, so business as usual

TB, influenza and pneumonia accounted for 28.3 percent of deaths in 15 to 49-year-olds in 2001. Together with cerebrovascular disease, they also emerged as the leading causes of death overall.

The data was collected from more than 3-million death notification forms submitted to the Department of Home Affairs between 1997 and 2003.

The number of reported deaths rose from 318,287 in 1998 to 499,268 in 2002. Only percentage increases were given for 2003.

The steady increase in reported deaths was partly associated with population growth and improved notification, said statistician-general Pali Lehohla.

Police discover operation to launder money

DUBLIN, Ireland - Police have uncovered an **Irish Republican Army** money-laundering operation but cannot confirm yet whether cash worth nearly \$5-million seized in nationwide raids came from a Belfast bank robbery, the government said Friday.

A suspected IRA member was charged and five other people were interrogated.

Irish Justice Minister Michael McDowell, said police had just begun to expose a wider IRA network with sophisticated money-laundering techniques. He called it "a colossal crime machine, laundering huge sums of money."

Don Bullman, a 30-year-old chef, was arraigned in Dublin's Special Criminal Court, the three-judge panel that handles terror-related cases in Ireland, on a charge of membership in the IRA.

Wives of Cuban dissidents stage a protest march

HAVANA - In a rare display of public dissent, the wives of several Cuban dissidents - wearing pictures of their husbands on their shirts - marched to Revolution Plaza on Friday to demand amnesty for all political prisoners.

The **women** delivered a letter with their demands to state offices.

Loyda Valdes, whose husband Alfredo Felipe Fuentes is serving a 26-year sentence, said "the apathy of Cuban authorities" had "practically forced" her to be there.

The **women** marched 45 minutes through Havana to reach the plaza before delivering the letter, which bore the signatures of more than 1,000 friends and relatives.

Translator sentenced for taking documents

BOSTON - An American translator who admitted taking classified documents from the U.S. prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was sentenced Friday to 20 months in prison.

With time already served, Ahmed Fathy Mehalba, 32, could be out in three weeks.

Mehalba, an Egyptian-born U.S. citizen and civilian Arabic translator, told the judge he exercised "very poor judgment," but said he never intended to use the files for any illicit purpose. Some or all charges were dropped against three others - a Muslim chaplain, another interpreter and an Army Reserve colonel.

Graphic

Putin: Iran poses no nuclear threat, so business as usual

PHOTO, Associated Press; AN ANGRY FAREWELL: Thousands of people pack the entrance of a cemetery for the funeral of Cecilia Cubas, whose picture is held by a supporter, in Asuncion, Paraguay, on Friday. Many chanted "Justice! Justice!" after the daughter of; ex-President Raul Cubas was found dead Wednesday after being kidnapped five months ago.

Load-Date: February 19, 2005

End of Document

Irish Playwright Speaks From Hideout

The New York Times
December 24, 2005 Saturday
Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

Section: Section B; Column 4; The Arts/Cultural Desk; Pg. 11

Length: 849 words

Byline: By ALAN COWELL

Dateline: LONDON, Dec. 23

Body

Gary Mitchell, a prominent Northern Irish playwright, has been forced into hiding along with his family following an attack on his Belfast home by what he called rogue paramilitary figures linked to the Protestant loyalist cause.

"We are a bit mystified, a bit frightened, a bit shook up," he said late Friday.

In a telephone interview from a secret hideout in Northern Ireland, Mr. Mitchell, who is 40 and a Protestant, described months of intimidation of himself and members of his family apparently inspired by his plays depicting Protestant paramilitaries and their influence on Protestant communities in the hardscrabble, blue-collar districts of Belfast he has known since childhood.

"I depict the Unionist community in a fair light," Mr. Mitchell said, referring to the Protestant groups that oppose Irish republicanism and seek continued ties with Britain. "I depict them the way I see them. Maybe they want it more romantic. I don't find anything heroic in attacking 17-year-olds and pensioners."

His flight into hiding on Nov. 23 reflected the seething unease across the sectarian divide that has persisted, despite the 1998 Good Friday agreement that was supposed to end the decades of strife between Protestants and Roman Catholics known as the Troubles, which have claimed 3,500 lives on all sides.

This year, Robert McCartney, a 33-year-old Belfast Catholic, was killed in a barroom Tattack blamed partly on members of the *Irish Republican Army*. Rival Protestant gangs fought battles in which four people died last summer.

The sectarian strife has touched Mr. Mitchell in increasingly dramatic ways. He was forced to move two years ago from the hard-line Unionist Rathcoole area, where he grew up and where he learned the harsh cadences that have made him what some critics consider the most authentic dramatic voice of working-class Unionism. Since then, he and his family have lived in the Glengormley district, a mixed area populated by middle-class Protestants and Catholics.

But, he said in the telephone interview, the volume of criticism about his plays -- like "Loyal *Women*," performed at the Royal Court Theater in London in 2003 -- and of personal threat intensified this year, culminating in a warning to leave within four hours, or every member of his family would be killed.

Irish Playwright Speaks From Hideout

"I have had threats, people saying they were going to get me," Mr. Mitchell said. "The police have told me to alter my routine, not to frequent certain pubs and clubs. There's a playground-bully mentality that I have lived with."

Since the latest attack, he added, "my whole family and extended family are scattered around secret locations."

Unlike the novelist Salman Rushdie, who was protected by British government bodyguards after Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini of Iran issued a fatwa against him in 1989 following publication of "The Satanic Verses," Mr. Mitchell said he had no police protection. "We asked for police protection," he said. "They said they were too busy."

On Nov. 23, he said, men with their faces covered and wielding baseball bats came to his home and blew up his car, forcing him, his wife, Alison, and their 8-year-old son, Harry, to flee. "My car was bombed in my driveway," he said. Simultaneously, the home of an uncle was also attacked. His parents had already been forced to leave their home.

"It's very disruptive to watch a family struggle through it and see a little boy being frightened all the time," Mr. Mitchell said. His son, he said, has been so disturbed by the bombing that he is afraid of every small noise.

But he said he is determined to continue to work: "It's not going to stop me. I have a laptop. I have access to e-mail. I can send scripts off."

"Once you go outside the reach of these people," he added, "you are trying to establish a sense of normalcy."

Part of the reason for the attacks on him, Mr. Mitchell said, may be that republican writers tend to "create heroes and legends."

"I don't do this to loyalist paramilitaries," he said.

The Guardian newspaper in London recently reported that Mr. Mitchell's plays, including "As the Beast Sleeps" and "The Force of Change," show the continued power of paramilitary groups over Northern Ireland's divided societies. His work has been performed in Britain, the United States and Germany.

Paradoxically, though, he was once accused in San Francisco of being biased against Roman Catholics and refusing to allow them to perform in his plays. A 1999 production of "Trust," he said in a 2003 article in The Guardian, was favorably reviewed but poorly attended in San Francisco because of rumors that he would not allow Catholics to perform, direct or produce any of his work -- a charge he denies.

He wrote in 2003: "Some of my neighbors have threatened me because I criticize the Protestant people. I can only offer that if I am being critical, then I am criticizing the human experience and not the Protestant community of Northern Ireland alone."

In the interview on Friday, he said, "I think everybody is opposed to my work."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: Gary Mitchell

Load-Date: December 24, 2005

Irish Playwright Speaks From Hideout

End of Document

Tuesday, November 8

AP Worldstream

October 31, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 865 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Body

Today is Tuesday, November 8, the 312th day of 2005. There are 53 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1519 - Spanish conqueror Hernan Cortez reaches Mexico City with his small Spanish force and 1,000 Tlaxcaltec allies. The Aztecs, believing he is an incarnation of the Aztec god Quetzalcoatl, receive him with great honor.

1520 - Swedes loyal to Denmark's King Christian II execute over 80 political opponents in the central square in "the blood bath of Stockholm."

1793 - The Louvre Museum in Paris opens to the public.

1892 - Former U.S. President Grover Cleveland beats incumbent Benjamin Harrison and becomes the first U.S. president to win nonconsecutive terms in the White House.

1895 - Wilhelm Conrad Roentgen, German physicist, discovers X-rays.

1917 - Vladimir I. Lenin becomes chief commissar in Russia and Leon Trotsky is named premier.

1923 - Adolf Hitler stages unsuccessful coup in Munich, Germany, that comes to be known as the "Beer-Hall Putsch."

1932 - New York Gov. Franklin Delano Roosevelt is elected U.S. president.

1942 - U.S. and British troops land in French North Africa during World War II.

1950 - First battle between jet planes breaks out as U.S. fighters are attacked by North Korean MiGs near Yalu River in Korean conflict.

1956 - U.N. General Assembly demands that Soviet troops withdraw from Hungary.

1960 - Massachusetts Senator John F. Kennedy defeats Vice President Richard M. Nixon for the U.S. presidency

1966 - Italian city of Florence appeals to the world to help save art treasures damaged by floods; Edward W. Brooke of Massachusetts becomes the first black to be elected to the U.S. Senate by popular vote.

Tuesday, November 8

1977 - Israel shells Palestinian guerrilla concentrations in southern Lebanon.

1987 - A bomb planted by the **Irish Republican Army** kills 11 people and injures 55 at a memorial service for Britain's war dead in Enniskillen, Northern Ireland.

1988 - Nearly 9,000 foreign tourists are evacuated from Sri Lanka beach resorts after Sinhalese extremists threaten to attack south coast hotels.

1989 - Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega offers to end arms imports to his country in exchange for demobilization of Contra rebels.

1990 - U.S. President George Bush orders 200,000 more U.S. troops to the Gulf; United States readies U.N. resolution that would authorize an attack on Iraq.

1991 - The European Community and Canada impose economic sanctions on Yugoslavia in an attempt to stop the Balkan civil war.

1992 - U.S. Senator Bob Dole calls for an investigation into the action of the Iran-contra special prosecutor's office in connection with the indictment of former Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who was charged with making false statements to Congress.

1993 - Russian President Boris Yeltsin approves a draft constitution that will give him increased powers at the parliament's expense.

1994 - France arrests 95 people in its biggest sweep against Islamic militants.

1995 - Russia agrees to have peacekeeping troops in Bosnia report to an American division instead of having them directly under NATO command, which the Russians resisted.

1996 - U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali calls for an international military force to aid and protect a million refugees caught in a civil war in Zaire, but is blocked by the United States in the Security Council.

1997 - Chinese engineers divert the Yangtze River from its natural course, clearing way for the construction of the enormous Three Gorges dam.

1998 - In Bangladesh, 15 former military commanders are sentenced to death for the 1975 assassination of the country's first prime minister.

1999 - Israel's national airline graduates its first Arab flight attendant in nearly a decade, several months after it came under attack for discriminating against Arabs.

2000 - Fusako Shigenobu, a Japanese revolutionary responsible for terrorist massacres in Israel and Italy, is arrested in Japan after decades on the run.

2001 - The discovery of eight remains - five skeletons and the partially clad bodies of three young **women** - in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, ignites fear that a series of 57 rape-murders did not end in the 1990s.

2002 - A Yemeni-American, Ahmed Hijazih, is killed by a CIA airstrike in Yemen. He is believed to have links to alleged members of the al-Qaida cell in suburban Buffalo, New York, that was raided by U.S. authorities in September.

2003 - A car bomb detonates in a residential compound in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, killing at least 17 people and wounding more than 120 others. Most of the victims are believed to be Arab Muslims.

2004 - Muslim groups ask the Dutch government to protect Islamic sites after an elementary school is bombed - the latest in escalating tensions following the killing of a filmmaker, allegedly by an Islamic radical.

Tuesday, November 8

Today's Birthdays:

Edmund Halley, British astronomer (1656-1742); John Milton, English poet (1608-1674); Hermann Rorschach, Swiss psychiatrist (1884-1922); Margaret Mitchell, U.S. author (1900-1949); Katharine Hepburn, U.S. actress (1907-2003); Alain Delon, French actor (1932--); Mary Hart, U.S. television host (1950-).

Thought For Today:

Man is born to live, not to prepare for life - Boris Pasternak, Russian author (1890-1960).

Load-Date: October 31, 2005

End of Document

Special Branch shuts down

UPI

September 13, 2005 Tuesday 6:58 AM EST

Copyright 2005 U.P.I. All Rights Reserved



Length: 912 words

Byline: MARTIN SIEFF

Dateline: WASHINGTON, Sept. 13

Body

Special Branch is closing down: A staple of romantic England in reality and fiction will soon be going the way of the steam railway engine, the blue police call box and Fighter Command.

For 120 years, the words "Special Branch" represented a uniquely British vision of security: They conjured up pictures of heavily built, middle aged police detectives in plain clothes and raincoats politely but doggedly questioning suspects and protecting the realm from Nazi saboteurs, communist spies and Irish terrorists with weary, good manners and low-key, relentless efficiency.

But now following the shock of the July 7 London bombings that killed 56 people and wounded 700 more, the London Metropolitan police is scrapping Special Branch to streamline its anti-terrorist forces in the fight against Islamist extremists who may come from Britain's 1.6 million to 2 million Muslim minority community.

On Sept. 8, Sir Ian Blair, the commissioner of the London Metropolitan Police, or Met, the biggest and premier police force in Britain, announced that Special Branch would be scrapped and replaced in part by an elite new 2,000-man strong Counter Terrorism Command that would focus on fighting terrorism.

Special Branch did that too. But it never did so exclusively: Nor was it designed to. And Blair took a lot of heat for the police's alleged lack of preparedness before the suicide bomb attacks of what Britons now refer to as "7/7".

The Met's assistant commissioner, Andy Hayman, said that the July 7 attacks had shown the police's own anti-terrorist forces need more manpower and resources. As part of the restructuring, 500 extra police officers will be added to the 1,500 currently serving on the Met's Anti-Terrorist Branch.

The reform will be part of a major three-year restructuring plan that will also boost the size and resources of the Met's Specialist Anti-Crime Directorate. Two other police departments will be charged with protecting buildings from terrorist attack and protecting people regarded as high-risk potential victims of assassination attacks.

London's police have collected a lot of criticism and embarrassment in recent years for their alleged lack of professionalism in dealing with hard-core Islamist terrorists. First, there was an infamous incident some years ago

Special Branch shuts down

when a captured Islamist suspect broke free and stabbed to death one of the policemen who had captured him in an apartment. Then, after the London bombings, an innocent Brazilian was shot dead at a London rail station after being wrongly identified as a terrorist suspect. Although the police went out of their way to apologize and explain the circumstances, critics noted that even in heavily armed America, no such incident ever occurred in the heated weeks following the deaths of 2,800 people in the Sept. 11, 2001, mega-terrorist attacks. Nor has anything like that occurred in Israel during the entire second intifada, despite a wave of Palestinian suicide bombings that killed nearly a thousand Israeli civilians, many of them women and children.

The Met's Anti-Terrorist Branch was also swamped by the unprecedented demands put upon it in the investigation of the July 7 attacks and the unsuccessful ones on July 21. It therefore made sense to both boost the squad's manpower and also to divert more resources into the training and equipping of its members.

Special Branch has also suffered from overlaps and turf battles with MI5, the British domestic security service, which faced heavy criticism of its own following the July 7 attacks. Many American analysts have cited MI5 as a preferred model for a new integrated U.S. domestic security service separate from both the CIA and the FBI.

But, in fact, the British model was often misunderstood: For Britain did not have one domestic service. It had two -- the Special Branch and MI5. MI5 was generally charged with gathering intelligence on security threats while Special Branch focused on gathering the evidence needed to prosecute offenders.

The system was often cited as a classic way to maintain security while preserving civil liberties. And it worked extremely well against the ***Irish Republican Army*** and its splinter groups, as well as against communist spy rings. But it was too slow reacting, too cumbersome, and lacked the fast-reaction paramilitary skills needed to deal with small cells of fanatical terrorists ready to kill and be killed in the radically different world of Islamist terror.

Ironically, under the new system, the British system will finally start to look like the model that many American commentators have long wrongly imagined it to be. MI5, finally boosted by extra funding and infusions of many more full time officers, long promised but not yet delivered by the government of Prime Minister Tony Blair will finally become Britain's unchallenged domestic security service. The expanded Anti- Terrorism Branch may well take on much of the trappings, lethal, fast reaction capabilities and macho swagger of American SWAT teams, freeing up the Special Air Service to focus more on the clandestine military operations that have always been its specialty.

And as for Special Branch, it will join the many artifacts of Britain's law and order past like the gallows and hangman and the old high helmet of the street policeman armed only with his truncheon -- assured of a long and vivid afterlife in the public imagination, but as irrelevant as the crossbow to the law and order challenges of the 21st century.

Load-Date: September 14, 2005

How to address the goals beyond Gaza GEOFFREY ARONSON

Financial Times (London, England)

August 15, 2005 Monday

London Edition 1

Copyright 2005 The Financial Times Limited

Section: COMMENT & ANALYSIS; Pg. 15

Length: 909 words

Byline: By GEOFFREY ARONSON

Body

The end to Israel's long, bitter and often bloody sojourn in the Gaza Strip is in sight. If Ariel Sharon, the prime minister, remains true to his intentions, all Israeli civilians - some 6,000 settlers, most of them children, and another 2,000 opponents of Gaza's evacuation - will have left Gaza, willingly or in an Israeli Defence Force lorry, within a few days. Israel's military forces will take their leave of Gaza and its 1.5m Palestinians by year's end, perhaps as soon as October.

Once Israel's withdrawal from Gaza is complete, the attention of Palestinians and the international community will turn to the issue of Palestinian legislative elections, due next January - with the role of Hamas, the Islamic resistance movement, at its centre.

There should be no illusions about the list of particulars that has long estranged Hamas from polite company. Hamas is not a boy scout troop. Its use of terror, its anti-Semitism, its brutal intolerance particularly towards **women** and civil society, and its continuing readiness to battle Israel as long as it does not withdraw from lands conquered in June 1967, and perhaps even after, weigh heavily in the scales.

But, largely as a result of the inability of the Oslo process to end Israel's occupation, Hamas has established itself as an authentic political movement representing a large segment of Palestinians, and its popularity has been validated in free elections. It views the Israeli evacuation of Gaza as progress and is anxious to contest parliamentary elections. It is prepared to join the cabinet in accordance with its electoral strength. It remains committed to the "calm" and has declared its support for a long-term truce with Israel once the occupation of land lost in 1967 has ended.

These positions leave many unanswered questions about Hamas's intentions but they establish a basis for the US and others to reassess their self-defeating, monochromatic view of the group as nothing more than terrorists bent on Israel's destruction.

The fact that protagonists have difficult demands of each other does not require that those should be resolved solely by force. Indeed, a reliance on force may retard diplomatic progress and undermine the political process it claims to support. As the decision of the ***Irish Republican Army*** to forswear violence demonstrates, the transition from conflict to democratic engagement is measured in years if not decades and requires a commitment that challenges the staying power of all but the most stubbornly optimistic.

How to address the goals beyond Gaza GEOFFREY ARONSON

Hamas has been a factor on the Palestinian scene since the late 1980s. During the first Palestinian rebellion against Israeli rule in 1987, Hamas was transformed from a docile creation of Israel, which sought to establish a pliable Islamist alternative to the secular nationalism of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, into a multi-faceted group claiming the allegiance of growing numbers of Palestinians. Hamas's religious extremism, its use of terror to weaken Israel and its refusal to countenance Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem made it anathema to Israel, the US and others who counted on the Palestinian institutions created by the Oslo agreements to marginalise if not eradicate it.

Notwithstanding these efforts, and due in no small part to Israel's continuing appetite for land to expand settlements and Hamas's use of terror tactics, the last decade has seen the organisation grow in influence and power to a point where it now rivals Fatah, the secular nationalist party at the heart of Palestinian politics and resistance for the past four decades.

Hamas's gains on the Palestinian scene, including its self-declared leading role in forcing the impending Israeli retreat from Gaza, have been measured in victories in local municipal elections in towns throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip and its support earlier this year of an unprecedented three-part agreement with most Palestinian factions. The agreement provides for Palestinians to observe a period of calm vis-a-vis Israel as well as a commitment to hold elections and revise the statutes of the PLO to enable Hamas representation.

Hamas has its own concerns about western, particularly US, intentions. Is there an American commitment to respect the results of elections in which Islamists do well, or will the Algerian scenario be replayed and results favourable to Islamists nullified? Is there support for sovereign Palestinian rule in Gaza and a commitment to support Palestinian claims in the West Bank and Jerusalem?

The Sharon government is opening the way to the exercise of Palestinian sovereignty in Gaza, posing not only challenges but opportunities for Palestinian governance. But Israel is not interested in establishing the conditions under which the Palestinians can build on the end of occupation in Gaza to rule effectively in the West Bank, not to mention east Jerusalem. Demonising Hamas offers the path of least resistance, and not only for Israel.

But the US must know, as the Palestinians do, that any effort to reduce the competition among broadly-based Palestinian parties to a military contest would only postpone the political reckoning that is taking place and fatally undermine the relative calm to which all remain committed.

The writer is director of the Foundation for Middle East Peace in Washington and a board member of Conflicts Forum, a non-profit organisation working for dialogue with Islamists

Load-Date: August 14, 2005

Terrorists will likely strike London's financial district: police official

The Canadian Press (CP)
August 10, 2005 Wednesday

Copyright 2005 Press News Limited, All Rights Reserved

Section: FOREIGN GENERAL NEWS

Length: 877 words

Byline: BY MICHAEL MCDONOUGH

Body

LONDON (AP) _ The police chief for London's financial district warned Wednesday that terrorists will likely strike the British capital's biggest business hub, where they have already surveyed targets in the area.

The warning came as police said they have charged another man under anti-terror laws in relation to the botched bombings against London's transit system on July 21.

Abdul Sharif, 28, of South London, was charged with withholding information that could have helped police apprehend bombing suspect Osman Hussain. Sharif has been in custody since his arrest Aug. 1.
AP

Hussain, also known as Hamdi Issac, fled Britain after the failed bomb attacks and is being held in Rome on international terrorism charges. Britain wants to extradite Issac from Italy.

Nearly five weeks after four suicide bombers attacked London on July 7, killing themselves and 52 other people, police chief James Hart said there was no specific intelligence about a forthcoming attack but insisted the financial district was at risk.

"We are vulnerable, there are people out there who wish us harm and we should be aware of that," the Hart told The Associated Press. "If you hit the financial centre of the United Kingdom, it's a high-profile thing to do."

Asked if it was a question of when the financial district would be struck, rather than if, Hart replied: "Yes, I don't doubt that at all."

Known as the City, London's business quarter houses hundreds of banks, insurance companies, law firms and other institutions, including the London Stock Exchange and the Bank of England. It is a leading international centre for trading in metals, oil and other commodities.

Aldgate subway station, one of the targets in the July 7 bombings, lies on the eastern edge of the City, a dense network of narrow streets dotted with skyscrapers. The tiny district has its own police force distinct from the Metropolitan Police, which operates in the rest of the capital, and officers beefed up security there in the 1990s after a string of **Irish Republican Army** bombings.

"We are always vulnerable as a financial centre, as we have been for the last three decades," Hart said.

Terrorists will likely strike London's financial district: police official

Hart also said that "most successful terrorist operatives pre-survey their targets." Asked if this had happened in the City, he answered: "It has already occurred," but added that officers had disrupted "hostile surveillance."

He refused to say whether officers had arrested anyone as a result of these operations, or give further details.

Hart said his officers were also involved in training people working in the City, including company security guards and receptionists, to look for suspicious behaviour.

The commissioner, who first spoke of the threat in comments published in Wednesday's Financial Times, said it was misleading to talk about any particular groups that might be planning an attack.

"There is a range of people who wish us harm," he said.

Other international financial centres also have developed contingencies in the case of terrorist strikes since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Last summer, U.S. authorities raised the terror alert for financial institutions after uncovering an alleged al-Qaida plot to attack the Citicorp building in New York and the New York Stock Exchange; the International Monetary Fund and World Bank buildings in Washington; and the Prudential Financial Inc.'s headquarters in Newark, N.J. The alert was later lifted.

Following the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, the New York Stock Exchange established an alternative trading floor, while investment firms created new emergency centres, some of them outside the municipal area.

The exchange, with its trading floor just blocks from the destroyed World Trade Center site, was not damaged in the attacks. But infrastructure problems, namely downed phone lines, made it impossible for trading to resume immediately.

Organizers of Britain's Premier League soccer season also announced plans to step up security at games in the new season starting Saturday. The Football Association said it had no information of specific threats, but urged fans to avoid taking bags to games.

"The safety of supporters is our top priority and, in the light of current circumstances, additional safety measures such as increased bag searches are being implemented," the Football Association said in a statement.

One soccer club, Chelsea, said Wednesday it would not permit fans to enter with backpacks or any other large bags. Women's handbags will be allowed but would be searched.

Meanwhile, details emerged Wednesday of testimony given to British investigators by one of the suspects in the failed July 21 bomb attacks.

In Rome, Issac told British officers that the explosives in his bag were made of flour and a liquid hair product and were not meant to kill, his Italian lawyer Antonietta Sonnessa said. She said it was intended an attention-grabbing stunt.

The Metropolitan Police refused to comment on Issac's reported claim.

British police arrested the three other main suspects and charged them with attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, possessing or making explosives and conspiracy to use explosives on July 21. They face life in prison if convicted.

Police have not charged anyone in connection with the July 7 blasts.

Load-Date: August 11, 2005

Terrorists will likely strike London's financial district: police official

End of Document

Bombers come from cults of personality

The Australian

July 26, 2005 Tuesday All-round Country Edition

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Opinion / Op Ed; Pg. 13

Length: 831 words

Byline: Phillip Adams

Body

Don't rush to condemn an entire faith for the actions of a few fanatics

THERE have been dozens of attacks on US abortion clinics by religious extremists -- ultra-Catholics with guns and born agains with bombs -- that most of their co-religionists would abhor. Just as the overwhelming majority of Northern Irish wanting the Brits out of Ireland totally opposed **Irish Republican Army** atrocities.

Do you damn the Seventh Day Adventists because of David Koresh? Or all the Joneses in the phone book because of the horrors of Jonestown? Then apply the same principle to Islam. The rush to condemn an entire faith, with its millions of adherents and a 1400-year history, because of the fanaticism of a few hundred maniacs in a single decade seems somewhat intemperate. In any case, religion is only part of the story with suicide bombers. Let the record show that the group guilty of refining the tactic were Marxist-Leninists -- the Tamil Tigers. And nationalism overrides Islam when the Palestinians use this murderous strategy in Israel.

MATP

Nor do you have to visit a mosque to find dangerous tracts. Just consider the literature of the Christian Identity Movement in the US. Among its tenets? The belief that the Jews are the biological descendants of the Devil, created when Satan had sex with Eve, that American whites are the lost tribe of Israel, that Jews have hijacked the US government (the CIM refers to it as ZOG, the Zionist Occupation Government.) And don't laugh -- this mob claims 50,000 members. The best-known was Timothy McVeigh.

There is probably more to learn from cult behaviour than the Koran when it comes to getting a clue about suicide bombers. The followers of Jim Jones, Koresh and, more recently, the Heaven's Gate group who killed themselves on the approach of the Hale-Bopp comet seem to share a pathology with the kids who took their bombs into the London Tube. This is certainly the view of an Irish academic Dennis Tourish, co-author of *On the Edge: Political Cults Right and Left*.

Born in Northern Ireland in 1957, Tourish lived through the worst of the Troubles. This kindled his interest in the pathology of terror, giving me an insight into extremist passion and high-level commitment.

Finding truth in Orwell's comment about the "sordid horror of left-wing politics" he detoured to university as a mature-age student, studying communication, sociology and organisational psychology. After a few years teaching in Australian universities, Tourish now has a chair in Aberdeen, where his recent writings on analogies between terrorism and cult behaviour caught my attention.

Bombers come from cults of personality

Of course cults can take root anywhere. Currently Tourish is focusing on corporate cultism, using Enron as his prime example. ("Here was a world where dissent was demolished, preventing upward criticism.") Readers might see the same process in politics, with the suppression of dissent and disagreeable intelligence as George W. Bush planned to invade Iraq coming to mind.

At heart of this phenomenon, be it in corporate life, politics or the training of terrorists, there's a cultish focus on a leader who creates a valued "in group" v the demonised "out group". Dissent is forbidden, dogma is intense, and hatred is easily manipulated. It's a theme that runs through every society and can be easily applied to Jews, Muslims, refugees, Aborigines, the target of your choice.

You may be familiar with experiments in which nine-year-olds were taught, within hours, to hate kids with blue v brown eyes, with friendships breaking down and being replaced by aggression. Or the famous Milgram experiments that proved how easy it is to manipulate the group psyche. Sadly it follows that some of us can be programmed to hate and a few of us, more than enough, to kill. Cults do it all the time, from Montana to Madrid.

Tourish talks about "confirmatory bias" -- the tendency we have to see only evidence that supports our pre-existing beliefs. Included in the examples he cites are the beliefs among far rightists in the US that their government planned the Oklahoma bombing and among far leftists insisting that Bush organised the attack on the World Trade Centre. Similarly lunatic conspiracies are jamming my inbox in the aftermath of London. Blair did it!

Tourish recalls Pauline Hanson being interviewed about her fears of Asian immigration. When told she was wildly exaggerating the statistics, and shown the data, she simply said "I don't believe those figures", demonstrating that once people become habituated to the notion that any opinion is as good as any other, and can be untethered from empirical evidence ("post-modernism in action", says Tourish), then bias is given free reign.

The cults of death. In their secret worlds members live in a vortex of belief and cold anger, swept up in a giddy mixture of fear, hatred and idealism. It can lead to 900 men, women and children drinking poisoned Kool-Aid in a jungle clearing. Perhaps it also leads to 9/11, Bali, Madrid and London.

Load-Date: July 25, 2005

Terrorists will likely strike London's financial district, senior police official says

The Associated Press

August 10, 2005, Wednesday, BC cycle

Copyright 2005 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: Business News; International News

Length: 889 words

Byline: By MICHAEL McDONOUGH, Associated Press Writer

Dateline: LONDON

Body

The police chief for London's financial district warned Wednesday that terrorists will likely strike the British capital's biggest business hub, where they have already surveyed targets in the area.

The warning came as police said they have charged another man under anti-terror laws in the botched bombings against London's transit system on July 21.

Abdul Sharif, 28, of South London, was charged with withholding information that could have helped police apprehend bombing suspect Osman Hussain. Sharif has been in custody since his arrest Aug. 1

Hussain, also known as Hamdi Issac, fled Britain after the failed bomb attacks and is being held in Rome on international terrorism charges. Britain wants to extradite Issac from Italy.

Nearly five weeks after four suicide bombers attacked London on July 7, killing themselves and 52 other people, police chief James Hart said there was no specific intelligence about a forthcoming attack but insisted the financial district was at risk.

"We are vulnerable, there are people out there who wish us harm and we should be aware of that," the Hart told The Associated Press. "If you hit the financial center of the United Kingdom, it's a high-profile thing to do."

Asked if it was a question of when the financial district would be struck, rather than if, Hart replied: "Yes, I don't doubt that at all."

Known as the City, London's business quarter houses hundreds of banks, insurance companies, law firms and other institutions - including the London Stock Exchange and the Bank of England. It is a leading international center for trading in metals, oil and other commodities.

Aldgate subway station, one of the targets in the July 7 bombings, lies on the eastern edge of the City, a dense network of narrow streets dotted with skyscrapers. The tiny district has its own police force - distinct from the Metropolitan Police, which operates in the rest of the capital - and officers beefed up security there in the 1990s after a string of **Irish Republican Army** bombings.

"We are always vulnerable as a financial center, as we have been for the last three decades," Hart said.

Terrorists will likely strike London's financial district, senior police official says

Hart also said that "most successful terrorist operatives pre-survey their targets." Asked if this had happened in the City, he answered: "It has already occurred," but added that officers had disrupted "hostile surveillance."

He refused to say whether officers had arrested anyone as a result of these operations, or give further details.

Hart said his officers were also involved in training people working in the City - including company security guards and receptionists - to look for suspicious behavior.

The commissioner, who first spoke of the threat in comments published in Wednesday's Financial Times, said it was misleading to talk about any particular groups that might be planning an attack.

"There is a range of people who wish us harm," he said.

Other international financial centers also have developed contingencies in the case of terrorist strikes since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Last summer, U.S. authorities raised the terror alert for financial institutions after uncovering an alleged al-Qaida plot to attack the Citicorp building in New York and the New York Stock Exchange; the International Monetary Fund and World Bank buildings in Washington; and the Prudential Financial Inc.'s headquarters in Newark, N.J. The alert was later lifted.

Following the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, the New York Stock Exchange established an alternative trading floor, while investment firms created new emergency centers, some of them outside the municipal area.

The exchange, with its trading floor just blocks from the destroyed World Trade Center site, was not damaged in the attacks. But infrastructure problems, namely downed phone lines, made it impossible for trading to resume immediately.

Organizers of Britain's Premier League soccer season also announced plans to step up security at games in the new season starting Saturday. The Football Association said it had no information of specific threats, but urged fans to avoid taking bags to games.

"The safety of supporters is our top priority and, in the light of current circumstances, additional safety measures such as increased bag searches are being implemented," the Football Association said in a statement.

One soccer club, Chelsea, said Wednesday it would not permit fans to enter with backpacks or any other large bags. Women's handbags will be allowed but would be searched.

Meanwhile, details emerged Wednesday of testimony given to British investigators by one of the suspects in the failed July 21 bomb attacks.

In Rome, Issac told British officers that the explosives in his bag were made of flour and a liquid hair product and were not meant to kill, his Italian lawyer Antonietta Sonnessa said. She said it was intended an attention-grabbing stunt.

The Metropolitan Police refused to comment on Issac's reported claim.

British police arrested the three other main suspects and charged them with attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, possessing or making explosives and conspiracy to use explosives on July 21. They face life in prison if convicted.

Police have not charged anyone in connection with the July 7 blasts.

Associated Press Writers Slobodan Lekic in London and Marta Falconi in Rome contributed to this report.

Terrorists will likely strike London's financial district, senior police official says

Graphic

AP Photos LKW101, 105, 107

Load-Date: August 11, 2005

End of Document

London Financial Area May Be Terror Target

Associated Press Online

August 10, 2005 Wednesday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 888 words

Byline: MICHAEL McDONOUGH; Associated Press Writer

Dateline: LONDON

Body

The police chief for London's financial district warned Wednesday that terrorists will likely strike the British capital's biggest business hub, where they have already surveyed targets in the area.

The warning came as police said they have charged another man under anti-terror laws in the botched bombings against London's transit system on July 21.

Abdul Sharif, 28, of South London, was charged with withholding information that could have helped police apprehend bombing suspect Osman Hussain. Sharif has been in custody since his arrest Aug. 1

Hussain, also known as Hamdi Issac, fled Britain after the failed bomb attacks and is being held in Rome on international terrorism charges. Britain wants to extradite Issac from Italy.

Nearly five weeks after four suicide bombers attacked London on July 7, killing themselves and 52 other people, police chief James Hart said there was no specific intelligence about a forthcoming attack but insisted the financial district was at risk.

"We are vulnerable, there are people out there who wish us harm and we should be aware of that," the Hart told The Associated Press. "If you hit the financial center of the United Kingdom, it's a high-profile thing to do."

Asked if it was a question of when the financial district would be struck, rather than if, Hart replied: "Yes, I don't doubt that at all."

Known as the City, London's business quarter houses hundreds of banks, insurance companies, law firms and other institutions - including the London Stock Exchange and the Bank of England. It is a leading international center for trading in metals, oil and other commodities.

Aldgate subway station, one of the targets in the July 7 bombings, lies on the eastern edge of the City, a dense network of narrow streets dotted with skyscrapers. The tiny district has its own police force - distinct from the Metropolitan Police, which operates in the rest of the capital - and officers beefed up security there in the 1990s after a string of **Irish Republican Army** bombings.

"We are always vulnerable as a financial center, as we have been for the last three decades," Hart said.

London Financial Area May Be Terror Target

Hart also said that "most successful terrorist operatives pre-survey their targets." Asked if this had happened in the City, he answered: "It has already occurred," but added that officers had disrupted "hostile surveillance."

He refused to say whether officers had arrested anyone as a result of these operations, or give further details.

Hart said his officers were also involved in training people working in the City - including company security guards and receptionists - to look for suspicious behavior.

The commissioner, who first spoke of the threat in comments published in Wednesday's Financial Times, said it was misleading to talk about any particular groups that might be planning an attack.

"There is a range of people who wish us harm," he said.

Other international financial centers also have developed contingencies in the case of terrorist strikes since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

Last summer, U.S. authorities raised the terror alert for financial institutions after uncovering an alleged al-Qaida plot to attack the Citicorp building in New York and the New York Stock Exchange; the International Monetary Fund and World Bank buildings in Washington; and the Prudential Financial Inc.'s headquarters in Newark, N.J. The alert was later lifted.

Following the 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center, the New York Stock Exchange established an alternative trading floor, while investment firms created new emergency centers, some of them outside the municipal area.

The exchange, with its trading floor just blocks from the destroyed World Trade Center site, was not damaged in the attacks. But infrastructure problems, namely downed phone lines, made it impossible for trading to resume immediately.

Organizers of Britain's Premier League soccer season also announced plans to step up security at games in the new season starting Saturday. The Football Association said it had no information of specific threats, but urged fans to avoid taking bags to games.

"The safety of supporters is our top priority and, in the light of current circumstances, additional safety measures such as increased bag searches are being implemented," the Football Association said in a statement.

One soccer club, Chelsea, said Wednesday it would not permit fans to enter with backpacks or any other large bags. Women's handbags will be allowed but would be searched.

Meanwhile, details emerged Wednesday of testimony given to British investigators by one of the suspects in the failed July 21 bomb attacks.

In Rome, Issac told British officers that the explosives in his bag were made of flour and a liquid hair product and were not meant to kill, his Italian lawyer Antonietta Sonnessa said. She said it was intended an attention-grabbing stunt.

The Metropolitan Police refused to comment on Issac's reported claim.

British police arrested the three other main suspects and charged them with attempted murder, conspiracy to murder, possessing or making explosives and conspiracy to use explosives on July 21. They face life in prison if convicted.

Police have not charged anyone in connection with the July 7 blasts.

Associated Press Writers Slobodan Lekic in London and Marta Falconi in Rome contributed to this report.

London Financial Area May Be Terror Target

End of Document

In Ulster, skepticism on the IRA runs deep

The International Herald Tribune

July 30, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 886 words

Byline: Brian Lavery

Dateline: BELFAST:

Body

As political leaders heralded the *Irish Republican Army's* announcement of an end to its long and bloody campaign of paramilitary violence, most ordinary people here were not expecting life to feel any different.

The sensational headlines splashed across every morning newspaper Friday were not reflected in the mood of people who have lived in Northern Ireland in the years since the modern IRA was founded in 1969.

"It's the same as it was a week ago, a month ago, a year ago," said Anthony McIntyre, a former IRA member who writes about Northern Irish politics. "It will carry on with IRA discipline and intimidating people who oppose it. It can still prevent people from getting into clubs and from getting jobs."

The New York Times

Catherine McCartney, one of six women who led an international campaign to highlight IRA violence after its members killed her brother last January, said she was surprised to hear what she called "euphoric" reactions to the statement from Prime Ministers Tony Blair of Britain and Bertie Ahern of Ireland.

"I thought, 'Have they all taken amnesia pills or something?'" she said. "It's not historic. It's only historic if it's put into practice." She added that she doubted the statement would have the anticipated effect in communities where the IRA wields local influence.

In broader Northern Ireland, some tangible results did take effect quickly. The British government promised to propose legislation in the autumn that would allow IRA fugitives abroad to return home without fear of prosecution.

And in south Armagh, a rural area along the border with the Irish Republic where IRA support is strong, the British Army began dismantling a military base and two of the mountaintop watchtowers that, for a generation, have used sophisticated surveillance equipment to spy on private homes. A number of similar installations have been removed in recent years, and the British Army probably refrained from shutting these three until their closure could be used to reward the IRA's good behavior, according to Paul Bew, professor of politics at Queen's University in Belfast.

The IRA statement Thursday followed weeks of heady anticipation in Britain and Ireland and was widely hailed as a watershed moment and the formal end to the conflict that stretched over four decades and claimed more than 3,500 lives.

In Ulster , skepticism on the IRA runs deep

It addressed several issues that have long frustrated attempts to resuscitate Northern Ireland's suspended local legislature, which was designed to share power between Protestant and Catholic groups after the 1998 Belfast peace accord.

The IRA ordered its members to get rid of their weapons, and said it would cooperate with a commission that oversees disarmament, including using clergymen as witnesses to verify the process.

But like the demilitarization process in Armagh, the contents of the statement are not new, Bew said. "The deep, basic, logic was exactly the same" as an agreement brokered in 2003 by President George W. Bush's then-envoy to Northern Ireland, Richard Haass, he noted.

But he is optimistic that the current political conditions are more promising "just because it's the same horse doesn't mean that it's not going to run this time," he said and that politicians from the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, might be able to sit down to talks with their Protestant archrivals, the Democratic Unionists, within six months. The Democratic Unionists, led by the 79-year-old preacher Ian Paisley, say that Sinn Fein is equivalent to the IRA, and refuse to meet its representatives in person.

One line in the statement, "volunteers must not engage in any other activities whatsoever," has been interpreted as calling for an end to criminal operations, but the IRA's critics say the wording is too vague.

The IRA casts itself as a band of freedom fighters and has never admitted to crimes like cigarette smuggling or money laundering, or a \$50 million Belfast bank robbery last December.

When asked at a press conference on Thursday to clarify the phrase, Sinn Fein's president, Gerry Adams, retorted, "What part of 'any other activities' don't you understand?"

An independent body that monitors paramilitary activity explained its interpretation by listing, in a statement on Friday, the criteria it will use when reporting on whether the IRA has kept its promises in October and in January: "whether a group has stopped using violence in any form, committing other crimes, recruiting or training members, gathering intelligence, targeting people, procuring material, and exiling or intimidating people."

The campaign to prosecute the killers of Robert McCartney, the 31-year-old stabbed to death outside a Belfast bar, is still stalled because intimidation by the IRA, according to Catherine McCartney, his sister.

Two men have been charged with the killing, but a witness who can provide "crucial evidence" is too frightened to testify because IRA members associated with the murder still command more respect than police officers in their neighborhood, the Short Strand area of Belfast. And while the IRA statement may mean a permanent end to terrorist attacks by the group, it is more difficult to stop low-level violence by its members, she said.

"Another name will come up. It will go on under some other umbrella," McCartney said. "The behavior isn't going to change."

Load-Date: July 31, 2005

Monday, August 1

AP Worldstream

July 24, 2005 Sunday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 873 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Body

Today is Monday, August 1, the 213th day of 2005. There are 152 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1291 - The Swiss cantons of Uri, Schwyz, and Nidwalden sign a mutual defense pact and are later joined by surrounding areas to form the Republic of Switzerland. It is the oldest government still in existence.

1560 - Scotland's Parliament abolishes papal jurisdiction and approves a Calvinistic confession of faith, thus founding the Church of Scotland.

1589 - Henry III, the last of the Valois line of French kings, is fatally stabbed by a Jacobin monk while laying siege to Paris, occupied by Catholic rebels.

1625 - The British Parliament moves to Oxford to save itself from decimation as the black plague rages through London, killing thousands each week.

1664 - Turks are defeated at St. Gotthard-on-the-Raab in Hungary by Holy Roman Empire troops.

1790 - The first U.S. census is completed; showing a population of four million people.

1798 - Britain's Admiral Horatio Nelson destroys French fleet in Battle of the Nile, stranding Napoleon Bonaparte and his forces in Egypt.

1807 - Jerome Bonaparte becomes King of Westphalia, created from former Prussian possessions west of Elbe River.

1808 - British troops land in Portugal to help oust French forces, succeeding a year later.

1894 - Japan and China declare war on each other over dominance in Korea. China is forced to cede Taiwan when the war ends after a year.

1914 - Germany declares war on Russia at the start of World War I.

1927 - Communists rise in Nanchang, China, and hold the city for a few days. The event is now celebrated as the origin of the People's Liberation Army.

Monday, August 1

1936 - The Olympic games open in Berlin with a ceremony presided over by Adolf Hitler.

1944 - The people of Warsaw rise against the Nazis, in the hope of liberating the city before the arrival of the Red Army. The city is largely destroyed in two months of fighting.

1958 - Jordan's King Hussein dissolves federation of Jordan with Iraq.

1966 - The Chinese Communist Party opens a meeting that declares the start of the ultra-leftist Cultural Revolution, which lasts 10 years.

1971 - U.S. Defense Department begins to pullout almost 3,000 U.S. troops from Vietnam.

1975 - Leaders of 35 nations meet in Helsinki, Finland, and affirm a peace charter in Europe.

1981 - Rock-music video channel MTV makes its first broadcast.

1988 - An explosion by the **Irish Republican Army** kills a British soldier at an army barracks in London and wounds 10 others. The attack was the first by the IRA on the British mainland since 1984.

1990 - Talks between Iraq and Kuwait over oil and border disputes break off, with 100,000 Iraqi troops massed on the Kuwaiti border.

1993 - The U.S. Coast Guard stops listening for Morse code distress signals on the 500-kilohertz radio frequency, which it had monitored continuously since 1924.

1995 - A Swiss woman, Bea Wyler, 44, becomes Germany's first **female** rabbi since the Holocaust. The appointment stirs controversy within Germany's Jewish community.

1996 - Former Nazi SS Capt. Erich Priebke is absolved by the military court in Rome of charges for a World War II massacre of 335 Italian civilians.

1997 - Rocket fire sends more than 7,000 Cambodian refugees fleeing to Thailand as forces of coup leader Hun Sen attack rival bases along the border.

1998 - Milan Kovacevic, a Serb doctor implicated in some 2,000 deaths in concentration camps during the Bosnia-Herzegovina war, dies of a heart attack weeks after the start of his trial on war crimes charges.

1999 - Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat meets with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a leftist Palestinian faction opposed to the peace process. It is the first such meeting since the 1993 Oslo accord with Israel.

2000 - Philippine ambassador Leonides Caday escapes assassination in Indonesia when a bomb blows up his car; Philippine Muslim separatists are blamed for the attack, which killed two people and injured 20.

2001- Britain's Queen Mother Elizabeth is hospitalized for treatment of anemia, three days before her 101st birthday. Azerbaijan switches to the Latin alphabet from Cyrillic to reduce Russian influence on Azeri culture.

2002 - Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri invites U.N. weapons inspectors to visit Iraq for the first time since 1998.

2003 - A suicide bomber driving an explosives-laden truck in Russia smashes through the gates of a military hospital in the southern republic of North Ossetia and kills 50 people.

2004 - Assailants trigger a coordinated series of explosions outside five churches in Baghdad and Mosul during evening services, killing 11 people and injuring more than 50 others in the first major assault on Iraq's Christian minority since the 15-month-old insurgency began.

Today's Birthdays:

Monday, August 1

Herman Melville, U.S. author (1819-1891); Richard Henry Dana, U.S. writer (1815-1862); Dom DeLuise, U.S. actor (1933--); Yves St. Laurent, French fashion designer (1936--); Chuck D, U.S. rapper (1960--); Coolio, U.S. rapper (1963--); Sam Mendes, British film director (1965--); Tempestt Bledsoe, U.S. actress (1973--).

Thought For Today:

As scarce as truth is, the supply is always greater than the demand - Josh Billings, American author (1818-1885).

Load-Date: July 25, 2005

End of Document

Demands for justice throw IRA on defensive

USA TODAY

March 11, 2005, Friday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2005 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 825 words

Byline: Richard Willing

Body

In 1970, when she was only 2, **Irish Republican Army** volunteers defended Catherine McCartney's Catholic neighborhood in East Belfast from Protestants bent on burning it.

"They were heroes then," she says.

Next week, McCartney will go to Washington to meet President Bush and deliver a very different message: that the modern IRA includes lowlifes who thrive on petty crime and intimidation, then hide behind the organization's aura to avoid accountability, even for murder.

Robert McCartney, her 33-year-old brother, was beaten and fatally stabbed Jan. 30 in a pub brawl in Belfast that involved at least four and perhaps more than a dozen members of the IRA. One of the men ordered the approximately 70 people in the pub not to speak to authorities because the fight was "IRA business," McCartney says. In fact, she says, the fight began because her brother tried to help a friend who had been attacked over a comment to a woman.

Robert McCartney's death -- and his family's campaign to bring the killers to justice -- threaten to undermine the IRA. The movement has long resisted British rule and defended Northern Ireland's Catholic minority from attacks by majority Protestants. The killing, and a \$50 million bank robbery last December that authorities blamed on the IRA, have left Northern Ireland's peace process in tatters.

Catherine McCartney, 36, a teacher and mother of four, will ask Bush, members of Congress and IRA sympathizers here to pressure the IRA and its political wing, Sinn Fein, to make witnesses available to police.

She'll be joined by her four sisters and by Bridgeen Hagans, Robert McCartney's partner and the mother of his two children. They will meet Bush at the White House next Thursday, St. Patrick's Day.

"In the past, people may have stood for this kind of thing, but now it's 'enough is enough,' " McCartney says by phone from her home near Belfast.

The McCartney sisters hope American supporters of the IRA can be persuaded to pressure the group. "The friends they have in your country need to know how things are here now," McCartney says.

As recently as 1998, Irish republicans were the toast of Washington. Sinn Fein helped broker an IRA ceasefire and formed a coalition government with Protestant political parties. Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein's leader, visited President Clinton at the White House and received permits allowing him to raise money here.

Demands for justice throw IRA on defensive

But the IRA balked at Protestant demands that it prove it has destroyed its weapons. In 2002, Northern Ireland's coalition government fell and was replaced by direct rule from London.

In December, while Sinn Fein negotiated an IRA disarmament with Protestant parties, a Belfast bank was robbed of the equivalent of nearly \$50 million. Police in Northern Ireland and the neighboring Republic of Ireland say the IRA was behind the heist.

The bank robbery damaged Sinn Fein's credibility. But fallout from the McCartney killing has arguably done the IRA and Sinn Fein more damage.

"It's happening in their heartland and among the very people they've always fancied that they exist to protect," says Robert Mahony, who teaches Irish studies at Catholic University of America in Washington. "It's shown a harsh light on the ugly truth that while all here were focused on . . . the 'peace process,' the (IRA) was morphing into the Mafia with a brogue."

The IRA's and Sinn Fein's response to the McCartney killing and the sisters' campaign has deepened their problems. Adams waited more than a month to act, then suspended seven unnamed Sinn Fein members and urged people with knowledge of the crime to work with police. None has, McCartney says.

Last week, the IRA said it expelled three members involved in the killing, including a senior commander. In a statement Tuesday, the IRA said two members were "directly involved" and said bloody clothing and a surveillance video from the pub were destroyed.

Most remarkably, the IRA acknowledged that members met with the McCartney sisters last Monday and offered to execute Robert McCartney's killers. The women insisted that the men be tried in court.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said the IRA offer "defies any description." In an editorial, London's *Independent* said the IRA "inhabits a mental and moral universe quite different from the rest of us."

Adams was not invited to the annual St. Patrick's Day celebration at the White House. Instead, he is expected to meet with members of Congress who are longtime Sinn Fein supporters. A leader of that group, Rep. Pete King, R-N.Y., says they'll tell Adams that "the time has really come for the IRA to cease operations and go out of business."

Catherine McCartney hopes the IRA stays around long enough to do the "right thing" by her brother and his family. "The right word, and their people who they know did it -- every dog in Belfast knows their names, for God's sake -- would go to the police," she says.

"The question for us is, can they bring themselves to say the right word?"

Graphic

PHOTO, B/W, John Cogill, AP; Family not swayed from crusade: Gerry Adams, leader of the IRA-allied party Sinn Fein, sits with Robert McCartney's sisters, from left, Paula, Catherine and Donna at a party conference in Dublin on Saturday.

Load-Date: March 11, 2005

Sunday, March 13

Associated Press International

March 5, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 908 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Body

Today is Sunday, March 13, the 73rd day of 2005. There are 292 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1325 - Tenochtitlan, the capital of the Aztec Empire, is founded.

1552 - Turks invade Hungary.

1567 - Margaret of Parma, Regent of the Netherlands, uses German mercenaries to annihilate 2,000 Calvinists.

1639 - Harvard University is named for clergyman John Harvard.

1707 - Holy Roman Empire agrees to Convention of Milan whereby French troops are to leave northern Italy.

1714 - Battle of Storkyro leads to Russian domination of Finland.

1781 - The planet Uranus is discovered by Sir William Herschel just past the planet Saturn. It was the first of three planets to be sighted during the next two hundred years.

1868 - The impeachment trial of U.S. President Andrew Johnson begins in the U.S. Senate.

1877 - Ear mufflers are patented by Chester Greenwood of Maine, Connecticut; inspired no doubt by the chilly New England winter.

1881 - Russia's Czar Alexander II is assassinated by radical terrorists who demand a constitutional government in Russia. Ironically, the czar had just signed a bill to establish exactly what they wanted. When he died, so did the agreement.

1884 - Using Greenwich, England as the commencement point from which all time will be measured, an international time standard is adopted throughout the United States.

1900 - British forces under Frederick Roberts capture Bloemfontein, South Africa.

1913 - New Australian federal capital officially named Canberra.

1925 - A law goes into effect in Tennessee prohibiting the teaching of evolution.

Sunday, March 13

- 1938 - Austria is annexed by Germany a day after Nazi troops march in.
- 1942 - British bombers stage saturation raid on German city of Cologne in World War II.
- 1964 - Thirty-eight residents of a New York City neighborhood fail to respond to the cries of Kitty Genovese, 28, as she was stabbed to death.
- 1967 - Peasant rioting is reported in China.
- 1971 - Quebec separatist Paul Rose is given life sentence in Montreal, Canada, for his part in kidnap and murder of Quebec Labor Minister Pierre LaPorte.
- 1974 - The Arab nations agree to end their five-month oil embargo on sales to the U.S. Their sanction crippled both the American industry and economy.
- 1978 - South Moluccan gunmen seize more than 70 hostages in government building in Essen, the Netherlands, and demand release of comrades in Dutch jails.
- 1980 - A jury in Winamac, Indiana, found Ford Motor Co. innocent of reckless homicide in the fiery deaths of three young women riding in a Ford Pinto.
- 1988 - Gallaudet University, a liberal arts college for the hearing-impaired in Washington D.C., choose I. King Jordan to become the school's first deaf president.
- 1989 - Christian army units and Syrian-backed Muslim militiamen shatter cease-fire in clash across Beirut's dividing Green Line.
- 1990 - Soviet Congress approves strong presidency, sanctions multiparty system and private ownership of factories.
- 1991 - Kuwait's emir, Sheik Jeber al-Ahmed al-Sabah, returns from exile after his country is liberated from Iraqi occupation.
- 1992 - An 6.2 magnitude earthquake rocks Turkey, claiming at least 570 lives.
- 1993 - Hundreds of refugees pour into Srebrenica in Bosnia, and desperate crowds prevent a French U.N. commander Gen. Philippe Morillon from leaving the war-battered Muslim enclave.
- 1994 - Police shut down London's Heathrow and Gatwick airports after bomb threats from the Irish Republican Army. No explosives are found.
- 1995 - Mortar and gun fire kills at least six people in Sarajevo in the city's worst violence in months.
- 1996 - A gunman in Dunblane, Scotland, shoots to death 16 children and a teacher.
- 1997 - A military cargo plane crashes in the mountains in northeastern Iran, killing all 88 people on board.
- 1998 - South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, himself once imprisoned for his political beliefs, grants amnesty to some 5 million South Koreans, including six elderly political prisoners.
- 1999 - Renowned violinist Yehudi Menuhin dies in Berlin. His career began at age 11 when he played at Carnegie Hall with the New York Symphony Orchestra.
- 2000 - Alcoa Inc. settles a government lawsuit by agreeing to spend US\$8.8 million to clean up the Mississippi River and reduce pollution.
- 2001 - Foot-and-mouth disease strikes France's vital farm belt.

Sunday, March 13

2002 - Angola's government announces a cease-fire in its 27-year civil war against the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, known as UNITA.

2003 - The U.S. Senate passes a legislation banning a late-term abortion procedure that opponents called "partial-birth abortion."

2004 - Three British men freed from U.S. custody at Guantanamo Bay say they were beaten by American soldiers in Afghanistan and pressured into falsely confessing they'd been caught on video with Osama bin Laden. The three, friends from Tipton, in central England, were among five Britons flown home from Guantanamo. They were held for more than two years and released without charge.

Today's Birthdays:

Holy Roman Emperor Joseph II (1741-1790); Hugo Wolf, Austrian composer (1860-1903); George Seferis, Greek poet and diplomat, Nobel literature laureate (1900-1971); Kofi Awoonor, Ghanaian poet (1935--); Neil Sedaka, U.S. singer (1939--); William H. Macy, U.S. actor (1950--); Dana Delany, U.S. actress (1956--).

Thought For Today:

Die Weltgeschichte ist das Weltgericht (The history of the world is the verdict of the world.) - Friedrich von Schiller, German author (1759-1805).

Load-Date: March 6, 2005

End of Document

Sunday, February 27

Associated Press International

February 19, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 896 words

Byline: The Associated Press

Body

Today is Sunday, Feb. 27, the 58th day of 2005. There are 307 days left in the year.

Highlights in history on this date:

1560 - Treaty of Berwyck is established between England and lords of the Scottish Congregation, calling for expulsion of French from Scotland.

1700 - Southwest Pacific island of New Britain is discovered by English navigator William Dampier.

1861 - Russian troops fire on a crowd in Warsaw that was protesting Russian rule over Poland. Five marchers are killed.

1881 - Boers defeat British force at Majuba Hill in South Africa.

1889 - Burma - now Myanmar - opens railroad from Rangoon to Mandalay.

1901 - Russia's minister of propaganda is murdered to avenge repression of student agitation.

1922 - The U.S. Supreme Court unanimously upholds the 19th Amendment to the Constitution that guaranteed the right of women to vote.

1929 - Turkey signs Litvinov Protocol, or Eastern Pact, between Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Poland and Romania, for renunciation of war.

1933 - Germany's parliament building, the Reichstag, catches fire. The Nazis, blaming the Communists, use the fire as a pretext for suspending civil liberties.

1939 - Britain and France recognize General Francisco Franco's government in Spain; the U.S. Supreme Court outlaws sit-down strikes.

1960 - The U.S. Olympic hockey team defeats the Soviet Union 3-2 at the Winter Games in Squaw Valley, California. The U.S. team goes on to win the gold medal.

1968 - Britain's House of Commons approves bill to restrict colored immigration to Britain.

Sunday, February 27

1972 - U.S. President Nixon and Chinese Premier Chou En-lai issue the Shanghai Communique at the conclusion of Nixon's historic visit to China.

1973 - Members of the American Indian Movement occupy Wounded Knee, South Dakota, the site of the 1890 massacre of Sioux men, women and children. The occupation lasts until May.

1974 - Ethiopia's cabinet resigns as military mutiny spreads from captured city of Asmara.

1976 - Eskimo leaders in Canada present government with claim to 640,000 square kilometers (quarter of million square miles) of land.

1978 - Egypt restricts special privileges of Palestinians living in that country, and says they will be treated as any other Arab aliens.

1982 - Wayne B. Williams is found guilty of murdering two of the 28 young blacks whose bodies were found in the Atlanta area over a 22-month period.

1986 - Ferdinand E. Marcos starts life in exile in Hawaii after hurried departure from Philippines.

1989 - Yugoslavia imposes emergency measures in strike-torn southern province of Kosovo.

1990 - Former Philippine Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile arrested for supporting 1989 coup attempt against Corazon Aquino.

1991 - U.S. President George Bush announces a cessation of offensive military action in the Gulf War.

1992 - A bomb explodes at one of London's busiest train stations injuring 28 people. The Irish Republican Army is blamed.

1993 - Two U.S. soldiers are wounded in a firefight with Somalis in Mogadishu.

1994 - A bomb explodes in a packed Maronite Catholic church in Lebanon, killing nine worshippers and wounding at least 60 as they lined up at the altar to take Communion.

1995 - Baring Brothers and Co., one of Britain's oldest and most prestigious investment banks, goes broke when a trader loses more than US\$800 million gambling in Asian futures markets.

1996 - The United Nations suspends sanctions against the Bosnian Serbs after NATO verifies that Serb forces have withdrawn from buffer zones.

1997 - A car bomb explodes outside a police station in the violence-plagued town of Apartado, Colombia, killing at least seven people and injuring 43.

1998 - U.S. Vice President Al Gore announces that the United States is lifting a 35-year-old arms embargo against South Africa.

1999 - Nigeria elects Gen. Olusegun Obasanjo in the first presidential elections after fifteen years of military rule, but the results are disputed.

2000 - After a stormy debate and vociferous opposition from legislators, Egypt's parliament endorses President Hosni Mubarak's decision to extend the country's 19-year-old state of emergency for three more years.

2001 - A mob of native Dayak fighters in Indonesia attack and massacre at least 118 migrants traveling under police escort. Security forces called in to quell the ethnic violence instead turn their guns on each other.

2002 - Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah says he will press the Arab League to back a Saudi land-for-peace offer to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Sunday, February 27

2003 - Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva deploys 3,000 troops to Rio de Janeiro to back up the 30,000 state and local police officers during the city's six-day Carnival celebration. It is the first time troops are sent to guard the city during Carnival.

2004 - The U.S. military says it will launch its own news service in Iraq and Afghanistan to send military video, text and photos directly to the Internet or news outlets. The \$6.3 million project, expected to begin operating in April, is one of the largest military public affairs projects in recent memory.

Today's Birthdays:

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, U.S. poet (1807-1882); John Steinbeck, U.S. writer (1902-1968); Joanne Woodward, U.S. actress (1930--); Elizabeth Taylor, U.S. actress (1932--); Ralph Nader, U.S. environmental activist (1934--).

Thought For Today:

All that is human must be retrograde if it does not advance - Edward Gibbon, English historian (1737-1794).

Load-Date: February 20, 2005

End of Document

Sisters defy IRA by breaking code of silence: After a brutal killing, Irish Catholics in a Protestant neighbourhood are speaking out against the group that claims to protect them

The Gazette (Montreal)

March 1, 2005 Tuesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2005 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A19

Length: 818 words

Byline: GLENN FRANKEL, Washington Post

Dateline: BELFAST

Body

The drinks were flowing and tempers were high one Sunday night in late January at Magennis's pub when things got out of hand. One man accused

another of insulting his girlfriend, witnesses said. Someone grabbed a knife and slit the alleged offender's throat. A friend of the victim intervened and was stabbed and savagely beaten. When it was over, he lay dying outside on the sidewalk, the other man unconscious beside him.

But this was more than just a fatal bar fight. The dead man was Robert McCartney, 33, well-respected among people in his small Catholic neighbourhood known as the Short Strand, a flash point for sectarian violence between Catholics and Protestants in this divided city. Most extraordinary was the allegation, made by his five sisters, that McCartney was killed by fellow Catholics who are leading members of the **Irish Republican Army**, the outlawed group.

The IRA is a secret organization, and the usual punishment for breaking its code of silence is death. But the sisters defiantly named names and challenged the IRA and its political wing, Sinn Fein, to help bring the alleged killers to justice. The family's campaign has shamed and embarrassed the movement to the point that on Friday, the IRA broke tradition by announcing it had court-martialled and expelled three members. In an unprecedented statement, the organization ordered the men "to come forward and to take responsibility for their actions."

Hundreds of people gathered in Belfast on Sunday to protest against the killing, news reports said.

The McCartney sisters said Saturday they were encouraged by the IRA's action but stuck to their demand that those involved turn themselves in to police. "The only way our family will know the truth is when we hear witness statements in a court," Catherine McCartney told reporters.

For generations, the IRA's role was to defend and protect Catholics in beleaguered enclaves such as the Short Strand from attacks by Protestants. But the McCartney sisters have accused IRA leaders in their neighbourhood of turning into a thuggish mob that terrorizes the area.

Sisters defy IRA by breaking code of silence: After a brutal killing, Irish Catholics in a Protestant neighbourhood are speaking out against the group that clai....

In recent weeks, Sinn Fein and the IRA - known collectively as the republican movement - faced a political crisis following allegations the IRA was responsible for a \$50-million bank robbery in Belfast in December.

But local observers say the McCartney killing has done far more harm to the movement with its core constituency in Northern Ireland.

The men of the IRA once not only protected Catholics from Protestants but also enforced order among residents. Those caught dealing drugs or assaulting women were subjected to beatings, "punishment shootings" or enforced exile from the area.

But since the IRA first declared a ceasefire in 1994, life and politics here have changed. Residents say the IRA is losing its grip on the area. One member was accused of rape, another of throwing his girlfriend from a balcony.

"Some of these guys are psychopaths, but no one does anything to stop them," said Paula McCartney, one of Robert's sisters. "They're likened to the Mafia - but frankly, that's an insult to the Mafia."

Robert McCartney, a father of two young sons, was a forklift operator and a doorman at a well-known nightspot. His sisters said he was a Sinn Fein voter and a gentle, soft-

spoken man, but not inclined to back down when challenged. They said he had several run-ins with IRA people, including one man known as a former IRA local commander.

On Jan. 30, McCartney met friends for drinks at Magennis's, where known republicans were gathered.

The sisters said witnesses told them Brendan Devine, one of McCartney's friends, became embroiled in a confrontation with the former commander over an alleged rude gesture to a girlfriend. "Do you know who I am?" the man bellowed at Devine.

The man signalled to one of his companions, who came up behind Devine and slit his throat. McCartney sought to shield Devine and dragged his friend out to the sidewalk.

More than a dozen men followed them outside. Someone stabbed McCartney in the heart while others pounded his face and head.

Then a cleanup of the evidence began. Paula McCartney and her sisters said witnesses said the killers announced after the fight: "This is IRA business." They warned bystanders: "No one is to say anything."

Brendan Devine survived and said he will testify if the case comes to trial. There were 70 people at the bar that night, Paula McCartney said, but their silence is deafening. Seven people were arrested, but all were released.

Still, the community made its anger clear. More than 600 people turned out for a vigil and 1,000 mourners attended Robert McCartney's funeral.

If republicans were involved in the killing, said Joe O'Donnell, the Sinn Fein city councilor for the area, they were acting as individuals, not as members of the movement.

The republican movement's ideology "certainly doesn't include people killing people in bars," he said.

Load-Date: March 1, 2005

IRA says 'armed struggle' is over

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

July 29, 2005 Friday Final Edition

Copyright 2005 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: LOCAL; Pg. A01; News

Length: 927 words

Byline: Olivia Ward

Body

Was the ***Irish Republican Army*** the latest casualty of Osama bin Laden -- or were five young Belfast ***women*** behind the landmark decision of Northern Ireland's most powerful paramilitary to give up its guns?

"The timing of the IRA statement is certainly interesting," says David Carlton, a terrorism expert and senior lecturer in international studies at Warwick University. "It could be a long term consequence of the 9/11 attack.

For the IRA and other groups with a narrow territorial aim that kind of action was a great embarrassment, and they don't want to be linked with it."

Toronto Star

Yesterday, the IRA ordered all its units to dump their arms, according to a statement read by a former paramilitary prisoner. And it announced a historic end to the "armed struggle" that devastated Northern Ireland for 36 years. During that period, known as the Troubles, more than 3,500 Catholics and Protestants died.

The group's huge storehouse of weapons will be "verifiably put beyond use," the statement said, and it invited Protestant and Catholic clergy to witness the decommissioning, which has been overseen by Canadian general John de Chastelain since the 1998 Good Friday peace deal was signed. But Northern Ireland watchers have been speculating on the reasons behind the IRA move, which comes a week after London's second bombing by suspected members of an al-Qaeda cell.

Carlton, author of a forthcoming book titled *The West's Road to 9/11*, doubts there was such an immediate link: "I don't think this was a consequence of what happened in London. It had been clear for some time that Adams and McGuinness had been considering this move."

Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, leaders of IRA's political wing Sinn Fein, expressed regret over the London bombings, and deplored the latest attack, which has only hardened Western attitudes to terrorism.

In the past week, Irish Justice Minister Michael McDowell also told reporters that he believed the two politicians had abandoned membership of the IRA army council, the group's command centre. Adams and McGuinness have consistently denied that they belong to the council, and distanced themselves from militant activities.

"They were coming close to (ending the armed struggle) in December, but negotiations failed," says Paul Arthur, director of the peace and conflict studies program at University of Ulster. "At that time Sinn Fein was doing very well politically, in both northern and southern Ireland, the European elections, and the 2005 Westminster (British) elections. They had acquired a certain arrogance."

IRA says 'armed struggle' is over

But meanwhile, the growing revulsion for violence that followed 9/11 was bringing increased pressure on the IRA to disarm. And, says Arthur, it intensified when the five sisters of murdered Belfast man Robert McCartney -- stabbed to death in a Belfast bar last January -- launched a campaign to call the IRA to account for involvement in the fatal incident.

They blamed the IRA for the murder, and interference with evidence and prospective witnesses. Three men were later expelled from the IRA, and it offered to shoot the murderers.

But McCartney's sisters continued their battle for justice, with support from violence-weary Catholics as well as Protestants: "we are now dealing with criminal gangs who are using the cloak of romanticism around the IRA to murder people on the streets and walk away from it," his sister Catherine McCartney told the BBC.

And, she added, the republican group's "struggle in terms of what it was 10 years ago is now over."

While the McCartney sisters took their campaign to the United States, Sinn Fein and the IRA were reeling from much higher level accusations of wrongdoing -- a stinging rebuke from the British and Irish prime ministers, following a \$55 million Cdn armed robbery of a Belfast bank last December.

"When Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern insisted publicly that the robbery was the work of the Provisional IRA ... the die was cast. Romantic freedom-fighting was one thing, squalid criminality quite another," wrote the New Statesman's U.S. editor Andrew Stephen, in a scathing account of Adams's declining popularity in America.

The disapproval of the IRA's traditional American allies -- and funders -- was a major factor in its about-face, agrees President Bill Clinton's former Northern Ireland envoy, Bruce Morrison.

"Any credibility that the use of force had (in America) has drained away," Morrison told the BBC. "The politics of armed struggle is gone. Only peaceful democratic struggle will be supported."

This spring, Adams had a bitter taste of how much things had changed since he was welcomed into elite Washington circles a decade earlier, to the annoyance of the British government.

"His traditional St. Patrick's Day pilgrimage to the nation's capital will not include two stops that he has grown accustomed to in recent years," said the Washington Post. "An audience at the White House and a meeting with longtime supporter Senator Edward Kennedy."

During Adams's visit, Bush and some of his Democratic opponents made their displeasure public, with the president urging the IRA to disband, and Kennedy declaring "the IRA's criminality is undermining the peace process, and it's time for Sinn Fein and the IRA to hear this message clearly from the U.S."

While doors were closed to Adams, the five McCartney sisters were received by Bush and prominent congressmen, including Kennedy -- a signal that if the war in Northern Ireland was not over, the IRA had lost the battle for hearts and minds. For the group's political leaders, the way forward seemed clear.

Load-Date: July 29, 2005

IRA assailed for offer to shoot its own: Victim's family demands justice, not revenge

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

March 10, 2005 Thursday

All but Toronto Edition

Copyright 2005 National Post All Rights Reserved

Section: WORLD; Pg. A10

Length: 843 words

Byline: National Post, with files from The New York Times and news services

Dateline: BELFAST

Body

BELFAST - An extraordinary offer by the **Irish Republican Army** to shoot some of its own members to atone for a murder they committed has rebounded on the paramilitary group, producing calls to disband the organization and take the gun out of Irish politics once and for all.

Tony Blair, the British Prime Minister, said yesterday the IRA's suggestion defied description, while Mitchell Reiss, the U.S. special envoy to Northern Ireland, declared, "it's time for the IRA to go out of business."

Their condemnation came as the family of Robert McCartney, fatally stabbed by a gang including IRA members after a bar fight in January, said fear of retribution was still preventing witnesses from going to the police.

"There were 70 people in the bar.... No one has come forward with anything to the police that they can act upon," his sister Catherine told reporters.

The McCartney murder has also handed fresh ammunition to rivals of Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing and the largest republican party in Northern Ireland. They say the party must distance itself from the paramilitaries if it is to remain a part of the government.

The crisis erupted after the killing of Mr. McCartney, a 33-year-old father of two, by a drunken gang in downtown Belfast on Jan. 30. Mr. McCartney, a Roman Catholic and Sinn Fein voter, had gone to the Magennis pub with his friend Brendan Devine for a few drinks on a Thursday night.

Some **women** sitting nearby complained about their language. Among their escorts were several IRA men, including Gerard "Jock" Davison, head of the local branch of the paramilitary organization.

Mr. McCartney apologized, but Mr. Davison was not satisfied and was allegedly the first to attack, falling on Mr. Devine.

When Mr. McCartney attempted to intervene, he was beaten and stabbed to death as he tried to defend his friend. Both men were left for dead, with their throats and stomachs slashed open. Mr. Devine survived.

IRA assailed for offer to shoot its own: Victim's family demands justice, not revenge

Police arrested 10 men, including Mr. Davison, but were forced to release them after they refused to talk. Although the pub was crowded that night, police could not find witnesses brave enough to come forward.

There the matter would probably have rested but for Mr. McCartney's family -- his five sisters were outraged at the Sicilian-style omerta over their brother's murder and the cover-up. Among other things, they claim IRA members cleaned up the bar after the killing.

They publicly called for justice and asked Sinn Fein to do something. A protest march brought out hundreds of republican supporters to demand the killers turn themselves in.

"This isn't about what the IRA has done for the community in the past," said Paula McCartney, a 40-year-old mother of five.

"This is about the IRA today taking responsibility for their men, who seem to be out of control. They have to ask themselves what are they now -- some sort of militia?" she told the Belfast Telegraph.

Already stung by criticism of its reported role in a massive bank heist before Christmas, the IRA has scrambled to explain its actions. It issued a lengthy statement on Tuesday detailing its own investigation into the killing, revealing that IRA representatives had met twice with the McCartney family.

"The names of those involved in the attacks and stabbings of Robert McCartney, Brendan Devine and the assault on another man in Market Street were given to the family," the statement said.

The statement said four people were directly involved in the attacks, and two of them were "IRA volunteers."

"The IRA knows the identity of all these men," the statement said.

At a meeting with the McCartney family, the statement said, IRA representatives "stated in clear terms that the IRA was prepared to shoot the people directly involved in the killing of Robert McCartney."

The family, however, "made it clear that they did not want physical action taken against those involved," the statement said. "They stated that they wanted those individuals to give a full account of their actions in court."

While IRA efforts have run up against public disillusion with the organization, there has been a groundswell of sympathy for the McCartney sisters. The sisters, along with their aunt and Mr. McCartney's fiancée, Bridgeen Hagan, have been dubbed the "Magnificent Seven" by local media.

The IRA said it has expelled three members, while Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Fein and MP for West Belfast, said seven more had been suspended from his group. He also emphasized the killing was not sanctioned.

"These were a group of people who were out drinking, who sparked off each other. It wasn't an IRA attack. It wasn't a republican plan, it wasn't an operation," he said.

But the damage to the group runs deep. Mr. Blair yesterday threatened to exclude Sinn Fein from Northern Ireland politics over the scandal. And the White House, which since 1995 has invited Sinn Fein or other Northern Ireland political leaders to its St. Patrick's Day celebrations, has cancelled the offer.

Instead, members of the McCartney family are set to visit Washington next week to take part in the party.

Graphic

IRA assailed for offer to shoot its own: Victim's family demands justice, not revenge

Photo: Agence France-Presse; Claire McCartney, centre, and her sister Catherine, right, sisters of IRA murder victim Robert McCartney, speak to the media in Belfast with his fiancée, Bridgeen Hagan. McCartney's fatal stabbing in a bar brawl has led to calls for the disbanding of the paramilitary group.; Black & White

Photo: Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams.

Load-Date: March 10, 2005

End of Document

Revulsion as IRA offers to shoot two of its own: Attempt to atone for killing backfires on paramilitaries

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

March 10, 2005 Thursday

National Edition

Copyright 2005 National Post All Rights Reserved

Section: WORLD; Pg. A13

Length: 843 words

Byline: National Post, with files from The New York Times and news services

Dateline: BELFAST

Body

BELFAST - An extraordinary offer by the ***Irish Republican Army*** to shoot some of its own members to atone for a murder they committed has rebounded on the paramilitary group, producing calls to disband the organization and take the gun out of Irish politics once and for all.

Tony Blair, the British Prime Minister, said yesterday the IRA's suggestion defied description, while Mitchell Reiss, the U.S. special envoy to Northern Ireland, declared, "it's time for the IRA to go out of business."

Their condemnation came as the family of Robert McCartney, fatally stabbed by a gang including IRA members after a bar fight in January, said fear of retribution was still preventing witnesses from going to the police.

"There were 70 people in the bar.... No one has come forward with anything to the police that they can act upon," his sister Catherine told reporters.

The McCartney murder has also handed fresh ammunition to rivals of Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing and the largest republican party in Northern Ireland. They say the party must distance itself from the paramilitaries if it is to remain a part of the government.

The crisis erupted after the killing of Mr. McCartney, a 33-year-old father of two, by a drunken gang in downtown Belfast on Jan. 30. Mr. McCartney, a Roman Catholic and Sinn Fein voter, had gone to the Magennis pub with his friend Brendan Devine for a few drinks on a Thursday night.

Some ***women*** sitting nearby complained about their language. Among their escorts were several IRA men, including Gerard "Jock" Davison, head of the local branch of the paramilitary organization.

Mr. McCartney apologized, but Mr. Davison was not satisfied and was allegedly the first to attack, falling on Mr. Devine.

When Mr. McCartney attempted to intervene, he was beaten and stabbed to death as he tried to defend his friend. Both men were left for dead, with their throats and stomachs slashed open. Mr. Devine survived.

Revulsion as IRA offers to shoot two of its own: Attempt to atone for killing backfires on paramilitaries

Police arrested 10 men, including Mr. Davison, but were forced to release them after they refused to talk. Although the pub was crowded that night, police could not find witnesses brave enough to come forward.

There the matter would probably have rested but for Mr. McCartney's family -- his five sisters were outraged at the Sicilian-style omerta over their brother's murder and the cover-up. Among other things, they claim IRA members cleaned up the bar after the killing.

They publicly called for justice and asked Sinn Fein to do something. A protest march brought out hundreds of republican supporters to demand the killers turn themselves in.

"This isn't about what the IRA has done for the community in the past," said Paula McCartney, a 40-year-old mother of five.

"This is about the IRA today taking responsibility for their men, who seem to be out of control. They have to ask themselves what are they now -- some sort of militia?" she told the Belfast Telegraph.

Already stung by criticism of its reported role in a massive bank heist before Christmas, the IRA has scrambled to explain its actions. It issued a lengthy statement on Tuesday detailing its own investigation into the killing, revealing that IRA representatives had met twice with the McCartney family.

"The names of those involved in the attacks and stabbings of Robert McCartney, Brendan Devine and the assault on another man in Market Street were given to the family," the statement said.

The statement said four people were directly involved in the attacks, and two of them were "IRA volunteers."

"The IRA knows the identity of all these men," the statement said.

At a meeting with the McCartney family, the statement said, IRA representatives "stated in clear terms that the IRA was prepared to shoot the people directly involved in the killing of Robert McCartney."

The family, however, "made it clear that they did not want physical action taken against those involved," the statement said. "They stated that they wanted those individuals to give a full account of their actions in court."

While IRA efforts have run up against public disillusion with the organization, there has been a groundswell of sympathy for the McCartney sisters. The sisters, along with their aunt and Mr. McCartney's fiancée, Bridgeen Hagan, have been dubbed the "Magnificent Seven" by local media.

The IRA said it has expelled three members, while Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Fein and MP for West Belfast, said seven more had been suspended from his group. He also emphasized the killing was not sanctioned.

"These were a group of people who were out drinking, who sparked off each other. It wasn't an IRA attack. It wasn't a republican plan, it wasn't an operation," he said.

But the damage to the group runs deep. Mr. Blair yesterday threatened to exclude Sinn Fein from Northern Ireland politics over the scandal. And the White House, which since 1995 has invited Sinn Fein or other Northern Ireland political leaders to its St. Patrick's Day celebrations, has cancelled the offer.

Instead, members of the McCartney family are set to visit Washington next week to take part in the party.

Graphic

Revulsion as IRA offers to shoot two of its own: Attempt to atone for killing backfires on paramilitaries

Photo: Agence France-Presse; Claire McCartney, centre, and her sister Catherine, right, sisters of IRA murder victim Robert McCartney, speak to the media in Belfast with McCartney's fiancée, Bridgeen Hagan. McCartney's stabbing in a bar brawl has led to calls for the disbanding of the paramilitary group.; Black & White

Photo: Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams.

Load-Date: March 10, 2005

End of Document

Did sisters bring down IRA?; Hardening attitudes toward terrorism could be one reason for surprise decision

The Record (Kitchener-Waterloo, Ontario)

July 29, 2005 Friday Final Edition

Copyright 2005 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FRONT; Pg. A5; NEWS

Length: 930 words

Byline: OLIVIA WARD

Body

Was the **Irish Republican Army** the latest casualty of Osama bin Laden -- or were five young Belfast **women** behind the landmark decision of Northern Ireland's most powerful paramilitary to give up its guns?

"The timing of the IRA statement is certainly interesting," says David Carlton, a terrorism expert and senior lecturer in international studies at Warwick University. "It could be a long term consequence of the 9/11 attack. For the IRA and other groups with a narrow territorial aim that kind of action was a great embarrassment, and they don't want to be linked with it."

Toronto Star

Yesterday the IRA ordered all its units to dump their arms, according to a statement read by a former paramilitary prisoner. And it announced a historic end to the "armed struggle" that devastated Northern Ireland for 36 years. During that period, known as the Troubles, more than 3,600 Catholics and Protestants died.

The group's huge storehouse of weapons will be "verifiably put beyond use," the statement said, and it invited Protestant and Catholic clergy to witness the decommissioning, which has been overseen by Canadian general John de Chastelain since the 1998 Good Friday peace deal was signed.

But Northern Ireland watchers have been speculating on the reasons behind the IRA move, which comes a week after London's second bombing by suspected members of an al-Qaida cell.

Carlton, author of a forthcoming book titled *The West's Road to 9/11*, doubts there was such an immediate link: "I don't think this was a consequence of what happened in London. It had been clear for some time that Adams and McGuinness had been considering this move."

Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, leaders of the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein, expressed regret over the London bombings, and deplored the latest attack, which has only hardened Western attitudes to terrorism.

In the past week, Irish Justice Minister Michael McDowell also told reporters that he believed the two politicians had abandoned membership of the IRA army council, the group's command centre. Adams and McGuinness have consistently denied that they belong to the council, and distanced themselves from militant activities.

"They were coming close to (ending the armed struggle) in December, but negotiations failed," says Paul Arthur, director of the peace and conflict studies program at University of Ulster. "At that time Sinn Fein was doing very well

Did sisters bring down IRA?; Hardening attitudes toward terrorism could be one reason for surprise decision

politically, in both northern and southern Ireland, the European elections, and the 2005 Westminster (British) elections. They had acquired a certain arrogance."

But meanwhile, the growing revulsion for violence that followed 9/11 was bringing increased pressure on the IRA to disarm. And, says Arthur, it intensified when the five sisters of murdered Belfast man Robert McCartney -- stabbed to death in a Belfast bar last January -- launched a campaign to call the IRA to account for involvement in the fatal incident.

They blamed the IRA for the murder, and interference with evidence and prospective witnesses. Three men were later expelled from the IRA, and it offered to shoot the murderers.

But McCartney's sisters continued their battle for justice, with support from violence-weary Catholics as well as Protestants: "we are now dealing with criminal gangs who are using the cloak of romanticism around the IRA to murder people on the streets and walk away from it," his sister Catherine McCartney told the BBC.

And, she added, the republican group's "struggle in terms of what it was 10 years ago is now over."

While the McCartney sisters took their campaign to the United States, Sinn Fein and the IRA were reeling from much higher level accusations of wrongdoing -- a stinging rebuke from the British and Irish prime ministers, following a \$55 million (Cdn) armed robbery of a Belfast bank last December.

"When Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern insisted publicly that the robbery was the work of the Provisional IRA the die was cast. Romantic freedom-fighting was one thing, squalid criminality quite another," wrote the New Statesman's U.S. editor Andrew Stephen, in a scathing account of Adams' declining popularity in America.

The disapproval of the IRA's traditional American allies -- and funders -- was a major factor in its about-face, agrees president Bill Clinton's former Northern Ireland envoy, Bruce Morrison.

"Any credibility that the use of force had (in America) has drained away," Morrison told the BBC. "The politics of armed struggle is gone. Only peaceful democratic struggle will be supported."

This spring, Adams had a bitter taste of how much things had changed since he was welcomed into elite Washington circles a decade earlier, to the annoyance of the British government.

"His traditional St. Patrick's Day pilgrimage to the nation's capital will not include two stops that he has grown accustomed to in recent years," said the Washington Post. "An audience at the White House and a meeting with longtime supporter Sen. Edward Kennedy."

During Adams' visit, President George W. Bush and some of his Democratic opponents made their displeasure public, with the President urging the IRA to disband, and Kennedy declaring "the IRA's criminality is undermining the peace process, and it's time for Sinn Fein and the IRA to hear this message clearly from the U.S."

While doors were closed to Adams, the five McCartney sisters were received by Bush and prominent politicians, including Kennedy -- a signal that if the war in Northern Ireland was not over, the IRA had lost the battle for hearts and minds. For the group's political leaders, the way forward seemed clear.

Graphic

Photo: ASSOCIATED PRESS; Claire McCartney (centre) with her sisters Catherine (left) and Paula, speak to the media after a meeting with U.S. consul Dean Pittman in Belfast, in a Feb. 16, 2005, photo. They were discussing the case of their brother Robert McCartney, 33, who was murdered in Belfast. The sisters were vocal in their condemnation of the IRA.

Did sisters bring down IRA?; Hardening attitudes toward terrorism could be one reason for surprise decision

Load-Date: July 29, 2005

End of Document

Peak-hour peril ends Olympic joy

Herald Sun (Melbourne, Australia)

July 8, 2005 Friday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WRAP; Pg. D02

Length: 947 words

Byline: John Ferguson

Body

THE murderers waited until 8.59am British time to strike at London's heart.

They did so with crude and brutal precision as millions of commuters, trapped like sardines, were led to the slaughter on the Underground and in their buses.

They hit Aldgate East tube station first, wounding at least 90.

Within minutes several explosions would tear through a city that just minutes and hours before had been revelling in Olympic glory.

But when the terrorists struck at peak hour at least one bus was peeled open close to Russell Square near King's Cross train terminal.

The walking wounded would emerge, bewildered, from a series of Tube stations across central London.

Sarah Reid, a passenger on the train hit at Aldgate East described a sudden jolt forward.

"There was a really hard banging from the carriage next door to us after the explosion," Ms Reid said.

"That's where it happened. There was a fire beside me. I saw flames outside on the window of my carriage. I saw bodies. I think some people may have died."

Survivors collapsed on footpaths, faces blackened and their suits torn from their bodies.

There were reports of limbs blown from bodies on the Underground.

Word spread that London may also have suffered its first suicide bombing; not even the murderous *Irish Republican Army* had been so bloody-minded.

Television footage showed graphic images of a victim being revived. No one knows if they survived.

The bombs exploded at the start of a mild summer's day, with rain forecast, as the city contemplated its life as the 2012 Olympic city and Australia prepared for its first one-day cricket match against England at Headingley in Leeds.

"I was on the bus. I looked round and the seats behind me were gone," a witness said.

Peak-hour peril ends Olympic joy

More than that, the middle-aged victim of the bus blast in central London could or would not say.

Shocked, disorientated, and with oil and pieces of debris in her hair and clothes, she asked for directions to Holborn but refused all offers of help.

Jim Millington, of Tavistock Square, reported victims lying on the footpath after a double-decker bus was ripped apart, its roof lying on the road.

"It must have been on the bus because the top deck is destroyed and what's below is not destroyed," he said.

"It was a bomb on the top deck of the bus."

Hospitals were thrown into panic with hundreds of doctors and nurses sent to emergency wards.

Londoner Andy Abernathy said a loud bang had heralded the start of mass casualties on a train on the Piccadilly line between King's Cross and Russell Square. The train had been derailed.

"There were a lot of serious injuries down there as well. A lot of serious injuries, head injuries," he said.

"A guy by me thought he was going to die, I'm hoping he got out OK."

The train had just left King's Cross, perhaps having left the station for just a minute.

Commuters heard a huge bang and then smoke enveloped the carriages.

Screaming and crying followed, passengers said, while rescue teams took 20 minutes to free the victims.

Trapped passengers were forced to break open windows and then race, petrified in fear of further explosions.

"It was very scary while we were stuck on the train," a train victim said.

"Very silent and we were thinking we were not going to get out. People thought they were just going to suffocate."

Most of the explosions occurred on trains.

One witness, Darren Hall, said some passengers emerging from an evacuated subway station had soot and blood on their faces.

He told BBC TV that he was evacuated along with others near the main King's Cross station and only later heard a blast.

Another passenger, who had left the Tube at Fenchurch St station and walked to Aldgate East, told the BBC he saw injured people.

"As I walked through the bus station I could see people lying on the ground, black, as if they'd been covered in smoke," he said.

"There were about three or four people on the floor being treated."

Mobile phone networks quickly became jammed with callers trying to reassure loved ones, and shops filled with people begging to use the phone.

Some young women in a hairdressers' shop were in tears.

Another witness, a computer programmer at a London investment bank, was in the same train when he heard an explosion in the carriage in front of him.

Peak-hour peril ends Olympic joy

"There was a loud bang and everybody collapsed to the floor because of smoke. But everybody was very calm and we waited for people to direct us," he said.

Back at Russell Square, people talked of hearing explosions, but the barely-concealed panic as the police combed the area for bombs made any degree of clarity impossible.

Traffic stopped completely, with engines off, the police lines blocking escape routes for all but cycles and motorcycles.

Sirens howled in the eerie quiet.

The bombings devastated the British Olympics bid committee, which was nursing the effects in Singapore of the victory hangover.

London mayor Ken Livingstone immediately boarded a plane to his city, returning to a city in gridlock, its financial markets having fallen.

"There have been a number of dreadful incidents across London today," said Home Secretary Charles Clarke, Britain's top law enforcement officer.

In the hours that followed the bombings, locals reported an eerie calm descending over the English capital.

Pubs around Liverpool Street station were crammed with worried commuters and workers, waiting for more news.

Britain's Cabinet, meanwhile, was in an emergency meeting and Prime Minister Tony Blair was racing back to London from the G8 meeting in Scotland.

Mr Blair has had many dark hours, but few as grim or as real as a suspected al-Qaida attack.

Load-Date: July 8, 2005

Bomb kills two U.S. soldiers, wounds third in Afghanistan

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

June 5, 2005 Sunday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2005 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 16A; Newspaper

Length: 995 words

Dateline: KABUL, Afghanistan; MADRID; BANGKOK, Thailand; SINGAPORE; POSO, Indonesia; BELFAST, Northern Ireland; LIMA, Peru

Body

A bomb exploded next to a U.S. military convoy in eastern Afghanistan, killing two U.S. soldiers and wounding a third, the military said Saturday. An Afghan interpreter also was wounded in the attack Friday in Urgan district in Paktika province, the military said.

The names of the dead were withheld pending notification of their family.

The deaths brought to 147 the number of U.S. troops killed in and around Afghanistan since their mission began in 2001.

Compiled from Times Wires Proposed ETA talks incite huge protest in Spain

MADRID - Hundreds of thousands of people packed the streets of Madrid on Saturday to protest a government offer to hold talks with the armed group ETA if it renounces violence.

The demonstrators shouted slogans against Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero and his Socialist government and demanded the resignation of the government's ombudsman for victims of terrorism, Gregorio Peces Barba.

Zapatero says the time is right to seek talks with ETA, arguing that the group has been seriously weakened by a wave of arrests over the past two years and has not killed anyone since May 2003.

ETA, whose initials stand for Basque Homeland and Freedom, has killed more than 800 people since starting its violent campaign for independence in 1968. The group wants independence for the three-province Basque region in northern Spain, along the border with France.

Hmong hiding in jungle start emerging in Laos

BANGKOK, Thailand - After decades on the run, 170 women, children and old men of the Hmong ethnic minority - once part of a U.S.-backed secret army fighting communists in Laos - emerged from their jungle hideouts on Saturday to surrender to the government.

Thousands of their fellow hill tribespeople are expected to follow their move, the first step in closing the book on one of the most tragic episodes of the Vietnam War.

Bomb kills two U.S. soldiers, wounds third in Afghanistan

U.S. sympathizers who rendezvoused with the tribespeople said the first batch turning themselves in to the communist government were received warmly when they arrived shortly after first light at a Hmong village in central Laos.

The Hmong were recruited by the CIA to fight on behalf of a pro-American government during the Vietnam War, only to find themselves all but abandoned after their communist enemies, the Pathet Lao, won a long civil war in 1975. Fearing for their lives, many fled to Thailand, later resettling in the United States and elsewhere. But thousands stayed behind, some adjusting to the new hardline regime and others staying in the jungle, where they faced continuing attacks.

Rumsfeld says Al-Jazeera promotes terrorism

SINGAPORE - Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld said Saturday the Al-Jazeera television network promoted terrorism by airing beheadings and other attacks.

"If anyone here lived in the Middle East and watched a network like Al-Jazeera day after day after day, even if you were an American you would begin to believe that America was bad," Rumsfeld told an Asian defense conference.

"Quite honestly, I do not get up in the morning and think that America is what's wrong with the world. The people that are going on television, chopping off people's heads is what's wrong with the world.

"And television networks that carry it and promote it and are Johnny-on-the-spot every time there's a terrorist act are promoting it," he said.

Qatar-based Al-Jazeera, a pan-Arab station, denies it holds any anti-American bias and says it reports the news objectively.

17 suspects held in Indonesian bombing

POSO, Indonesia - Indonesian police said Saturday they have arrested 17 suspects in last weekend's bombings in a Christian town that killed 20 people.

None of the 17 - including the head of a local prison, three prisoners and an Islamic junior high school master - have been formally charged over the twin blasts at a bustling market in Tentena, Central Sulawesi.

Brig. Gen. Aryanto Sutadi, chief of Central Sulawesi police, said two more suspects are being sought. The 17 arrested included the two who carried out the bombings in Tentena, he said.

The United States and Australia have warned their citizens to avoid traveling to Indonesia.

Man accused of IRA link arraigned in pub death

BELFAST, Northern Ireland - A reputed ***Irish Republican Army*** veteran was arraigned Saturday on a charge he murdered a Catholic man, a killing that has overshadowed Northern Ireland's peace process and fueled an exceptional public campaign by the victim's sisters.

Amid heavy police security, Terence "Jock" Davison, 49, offered no plea as prosecutors accused him of killing Robert McCartney, who was killed outside a Belfast pub Jan. 30.

One of Davison's alleged IRA accomplices, 36-year-old James McCormick, was charged with the attempted murder of McCartney's friend, Brendan Devine. McCormick, who also offered no plea, had been arrested Wednesday in Birmingham in England.

Peruvian military officials linked to 1985 massacre

Bomb kills two U.S. soldiers, wounds third in Afghanistan

LIMA, Peru - A Peruvian judge ordered the arrest of 29 military officials for their alleged involvement in the decades-old massacre of dozens of campesinos in an Andean village, officials said Friday.

Judge Walter Castillo ordered the arrests in connection with the 1985 torture and killing of 72 villagers in Accomarca in the department of Ayacucho, 250 miles southeast of Lima, according to the communique.

All the victims were Indian women, children and village elders. The women were raped before being killed. The young men had left the village, which Peru's military suspected of cooperating with leftist Shining Path guerrillas.

Army Gen. Jose Williams Zapata, now chief of Peru's Northern Military Region, was one of the names on the arrest list. Peru's military high command did not immediately issue a statement.

The Accomarca case was revived after Accomarca survivors testified to Peru's truth commission, which issued a final report in 2003 blaming state security forces for nearly half of the almost 70,000 people killed during Peru's bloody insurgency from 1980 to 2000.

Load-Date: June 5, 2005

End of Document

George Best, Soccer Star and Pop Icon, Is Dead at 59

The New York Times

November 26, 2005 Saturday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 1; Sports Desk; Pg. 13

Length: 1001 words

Byline: By JACK BELL

Body

George Best, an Irish soccer star who captivated the public with his flamboyant skill on the field and his playboy exploits off it, died yesterday in London after a long struggle with alcohol abuse. He was 59.

Best was hospitalized in 2000 for a liver condition and had a liver transplant in 2002. He was admitted to the hospital on Oct. 1 with flulike symptoms, and went into intensive care last week because of a lung infection, according to a report posted on the Manchester United Web site. The report said that he developed internal bleeding early Thursday morning.

In the staid and tradition-bound world of English soccer during the 1960's, Best quickly came to personify the rebelliousness of that decade. As soccer's first pop icon, often compared to the American football star Joe Namath of the Jets, Best began his professional career with Manchester United, one of the most powerful clubs in the world.

Best was to soccer what the Beatles were to music and pop culture: a reminder that the world was about to change, for better or worse. He was an entertainer on the field long before sportsmen became celebrities. He was a working-class hero in the most working-class British sport, continually sticking his finger in the eye of the establishment.

He joined Manchester United in 1961 as a 15-year-old apprentice from the public housing of Belfast, Northern Ireland. Bob Bishop, Manchester United's scout in Ireland, had discovered Best and sent a message to the club's manager, Sir Matt Busby: "I think I found you a genius."

Best made his Manchester United debut at right wing on Sept. 14, 1963, against West Bromwich Albion, and scored his first goal in only his second league appearance. The club won the English First Division (now Premier League) championship the next season, 1964-65, and again in 1966-67. His brilliant yet tumultuous career in the north of England ended when he walked out on the club in 1974 at age 27 after having scored 137 goals in 361 league appearances for United and an additional 41 goals in 105 games in various domestic and international cup competitions. Over all, he scored 180 goals in 465 appearances for United.

Best played in his first international match for Northern Ireland at age 17 and made 37 international appearances, scoring nine goals. In November 1972, he was forced to withdraw from a game against Spain in Northern Ireland because of death threats against him from the **Irish Republican Army**. Best never played in the World Cup finals because Northern Ireland did not qualify until 1982.

George Best, Soccer Star and Pop Icon, Is Dead at 59

Best dazzled the world with his prodigious dribbling skills, often taking a withdrawn position in the midfield, then dashing forward, the ball seemingly tethered to his foot. His touch of genius and individual flair on the field were matched only by his outrageous behavior off the field, which mesmerized and often incensed a sporting public that had come to expect its soccer stars to be seen on Saturdays and not heard from the rest of the week.

Perhaps the apex of Best's career came at Wembley Stadium in London in 1968, when he scored the eventual game-winning goal in Manchester United's classic 4-1 victory over Benfica of Portugal in the European Cup final, the most prestigious club competition in Europe. Best was selected as the European Player of the Year in 1968.

That was only the beginning of Best's roller-coaster career, from the pinnacle with Manchester United to forgettable lower-division clubs in Britain, Spain and Australia. He also played for three clubs in the North American Soccer League from 1976 to 1981, scoring 54 goals in 139 games.

Off the field, Best nurtured a playboy image that transcended the world of soccer. He built a mansion in Manchester and lived under police protection as he was besieged by women. With Mike Summerbee, a player for crosstown rival Manchester City, Best opened a number of fashion boutiques and hair salons. He also became the proprietor of a travel agency and several nightclubs.

All the enterprises were ultimately unsuccessful. Still, Best's popularity was unprecedented -- during the 1960's he received about 10,000 letters a week from fans around the world and employed three full-time staffers to answer them.

Frequent and unexplained upheavals with club management were seen at the time as the actions of an obstreperous, immature athlete. Later, it came to light that Best had a drinking problem. In 1982, while playing in San Jose, Calif., Best was suspended indefinitely by the club and entered an alcohol rehabilitation program. During a bankruptcy hearing in London in 1983, Best told the court, "I am an alcoholic."

"My drinking over the last 12 years has been the root of my trouble," he added.

Best is survived by a son, an ex-wife, four sisters, a brother and his father.

Whatever off-the-field demons Best dealt with, on the field he was famous for flaunting his skills while making the opposition feel impotent. With his speed, balance, vision and control of the ball, he would taunt opponents.

He once enraged the opposition when he tapped the ball off the shins of two defenders before setting off for the goal. In one game against Chelsea, he took off his red Manchester United jersey and, with his foot on the ball, waved the jersey like a bullfighter in a defender's face. His theatrics resulted in his being treated savagely by opposing players, and his quick temper often led to confrontations on the field.

Always impetuous and outspoken, Best was inducted into the International Football Hall of Champions in Brussels in 2000, and caused a stir when he criticized the skills of David Beckham, a star for Manchester United at the time. "He cannot kick with his left foot," Best said. "He cannot head a ball. He cannot tackle and he doesn't score many goals. Apart from that, he's all right."

Several years ago, Best summed up his life when he said: "I spent a lot of my money on booze, birds and fast cars. The rest I just squandered."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

George Best, Soccer Star and Pop Icon, Is Dead at 59

Photo: George Best playing for Manchester United in 1969. Born in Belfast, Northern Ireland, he became a star for his exploits on and off the field. (Photo by Associated Press)

Load-Date: November 26, 2005

End of Document

EUROPE AT 1100GMT EDITORS: The following is a digest of Europe's top general news,

AP Worldstream

July 28, 2005 Thursday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 1067 words

Body

TOP STORIES:

BRITAIN-BOMBINGS: Nine arrested in investigation into London bombings

LONDON - Anti-terrorist officers arrest nine men in raids in connection with the botched July 21 attacks on London's transit system, bringing to 20 the number of people police have in custody, including one of the alleged bombers. BC-EU-GEN--BRITAIN-BOMBINGS. Moved. By Ed Johnson. AP Photos LMN101.

BELFAST, Northern Ireland - Politicians across Ireland and Britain wait anxiously for a long-sought **Irish Republican Army** declaration on its future intentions, chiefly on whether the outlawed group will disarm and disband. BC-EU-GEN--NIRELAND-IRA. Developing. By Shawn Pogatchnik. AP Photos.

PARIS - Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon meets with France's foreign minister as the two countries try to forget years of diplomatic tension. BC-EU-GEN--FRANCE-ISRAEL. Developing. By Angela Doland. AP Photos DLM101-108.

ROME - Italy's interior minister prepares to address the Senate to present a new anti-terrorism package, and little opposition is expected following bombings this month in London and the Egyptian resort of Sharm El-Sheik. BC-EU-GEN--ITALY-TERRORISM. By 1300GMT. By Maria Sanminiatielli.

LONDON - Britain's Court of Appeal overturns a ruling that a terminally ill patient has the right to stop doctors withdrawing treatment when his illness reaches its final stages. BC-EU-GEN--BRITAIN-RIGHT TO LIFE. Moved.

PARIS - The National Council of Resistance of Iran, an exiled opposition group, is to hold a news conference on the Iranian nuclear program. BC-EU-GEN--FRANCE-IRAN OPPOSITION-NUCLEAR. By 1100GMT. By Sophie Nicholson. AP Photos.

GRAZ, Austria - Police in the southern Austrian city of Graz say they have found bomb-making materials in an apartment and placed the 35-year-old resident under investigation in connection with two 1990s bombing attacks. BC-EU-GEN--AUSTRIA-BOMB MATERIALS. Moved.

BUCHAREST, Romania - A court frees a monk and four nuns who were charged with killing a nun last month during an exorcism ritual, authorities say. BC-EU-GEN--ROMANIA-EXORCISM DEATH. Moved.

EUROPE AT 1100GMT EDITORS: The following is a digest of Europe's top general news,

SOFIA, Bulgaria - Election-winning Socialists fail to form Bulgaria's new government, party leader Sergei Stanishev concedes, hours after parliament elected him prime minister by one vote. BC-EU-POL--BULGARIA-GOVERNMENT. Moved. By Nevyana Hadjiyska. AP Photo.

VIENNA, Austria - Lawyers representing the relatives of 155 people who died in a November 2000 cable-car fire in Austria's Alps say they have filed new lawsuits in the United States seeking US\$1.32 billion ([euro]1.09 billion) in compensation. BC-EU-GEN--AUSTRIA-CABLE CAR LAWSUIT. Moved.

MAKHACHKALA, Russia - Police storm a building in the volatile Dagestan region, killing three suspected militants in the latest in a series of operations in southern Russia, an official says. BC-EU-GEN--RUSSIA-DAGESTAN. Moved.

BUCHAREST, Romania - Romania will accept hundreds of Uzbek refugees who are currently sheltering in Kyrgyztan, President Traian Basescu says. BC-EU-GEN--ROMANIA-UZBEK REFUGEES. Moved.

VIENNA, Austria - A Vienna-based media watchdog expresses concern over proposed changes to Serbia's broadcasting regulations, saying they will delay planned privatizations of news outlets now run by local authorities. BC-EU-GEN--AUSTRIA-SERBIA-MEDIA FREEDOM. Moved.

WARSAW, Poland - Poland's attempts to promote democracy in neighboring Belarus have drawn increasingly defensive reactions from the former Soviet republic, with Poland escalating the tit-for-tat exchanges by recalling its ambassador from Minsk. BC-EU-GEN--POLAND-BELARUS-DISPUTE. Moved. By Vanessa Gera.

-BC-EU-GEN--EU-BELARUS. BRUSSELS, Belgium - The European Union says it is deeply concerned by rising human rights violations in Belarus. By 1200GMT.

LONDON - Money can't buy you love. But a few hundred thousand can get you a piece of Beatles history. A collection of John Lennon memorabilia valued by auctioneers at more than 1.2 million pounds (US\$2 million, [euro]1.7 million) is set to be sold in London. BC-EU-A&E-MUS--BRITAIN-LENNON AUCTION. Moved. By Jill Lawless. AP photos LLP106, LLP108.

FRANKFURT, Germany - DaimlerChrysler says that CEO Juergen Schrempp will leave the company by the end of the year and turn over the reins to Dieter Zetsche, now head of the U.S.-based Chrysler Group. BC-EU-FIN-EARNS--GERMANY-DAIMLERCHRYSLER. Moved. By Matt Moore.

WITH:

- BC-EU-FIN-COM--GERMANY-DAIMLERCHRYSLER-SCHREMPP. FRANKFURT, Germany - Juergen Schrempp tried to create a giant that could weather an increasingly globalized and competitive market. But the colossus stumbled, first at the Chrysler division and then at luxury mainstay Mercedes. By 1300GMT. By Matt Moore.

THE HAGUE, Netherlands - The newly merged Royal Dutch Shell PLC reports a 34 percent increase in second-quarter profit to US\$5.24 billion ([euro]4.36 billion), buoyed mainly by high oil prices. BC-EU-FIN-EARNS--NETHERLANDS-SHELL. Moved. By Anthony Deutsch.

MILAN, Italy - Fiat SpA says it posted a net profit in the second quarter in part through the sale of assets in Poland and because of sharply reduced losses at its closely watched automotive unit. BC-EU-FIN-EARNS--ITALY-FIAT. Moved.

FRANKFURT, Germany - Siemens AG posts a 52 percent drop in third-quarter net profit on Thursday because of losses in the mobile phone unit it is selling to Taiwan's BenQ. BC-EU-FIN-EARNS--GERMANY-SIEMENS. Moved. By Matt Moore.

GREECE THEODORAKIS: Greeks celebrate 80th birthday of composer Mikis Theodorakis

ATHENS, Greece - Composer Mikis Theodorakis, known internationally for his score to the film "Zorba the Greek" and revered at home for his rousing tunes and political engagement, celebrates his 80th birthday this weekend with

EUROPE AT 1100GMT EDITORS: The following is a digest of Europe's top general news,

a concert in Crete, his ancestral island. BC-EU-GEN--GREECE-THEODORAKIS. Moved. By Nicholas Paphitis. AP Photo ATH103.

SOUTHPORT, England - Se Ri Pak's Women's British Open lasts just eight holes when the former champion walks off the course with a finger injury at six over par. Among the favorites for the final major of the season is Paula Creamer, with two tournament triumphs in her rookie season. BC-EU-SPT-GLF--WOMEN'S BRITISH OPEN. Moved. By Robert Millward.

LOOKING AHEAD: A Memorial service to mark the 100th birthday of the late U.N. Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld will be held at his estate in the south of Sweden tomorrow.

YOUR QUERIES: The Europe-Africa Desk in London can be reached at +44 207-427-4300.

Load-Date: July 29, 2005

End of Document

**London attacks tied to suicide bombers;
Police turn up explosives and arrest one**

The International Herald Tribune

July 14, 2005 Thursday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 1077 words

Byline: Alan Cowell And Don Van Natta Jr.

Dateline: LONDON:

Body

Charles Clarke, the British home secretary, gave the first official indication on Wednesday that authorities believed all four men implicated in the terrorist attack in London were suicide bombers.

Clark spoke in an interview with the BBC before a meeting of European interior ministers, six days after bombs hit three subway trains and a bus, killing at least 52 people in an attack that stunned the country.

On Tuesday, the police in the northern city of Leeds raided six homes and arrested one man believed to be a relative of one of the four attackers. The police also carried out controlled blasts on explosives recovered from an abandoned car at Luton, just north of London.

The New York Times

Clarke did not use the term "suicide bombing" for the London attacks, but he said European countries had to defend their values of society "against those who would destroy it."

"That means standing out against, in a very strong way, anybody who preaches the kind of fundamentalism, as I say, that can lead four young men to blow themselves and others up on the Tube on a Thursday morning," he said. "We have got to root out those elements from within our community that want to destroy it."

The police had said on Tuesday that they believed at least one of the attackers died in the attacks, while property belonging to the four men had been found at the scenes of all explosions.

The bombings and the likely response have raised new fears about the civil liberties in an era of heightened concerns about the most basic security of a capital where every day three million people ride the subway, or the Tube, as Londoners call it.

"We have to understand that these foot soldiers who have done this are only one element of an organization that is bringing about this kind of mayhem in our society," Clarke said. "And we have to attack the people who are driving it, organizing it, manipulating those people."

A breakthrough came as the police searched six houses in Leeds and found explosives in one home and in an abandoned car parked at the train station in Luton. The police also arrested one man in West Yorkshire.

London attacks tied to suicide bombers; Police turn up explosives and arrest one

In Leeds, residents said several young men, whose families initially moved to Britain from Pakistan, had traveled to London late last week and had not been seen since.

The four men were recorded by cameras arriving at King's Cross station in London at 8:30 a.m., carrying backpacks on Thursday, 20 minutes before three of the bombs exploded in subway trains. A fourth bomb exploded at 9:47 a.m. on the No.30 bus in central London.

If the attackers are found to be suicide bombers, the events will almost certainly be seen as a dramatic turning point in the nature of the threat facing Western Europeans.

In Luton, the police set off several controlled explosions after cordoning off the railroad station and a parking lot where they had found what was described as a suspicious car.

Police officials said later that they believed the car contained explosives.

Early Tuesday morning, the police searched the West Yorkshire house of one of the missing men, Shehzad Tanweer, 22. His friends said he had been missing since Thursday.

The police said at a news conference that the parents of one of the bombers, presumably Tanweer, had called the police shortly after 10 a.m. Thursday to report him missing minutes after the final explosion occurred in London, on one of the city's red double-decker buses.

Neighbors said Tanweer had worked at the family's store selling fish and chips.

"When he was 15 or 16, he got all religious, and started praying five times a day," a woman said.

The neighbors said Tanweer had attended two local schools and had been known as a soccer and cricket player. "He was more British than anything else," said one of two women who described themselves as neighbors.

Counterterrorism officials said the telephone call about his whereabouts from his worried parents was an important tip that led Scotland Yard to finding video images of the four bombers and led the police to conduct the six searches in the Leeds area on Tuesday.

Since the attacks, the police investigation has appeared to be slow-moving, with only snippets of information publicly available.

The police were forced to revise their initial public announcement that 27 minutes separated the first bomb from the third bomb's explosion in the subway, saying they were actually separated by 45 seconds.

Until Tuesday, the police had seemed to discount any suggestion that the attackers might be suicide bombers an idea that would almost certainly deepen apprehensions among Britons used to perceiving such attacks as a phenomenon of the Middle East or Iraq.

In Madrid in March 2004, when 191 people died in attacks like those in London on the rush-hour transit system, the attackers detonated bombs remotely.

Previous attacks by Basque separatists in Spain or the **Irish Republican Army** in London often included a coded warning.

In Casablanca in May 2003, 14 Moroccan men carried out highly coordinated suicide bombing attacks at five separate locations, which killed 41 people, including 13 bombers.

One intended suicide bomber lost his nerve, and some investigators on Tuesday night wondered if the man who blew himself up on the London bus might also have fled the operation.

Several witnesses said the man on the No.30 bus seemed agitated as he dug into his backpack moments before the bomb exploded, roughly 57 minutes after the other three bombs exploded in the London subway system.

London attacks tied to suicide bombers; Police turn up explosives and arrest one

Comments by Peter Clarke, a deputy assistant police commissioner at Scotland Yard, were the most detailed so far of how the four suspected bombers traveled together to London and gathered first at King's Cross station, where they were photographed together on closed-circuit television cameras. This was apparently just before they set off on their separate missions.

One area of investigation is whether the four bombers had any help from highly trained outsiders.

The authorities have said the bombs were made of high-grade military-style explosives.

Because of the quality of the explosives, Scotland Yard is now trying to determine if the bombers had assistance, either in assembling the bombs or in obtaining the material to build them, officials said.

One possibility is that help for the attacks may have come from outside Britain, officials said.

*

Reporting for this article was contributed by Jonathan Allen in Leeds, Stephen Grey in London, Heather Timmons in Luton and Elaine Sciolino in Paris.

Load-Date: July 14, 2005

End of Document

Agony of the lost souls search

Sunday Tasmanian (Australia)

July 10, 2005 Sunday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Length: 1094 words

Byline: BRUCE WILSON

Body

IT was the time for searching for the missing.

As the official death count from the London terrorist attacks rose to 49, anguished family, friends and lovers walked the inner London streets hoping against hope.

Most carried pictures and all carried a sad, last-chance belief that they might find some good news. As the long day darkened, so did their prospects.

Thirty-five metres beneath them more than 20 corpses were strewn in two Underground train carriages in a tunnel where it was too dangerous for emergency services to try to bring them from their sooty, filthy and rat-infested tomb.

It was all too clear that those carriages, and the grisly work being done by pathologists in morgues around the city, held the answer for those distressed and unhappy searchers.

But so far, authorities have been unable to identify any of those killed because their remains were so mangled and difficult to retrieve.

Some of the missing may turn up alive, but it seemed unlikely. Others seem certain to have been on the No. 30 double-decker bus which was blown apart, killing at least 13.

Uncertainty was the curse. The searchers said any news, even bad news, was better than a dead mobile phone, a dead end, a dead trail.

The pictures of the missing showed more than anything else how random these attacks were and what a multi-cultural city London has become.

Mostly young, certainly with vibrant lives ahead of them, they were of many races, creeds and colours.

As one newspaper said alongside pictures of two pretty young women: Two beautiful, decent women. One Christian. One Muslim. Both missing. Laura Webb and Shahara Islam smiled from the front page.

Terrorism ignores such small matters as individual human lives. Shahara Islam is from a good Muslim family. She will not be the only Muslim victim, and they will be just as dead as those the killers would call legitimate targets.

Agony of the lost souls search

Walking London yesterday revealed a whole series of heart-breaking or touching scenes. One never to be forgotten was the two Muslim women in their modest head-scarfs and full-length dresses kneeling to place flowers outside Edgware Road tube station, where one of the bombs exploded.

This is an Arab-Turkish part of London and it fears a racist backlash. These women showed grief knows no race.

Community leaders from all religions met government ministers yesterday to try to ensure there was no persecution of Muslims. One mosque, in Yorkshire, was hit by a petrol bomb and Muslim websites were inundated with 50,000 hate messages.

But pleas for reason and calm appeared to be working. In a way it helped that the killers did not care who they killed.

If one person summed up the stubborn desire to know the truth it was Yvonne Nash, 30, who walked the streets and went to radio and TV stations clutching a picture of her fiance Jamie Gordon, also 30.

Mr Gordon had left the Underground at Euston station after the bombs disrupted the service and he called his office at 9.42am to say he was taking a bus instead. It was almost certainly the No. 30.

But, like many, Ms Nash was angered and frustrated at the lack of information. Names of the dead are yet to be released and those seeking the missing said they were confused by answers from officials.

This seems to have been the only breakdown in the post-attack operation.

Another who appeared on national TV and walked the streets was John Steadman, who was seeking his brother-in-law Phillip Russell, 28. He called his work to tell them he was about to get on a bus seven minutes before the No. 30 blew apart.

There were stories like this for every one of the missing. The survivors continued to tell their stories of the special kind of hell that went on under central London.

All British intelligence, anti-terrorist and criminal police facilities were thrown into trying to find the bombers, and last night more and more links were being found with the Madrid peak-hour train bombings of 2004.

Just as in Madrid, there were four bombs carefully planned to explode at a peak time to cause high casualties and, most of all, panic.

In a radical rethink of the attacks, Scotland Yard said last night that all three bombs on the trains went off within seconds of each other. Earlier reports had the explosions separated by up to 26 minutes.

This confirmed earlier theories that the bombs were almost certainly set off by timers rather than suicide bombers.

One counter-terrorism expert said there was no doubt London had escaped lightly, despite a death toll likely to reach 70.

At least 3000 people were in the trains and the bus hit by the attackers and one source said a death toll of 500 was conceivable.

Another intelligence source said the cell behind the atrocities was probably quite small and highly organised and it was just possible one man planted all four bombs.

He could have left the train bombs in place, riding the few stations here and there, with a timer, and carried the last one on the bus. It might have been planned for another train, and he could have been forced to change plans, the source said.

At least one witness has told police of a man on the No. 30 bus acting nervously and continually looking into a package.

Agony of the lost souls search

A timing device was believed to have been found on one of the three bombed trains. The bombs were placed in the front, second and third carriages in the areas reserved for standing passengers.

The bus bomb, on the upper deck, was the same size. Police said they so far had no reason to believe there was a suicide attack, but they could not discount it either.

But the source said a strong back-up cell with considerable expertise and planning would have been needed since it seemed certain the attacks were timed to coincide with the G8 summit in Scotland.

He said explosives experts believed the bombs were made of a sophisticated military or industrial explosive and not the fertiliser-based ingredients used during the prolonged terror attack on British targets by the **Irish Republican Army**.

London is still recovering from the first aftershocks of the attack, but already questions are being asked why Britain's greatly enlarged security services apparently had no warning at all on the attacks.

The co-ordinated emergency system, operating under the code name Cobra, worked perfectly dealing with the aftermath. But everyone from Home Secretary Charles Clarke down confirmed there had been no warning.

Britain's two major security services, MI6 and MI5, work from vast complexes in central London and under the new counter-terrorism structure liaise with the anti-terrorist police, the Special Branch and the armed forces.

Load-Date: July 10, 2005

Outside View: Arab 'imagine' revolution rolls on

UPI

March 22, 2005 Tuesday 9:03 AM EST

Copyright 2005 U.P.I. All Rights Reserved



Length: 1118 words

Byline: YOUSSEF M. IBRAHIM

Dateline: DUBAI, United Arab Emirates, March 22

Body

Over on the West wing of the Arab world, one watches with amazement as Brother Colonel, as Moammar Gadhafi likes to be called, the man otherwise -- the one, the only, the inspired leader of Libya -- turns into an informant for American, British and French secret services.

By all accounts the unique leader of the Great Libyan Popular Socialist Jamahiriya - the name keeps on changing as Gadhafi gets more inspired with the years -- sings like a canary. He is delivering tons of evidence against his various terrorist friends from the *Irish Republican Army* to the Abu Nidal-type groups he adopted, trained, armed and harbored to attack perceived enemies.

This is a transformation that defies imagination. But it is only the latest phase of what might be called the "imagine" revolution sweeping across the Arab landscape.

So far Gaddafi acknowledged he ordered the shooting down of two civilian planes -- one American and one French -- killing 500 innocents, a bombing of a Berlin discotheque and assorted other deeds. He agrees to pay compensations left and right. He vows to abandon his terrorist ways in the hope of hanging on to his present position. Yet last week Saudi Arabia and the United States officially accused him of plotting to kill Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia in 2003. Both countries are now preparing to unroll official indictments for a second round of Gaddafi "hunting." The Saudi Crown Prince boycotted the Arab summit held Tuesday in Algeria because Gadhafi went. Imagine what is next for the leader: Libyan opponents in exile will dig out those lists of hundreds who have disappeared, were assassinated or linger in jail. I imagine it will only end with the regime falling.

Far fetched, you say? Not anymore. These are great times in Arab lands.

In multiple countries, millions are daring to imagine a future radically different from their miserable past. Imagination is a dangerous thing, thrilling and infectious. When it runs amok, revolution is never far behind, and from the shores of Tripoli to the Gulf of Arabia it appears indeed that revolutions have landed.

Outside View: Arab 'imagine' revolution rolls on

Just a few weeks ago, would anyone have possibly imagined in Lebanon the sight of Syrian soldiers packing jeeps, armored cars, shutting down so-called intelligence offices, tucking tails between legs, rushing out in the darkness that precedes dawn?

It is more than imagination now. It is happening.

Could anyone have imagined that an upstart opposition movement in Egypt that called itself *kifaya*, Arabic for "enough," would grow strong enough to disrupt President Hosni Mubarak's hopes of handing his presidential reign over to his son Gamal? Well, guess what? That little "kifaya" movement has now placed enough kinks in the system to make to place serious doubts over such a done deal. Succession for Gamal, as well as the entire superstructure of men who have ruled the largest Arab country since 1952, can no longer be assured.

Picture frame after picture frame, an image of revolt is surfacing across the Arab landscape. Fear is melting away; people are turning suppressed frustrations into action. Will it last? Just imagine.

A few weeks ago would it have occurred to anyone that women in Kuwait would hit the streets in demonstrations demanding the right to vote or that a senior Saudi royal family figure such as Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal would publicly pledge that Saudi women will get the right to vote as well?

Only three years ago, would anyone have imagined that al-Qaida's princes of darkness, the same folks who strutted about after blowing up the World Trade Center, would today be on the run everywhere from Afghanistan to Western Europe to Saudi Arabia, tracked, arrested, fleeing, scared, falling one after the other, their funds frozen, their cobwebs and culture of murder teetering? That is happening too. One can imagine that in a couple of years it will be spoken of as a shadow of its former self, a thing of the past.

Back in 2002, would anyone have imagined that by 2005 Saddam Hussein -- the most ruthless dictator in modern Arab history, a man who boiled his critics in acid and gassed his own people -- would be lingering in a small cell at one of his former Baghdad palaces? Saddam, the fierce, Saddam the invincible, is growing a tree in the backyard of that cell, awaiting a trial that will sentence him to die. Outside Saddam's palaces, Iraqis are electing a parliament, erecting a government, no matter how imperfect. An Arab people are constructing a life beyond tyranny. Eventually, those same Iraqis will end American occupation too.

Above all, imagine where the Lebanese snowball, now rolling, will stop. This small Arab people of 4 million Lebanese living inside Lebanon and 10 million living outside are roaring like lions. And 250 million other Arabs are watching in awe.

Lebanese Christians, Shiites and Druze started out demanding the truth over who murdered their Sunni, Muslim leader, former prime minister Rafik Hariri, on Feb. 14. What they got was beyond imagining. They eyeballed Syria into ending its 30 years of occupation. They toppled one prime minister who was a Syrian puppet, they destabilized the whole apparatus of the secret Lebanese police and are about to topple their president. Before they are done, they will have created a model of peaceful revolt or ignited an armed one -- no matter.

The United States, France and the United Nations all heard Lebanon's cry and are standing by, preparing to crush any Syrian attempt to interfere again.

Iraq replayed? Nothing is impossible.

Many among Arabs paralyzed by years of tyranny still say this is a passing phenomena, that rulers accustomed to engineering repression will prevail. That misses the bigger picture: those rulers are now seriously off balance; the times are different and today's world stands firmly with those rising in anger. Satellites television transmits the images to all homes. Darkness has lifted.

As the Arab saying goes, "the thread has split." Those worry beads are scattering all over the floor, beyond anyone's control. There is nothing beyond the realm of imagination.

Outside View: Arab 'imagine' revolution rolls on

Youssef M. Ibrahim, a former Middle East correspondent for the New York Times and Energy Editor of the Wall Street Journal, is Managing Director of the Dubai-based Strategic Energy Investment Group. He can be contacted at ymibrahim@gulfnews.com

This essay first appeared in Gulf News.

(United Press International's "Outside View" commentaries are written by outside contributors who specialize in a variety of important issues. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect those of United Press International. In the interests of creating an open forum, original submissions are invited.)

Load-Date: March 23, 2005

End of Document

EUROPE AT 1200GMT

Associated Press International

January 7, 2005 Friday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 1073 words

Body

TOP STORIES:

TSUNAMI: EU begins mapping out long-term financial strategy for nations struck by tsunami

BRUSSELS, Belgium - The European Union begins mapping out a strategy of longer-term economic and financial assistance for Asian nations hit by the Dec. 26 tsunami as humanitarian aid pours into the region. BC-EU-GEN--EU-TSUNAMI-RELIEF TALKS. Developing from 1400GMT start of meeting. By Constant Brand. AP Photos.

-BC-AS-GEN--THAILAND-TSUNAMI-STRAW. PHUKET, Thailand - The number of Britons killed in the tsunami is likely to be around 400, double the earlier estimates, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw says. Moved. By Miranda Leitsinger.

-BC-EU-GEN--TSUNAMI-MANGROVES. GENEVA - Damage from the tsunami could have been reduced if more coastal areas had maintained their protective shields of mangrove swamps and coral reefs, a U.N. official says. Moved. By Sam Cage.

-BC-EU-GEN--NORDICS-TSUNAMI. STOCKHOLM, Sweden - Pop stars, priests and people who lost friends and family in the tsunami will gather this weekend in churches across Scandinavia. By 1400GMT. By Matt Moore. AP Photos pursuing.

-BC-EU-GEN--ITALY-TSUNAMI-CHILDREN. ROME - European Commissioner Franco Frattini says the EU should make it easier for Europeans to become temporary foster parents for children orphaned by the tsunami. There is interest in such adoptions - but also a growing debate. Moved.

BANK ROBBERY-IRA: Police chief accuses IRA of staging massive Belfast bank robbery

BELFAST, Northern Ireland - The **Irish Republican Army** committed last month's [euro]31 million raid on a Belfast bank, the Northern Ireland police commander announces in a move certain to complicate the province's peacemaking efforts. The heist was the biggest all-cash robbery in history. In the past the IRA and its allied Sinn Fein party rejected such accusations. BC-EU-GEN--NIRELAND-BANK ROBBERY. Developing.

PARIS - President Jacques Chirac, concerned about the disappearance of a reporter, urges French journalists to stay out of Iraq. Florence Aubenat, a reporter for the daily newspaper Liberation, and her Iraqi translator, Hussein Hanoun al-Saadi, have been missing for two days. Their disappearance comes just weeks after two other French journalists were released after four months held hostage in Iraq. BC-EU-GEN--FRANCE-IRAQ-REPORTER MISSING. Moved. By Jamey Keaten. AP Photos.

EUROPE AT 1200GMT

KIEV, Ukraine - When protesters thronged the streets of Kiev last November, it was barely reported on most Ukrainian TV channels, which toed the now-discredited line that the establishment candidate had won the presidential vote. That result has been reversed by what is widely seen as a democratic upheaval, and TV has been transformed as well. But critics warn the media might have merely switched sides, not mindsets. BC-EU-GEN--UKRAINE-MEDIA CROSSROADS. By 1300GMT. By Bagila Bukharbayeva.

MADRID, Spain - Soccer stars, celebrity actors, singers and journalists are to kick off a government campaign aimed at explaining the European Union's new constitution, as Spain gets ready for a Feb. 20 referendum - the first popular vote in any EU country on the charter. BC-EU-GEN--SPAIN-EU CONSTITUTION. Moved.

STRASBOURG, France - A man on trial for allegedly stealing dozens of artworks worth millions of euros from museums across Europe tried to hang himself in his cell, judicial officials say. BC-EU-GEN--FRANCE-STOLEN ART. Lead upcoming.

THE HAGUE, Netherlands - Central African Republic gives the the International Criminal Court jurisdiction to investigate possible war crimes within its borders. BC-EU-GEN--INTERNATIONAL COURT-CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC. Moved.

PARIS - Luxury goods giant LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA is negotiating the sale of its Christian Lacroix fashion house to a U.S. consortium, a person familiar with the talks says. BC-EU-FIN--FRANCE-LVMH. Moved. By Laurence Frost.

BERLIN - The euro edges up slightly against the U.S. dollar, trading a little above US\$1.32 at the end of a week that has seen the U.S. currency buoyed by optimism about the country's economic outlook. BC-EU-FIN-MKT--EURO-DOLLAR. Moved.

LONDON - Crude futures dip, changing little from a US\$2 surge in prices the day before that forced investors anticipating a falling market to cover their bets. BC-EU-FIN--OIL PRICES. Moved. By Jane Wardell.

BIG SISTER: Australian feminist to join Britain's "Celebrity Big Brother"

LONDON - She's an academic, a controversialist, a feminist icon - and now, reality TV fodder. Australian writer Germaine Greer, whose radical book "The **Female** Eunuch" helped fuel the 1970s **women**'s movement, has agreed to spend two weeks locked in a house with a glamour model, a teenage musician, a drug-loving dancer and the ex-wife of Sylvester Stallone on the British show "Celebrity Big Brother." BC-EU-A&E-CEL--BRITAIN-GERMAINE GREER. By 1600 GMT. By Jill Lawless. AP Photo planned.

BARDEM'S OSCAR BUZZ: Javier Bardem - another stellar performance in 'The Sea Inside'

NEW YORK - To portray a real-life quadriplegic in "The Sea Inside," Javier Bardem decided to focus on "the voice and the eyes" of the ship mechanic from Spain. "I tried to calm myself and forget the anxiety you get due to the fact you must be motionless, so I could bring up the energy to the right place," he says. Bardem and "The Sea Inside" - written, directed and produced by Spain's Alejandro Amenabar ("The Others," 2001) - are getting Oscar buzz after being nominated for Golden Globe awards for best actor and best foreign movie. BC-NA-FEA-A&E-MOV--US-JAVIER BARDEM. Moved. By Luis Alonso Lugo. AP Photos NYET329-330.

LONDON - Exeter manager Alex Inglethorpe has reason to be optimistic going into Saturday's third-round FA Cup miss-match at Manchester United: Exeter is only a 5,000-1 underdog against, arguably, the biggest team in world soccer. That's better than Yeading FC, which is 20,000-1 at Newcastle. And the same as Scunthorpe's odds against Premier League leader Chelsea. BC-EU-SPT-SOC--ENGLISH PREVIEW. By 1400GMT. By Stephen Wade

SANTA CATERINA VALFURVA, Italy - Austria's Michaela Dorfmeister seeks her second downhill win in two days on the newly inaugurated Deborah Compagnoni course, which will also host the upcoming world championships. BC-EU-SPT-SKI-ALP--**WOMEN'S** WCUP-DOWNHILL. By 1430GMT. By Andrew Dampf.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Sunday, the World Jewish Congress holds a plenary assembly in Brussels, Belgium.

YOUR QUERIES: The Europe-Africa Desk in London can be reached at +44 207-427-4300.

EUROPE AT 1200GMT

Load-Date: January 8, 2005

End of Document

Women in vanguard of push for peace

The Toronto Star
October 2, 2005 Sunday

Copyright 2005 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A13

Length: 1169 words

Body

During decades of sectarian bloodshed and brutality in Northern Ireland, there have been more than 3,600 deaths to mourn.

But the women of the troubled province have become more than mourners, for it is they who are leading the fight for peace, justice and human rights, even as their menfolk perpetuate the cycle of violence.

Last week's announcement that the Irish Republican Army had decommissioned its vast arsenal of weapons is being hailed as historic - and five Catholic sisters in Belfast have been hailed as "icons of peace."

For the McCartney sisters - Paula, Catherine, Donna, Claire and Gemma - life in the Catholic enclave of Short Strand changed radically the night of Jan. 30, when their 33-year-old brother, Robert McCartney, was stabbed and kicked to death in the centre of town, near the hotel where he was to have celebrated his coming wedding.

The sisters say their brother was killed in a fight with some IRA men who dragged him and his friend Brendan Devine into the street and attacked them, leaving McCartney dead and Devine with stab wounds.

But when no one among more than 70 witnesses at the scene came forward with evidence, and only two of 15 people they believe were involved in the killing were charged, the McCartneys took their case to the public, pointing fingers directly - and dangerously - at the IRA.

"Before Robert's murder, I didn't really take a lot of interest in the political situation," says Paula McCartney. "Now, our campaign has highlighted what is going on here in Northern Ireland. People say we're responsible for moving the peace process along. They say we're brave. But what else could we do?"

Their campaign became international, focusing on justice and not revenge. The high-profile case damaged the IRA's reputation in the Catholic community as well as in the outside world.

They are walking in the footsteps of other women whose private grief became a catalyst for change in bitterly divided Northern Ireland.

In August 1976, a catastrophic event destroyed another Catholic family, when an IRA man fleeing heavily armed British soldiers was shot in a car chase, his automobile swerving out of control in west Belfast and killing three children under age 10, including a six-week-old baby.

Their mother, Anne Maguire, never recovered from the trauma and took her own life three years later.

Women in vanguard of push for peace

But her sister, Mairead Corrigan, joined with a Belfast office worker, Betty Williams, to found Peace People, an interfaith group that sparked marches throughout Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic to the south. As pioneers of the peace movement in Northern Ireland, the two shared the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize.

But like all the women who've worked for peace and justice in the province, they found the road steep and rocky: winning the prize money made them the target of bitterness, and their opposition to armed struggle angered Catholics who felt under siege, while Protestants said they didn't go far enough in renouncing republicanism.

It would not be until the spring of 1998 that the Good Friday peace agreement was signed in Belfast, setting out a plan for a new power-sharing Northern Ireland. And when the agreement was signed, women who had worked for peace were quietly pushed to the back of the political line.

"We had proved women could sit at the front table of negotiations, but once we were there, things were different," says Baroness May Blood, a co-founder of the non-sectarian Northern Ireland Women's Coalition.

"We suffered the most dreadful verbal abuse."

Blood was born into a Protestant working-class family. A trade unionist and community worker in the impoverished Shankill Rd. area of Belfast, she was appointed to the House of Lords for her contribution to peace.

Blood has seen progress falter and fail, both in the peace process and the recognition of women in public life: her party was decimated in the last election, which resulted in the most hard-line of politicians gaining ground. And the Northern Ireland Assembly, created as the home of power sharing, closed its doors because its Protestant and Catholic members could not agree on disarmament.

The women's struggle has been an uphill one for complex reasons, Blood says. Fear, intimidation, poverty and the overwhelming responsibility of caring for families in times of hardship have made some less willing or able to work for peace.

"It was very difficult for people of different communities to trust during the Troubles," says Blood, referring to the decades of sectarian strife. "And once you got that trust, it was dangerous to let it be known you were in contact with the other side."

"In the 1980s, I had some bad experiences. I had my car destroyed several times and my life threatened. But it was all part and parcel of life. Internal (Protestant) Loyalist trouble also made things risky."

Often, she says, Catholic women led the way in organizing for civil liberties and forming cross-community ties.

"They were at least 20 years ahead of the Protestants, because they had to cope with things like internment (of suspected paramilitary members). Their men were lifted. They had to manage, so they went on to build strong alliances."

Former British secretary for Northern Ireland Mo Mowlam - godmother of the peace deal - has the highest profile, but much of the groundwork was laid at the grassroots level.

"Women's centres helped to keep communities going when there wasn't much else for them," says Margaret Ward, director of the Women's Resource and Development Agency in Belfast. "Over the years, they've worked on poverty, violence, ill health - issues that go across communities. And eventually, political parties saw that women had established a presence, and they are aware of the need to put them up for election."

Beginning in the 1960s with the Catholic-based civil rights movement - Bernadette Devlin was its household name - women found themselves accidentally or purposely campaigning for social justice.

They formed squatters' groups to publicize public housing inequalities, led marches against abuses of political power, and agitated for voting and employment rights.

Women in vanguard of push for peace

Later, they spearheaded daring, curfew-breaking actions against the British army and, in the 1970s, formed the cross-community Mothers of Belfast to protest the cancelling of free school milk.

Women played a dominant role in the Relatives' Action Committees, going on worldwide speaking tours to publicize the plight of republican paramilitary prisoners.

Throughout the 1980s and '90s, they formed support groups for victims of violence, offering mutual support to the survivors.

Seven years after the Good Friday peace deal, **women** are beginning to be appointed to public bodies and fielded as political candidates. But "armed patriarchy" is still the order of the day.

"The problem of Northern Ireland, and we still suffer from it," says Blood, "is that you're not accepted if you stand up for what you think is right. **Women** have done things that are very scary. They have saved this province from the abyss."

Graphic

PAUL MCERLANE reuters file photo Three of Belfast's McCartney sisters from left, Catherine, Claire and Paula meet with reporters to denounce IRA violence. "They say we're brave," says Paula McCartney. "But what else could we do?"

Load-Date: October 2, 2005

End of Document

Relying on cameras to catch criminals: After the London bombings, there is a push to add more cameras here

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

August 6, 2005 Saturday

National Edition

Copyright 2005 National Post All Rights Reserved

Section: CANADA; Pg. A4

Length: 1150 words

Byline: James Cowan, National Post

Dateline: TORONTO

Body

TORONTO - Dwayne Taylor died last weekend, shot on a street filled with revellers during Toronto's Caribana festival.

Michael Goldie-Ryder died six years ago, while guarding two women caught in a knife fight in London, Ont.

Diverse in timing and circumstance, the killings are unified by their effect: Each prompted calls for more closed-circuit television (CCTV) cameras in parks, streets, subways, buses and parking lots. Like the bombings in London on July 7, they gave resonance to calls for improved security through improved surveillance. Twelve Canadian cities -- including Edmonton, Calgary and London -- have already installed cameras in public places, and 15 others are debating the issue. But as Jean Lapierre, Canada's Transport Minister, yesterday announced a review of the country's transportation hubs that could lead to more cameras, experts have noticed a change in the logic used to support the measures. While public surveillance was once pitched as a deterrent to crime, it is now seen as a way to catch killers once the crime is done.

"After the London bombings, there's been an international shift in the representation of CCTV. No longer is it seen as preventative, but it can catch people after the fact," said Sean Hier, a professor at the University of Victoria who studies surveillance issues. "It's coming out that it's not going to stop anything, but it can help us police these activities."

Images taken from security cameras helped police arrest individuals involved in both the London bombings and the failed follow-up attack two weeks later. The existence of those pictures has been widely credited to the network of cameras that blankets Britain. Between 2.5 million and 4.2 million CCTV cameras monitor the U.K., meaning the average Briton is recorded 300 times a day. In London alone, there are 260 cameras around Parliament, 1,800 in train stations and 6,000 filming commuters in the Underground.

Toronto's subway, by comparison, has only 800 cameras. And while it's true the London system has nearly four times the number of stops, it still has twice as many cameras per station as its Canadian counterpart -- an average of 22.

Relying on cameras to catch criminals: After the London bombings, there is a push to add more cameras here

The longstanding threat of **Irish Republican Army** bombings is most often cited as the reason for Britain's extensive surveillance network, but that's only part of the explanation, according to Prof. Hier. The country implemented new security measures after bombings in 1992 and 1993, but it was the abduction of James Bulger that caused Britain's surveillance boom. The two-year-old was lured away from his mother while shopping at a mall near Liverpool in 1993. His abductors, a pair of 10-year-olds, beat him and left his body on a railway. An image of the toddler hand-in-hand with one of his killers was captured by a mall security camera.

"That event served for years as the symbolic event to justify CCTV. Which was somewhat strange, because Jamie Bulger died," Prof. Hier said. "But it was sold as a preventative technology."

Only a handful of Canadian municipalities have implemented closed-circuit monitoring of their public places, with Sudbury becoming the first in 1996 with 11 cameras. Where systems have been introduced, reactions have varied widely from violent rejection to open embrace. In Kelowna, B.C., the pole supporting the city's lone camera was set on fire.

But intriguingly, when there is a push for cameras, it often comes from community groups rather than the police -- Little Brother instead of Big Brother. For example, the stabbing death of Mr. Goldie-Ryder in London prompted a group called Friends Against Senseless Endings to raise \$235,000 toward the installation of Canada's most extensive public network of cameras. The group believed the 16 cameras would make London's downtown safer, but a police spokeswoman said there is no statistical evidence that has happened. What the cameras are useful for, she said, is identifying crimes already in progress and prosecuting the crooks involved.

"The cameras assist in our investigations downtown on almost a weekly basis," Constable Amanda Pfeffer said. "Every time there's a robbery, a disturbance -- you name it -- we use the footage."

Surveillance cameras are proving useful tools in solving everything from petty thefts in London, Ont., to terrorist attacks in London, England. Waning interest in the technology -- Vancouver recently shelved its plan to install 23 cameras downtown -- has been replaced by new evangelism of its merits.

Following Mr. Lapierre's announcement yesterday, the Toronto Transit Commission announced its plan to install 3,000 more cameras across its subway system and test cameras on 20 buses as well. TransLink in Vancouver is also mulling over installing cameras, while Windsor is debating the expansion of a year-old pilot project. Despite lingering hostility in some communities, some experts believe Canadians are more open to public surveillance than previously believed.

"The experience of the London bombings should help Canadians to embrace this technology, to change their thinking a bit, and to regard these kinds of systems as a kind of necessary precaution and part of the defensive layering protecting certain kinds of potential targets in Canada," said Wesley Wark, a professor at the University of Toronto's Munk Centre for International Studies.

While often cast as the tools of a secretive, authoritarian regime, Prof. Wark argued the camera images released after the subway attacks actually served to make the police investigation more transparent. In this way, devices that often inspire paranoia instead offered reassurance. "All terrorist attacks cause extreme anxiety in the public at large about the nature of the attack and about the nature of government response," Prof. Wark said. "It seems to me the ability of the authorities to quickly post images for widespread public dissemination had some kind of calming effect. It allowed people to understand the authorities were on the trail of these individuals, were targeting their investigation on a small number of people. All of these uses of camera imagery were very beneficial."

Those charged with using the cameras contend surveillance is neither good nor evil but simply another tool on their belt. When Dwayne Taylor was shot at Caribana, the murder was captured by a nearby police camera, according to Superintendent Paul Gottschalk. Seven cameras had been temporarily set up to help police monitor potential hot spots and deploy officers more efficiently. And while the cameras captured evidence, a quick-thinking officer was actually responsible for capturing the alleged murderer.

Relying on cameras to catch criminals: After the London bombings, there is a push to add more cameras here

"Cameras are a piece of the police operation, they're not the focal point," Supt. Gottschalk said. "If it hadn't been for the officer being there, the best we could have done was relay the description and deploy officers. The key wasn't the camera. It was the police officer."

Graphic

Black & White

Photo: Leah Hennel, CanWest News Service; Canada's Transport Minister, Jean Lapierre, has announced a review of the country's transportation hubs that could lead to more security cameras, like this one in Calgary.

Load-Date: August 6, 2005

End of Document

Usually Volatile Mayor Wins Praise for Low-Key Presence

The New York Times

July 12, 2005 Tuesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 5; Foreign Desk; Pg. 8; BOMBINGS IN LONDON: LONDON

Length: 1115 words

Byline: By CRAIG S. SMITH

Dateline: LONDON, July 11

Body

Ken Livingstone, London's famously loose-lipped mayor, boarded a subway train here this morning as cameras flashed, demonstrating this city's resolve not to be cowed by the terrorist attacks that struck three trains and a bus on Thursday.

"We are going to work, we carry on our lives," Mr. Livingstone told reporters before resuming his usual commute to work. "We don't let a small group of terrorists change the way we live."

And that was all he said.

Mr. Livingstone, 60, has emerged as a sort of anti-Giuliani in the wake of the terrorist attacks, the worst the city has seen. He has made two solemn statements worthy of Winston Churchill but has otherwise kept a remarkably low profile for a man whose quarter-century in politics has been marked by bold plans and maverick debates, not least with Prime Minister Tony Blair. There's been nothing of the post-9/11 take-charge behavior that briefly catapulted Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani to the national political stage.

At last, some people are saying, Red Ken, as he was once known because of his outspoken liberal views, has hit the right note of humility, outrage and quiet resolve without getting anyone upset.

But there may be something else at play: Mr. Livingstone was denounced last year for inviting a conservative cleric, Sheik Yousef al-Qaradawi, from Qatar in what Mr. Livingstone's defenders say was an attempt to demonstrate to the city's disaffected, radical Muslim youth the mayor's willingness for dialogue.

As it turned out, Sheik Qaradawi had in the past attacked virtually every political constituency that Mr. Livingstone had ever cultivated, from Jews to gays to feminists. The cleric even seemed to condone suicide bombings, the killing of civilians and beheadings in Iraq.

In keeping with his combative character, however, the mayor refused to back down, to the point of issuing an 80-page report rebutting criticism of the cleric and prompting a lawsuit from a private policy organization he accused of bias.

But the incident was just one of several occasions on which Mr. Livingstone, who is strongly pro-Palestinian and sharply critical of Israel, has angered allies and opponents alike. He has called President Bush a "war criminal," and

Usually Volatile Mayor Wins Praise for Low-Key Presence

last year declared that he would love to wake up one day to find "the Saudi royal family hanging from lampposts," a view shared by many radical Islamists.

He has always considered himself ahead of the political mainstream, staking out positions and striking up dialogues that make his opponents uncomfortable but often anticipate changes in the political landscape.

In the 1980's he was an ardent proponent of enhanced rights for minorities, gays and women, all now mainstays of most middle-of-the-road political platforms in Britain. He invited the Sinn Fein leader, Gerry Adams, to London as a guest of the Greater London Council in 1982, when the terror campaign by the Irish Republican Army was still going strong, foreshadowing the political dialogue the national government undertook with the group a decade later.

More recently, the onetime leftist has embraced developers to help change the city's 19th-century skyline with high-concept architecture, including a building that Londoners have nicknamed the Gherkin. "The world has moved toward Livingstone's point of view and Livingstone has moved toward the world's," said Tony Travers, a political scientist who has followed Mr. Livingstone's career.

Mr. Livingstone has struggled to balance his strongly pro-immigrant stance and his appeals to young Muslims with the need to fight terrorism and maintain public safety, resisting stricter antiterrorism legislation to avoid alienating young Muslims further.

In an interview in May with Al Jazeera, the Arabic news network, he said the number of radical Muslims in Britain did not justify harsh countermeasures. "We are talking about a small number, not in thousands and not even in hundreds," Mr. Livingstone said. "Therefore, I do not support the new measures that limit civil liberties. Here in London and in Britain, we have the means of preserving the safety of the people."

The Sheik Qaradawi incident has been replayed more than once since the bombings, but Mr. Livingstone has not risen to the bait. Later on Monday morning, he reappeared briefly to lead a group of city dignitaries in signing a book of condolences in a solemn, silent ceremony at City Hall. He then laid white lilies at a memorial to the bombing victims.

Whatever the reason for Mr. Livingstone's low profile after the bombings, it is not media shyness. He is a master orator who delights in playing to the news media. But London is not Mr. Livingstone's city in the way that New York was Mr. Giuliani's. The New Yorker happened to be visiting London on the day of the attacks and appeared on television before Mr. Livingstone. The Londoner was still in Singapore celebrating London's victory in winning the chance to hold the 2012 Olympic Games.

The London mayor's office, which was formed only in 2000, does not control London's emergency services. So the mayor cannot act as commander of the city's emergency response in the way Mr. Giuliani did when he marched south through the dust toward the World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001.

Nor would it be seemly for Mr. Livingstone to be seen competing with national politicians or the royal family, who loom large over the city. "People have been careful on all sides not to be seen seizing political advantage over this, not to be seen grandstanding or outdoing anyone else," said Polly Toynbee, a columnist for The Guardian. "On the whole, people are anxious not to be accused of bad taste."

Having heard his bitter words against the Iraq war, many people were waiting to see if Mr. Livingstone would say something more contentious after the bombings, perhaps along the lines of George Galloway, a member of Parliament and war opponent who urged the British government last week to withdraw its troops from Iraq and argued that Londoners had paid the price for Britain's involvement in the war.

Instead, Mr. Livingstone defended the city's diversity and the immigration that has made it a rich tapestry of cultures and ethnicities.

"I say to those who planned this dreadful attack, whether they are still here in hiding or somewhere abroad," Mr. Livingstone said on Friday, "watch next week as we bury our dead and mourn them, but see also in those same

Usually Volatile Mayor Wins Praise for Low-Key Presence

days new people coming to this city to make it their home, to call themselves Londoners, and doing it because of that freedom to be themselves."

Longtime Livingstone watchers were impressed. "For him," as Ms. Toynbee said. "it was quite a growing-up moment."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: Mayor Ken Livingstone of London as he boarded an Underground train yesterday at Willesden Green. "We carry on," he said of Londoners. (Photo by Paul Hackett/Reuters)

Load-Date: July 12, 2005

End of Document

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

St. Louis Post-Dispatch (Missouri)

July 10, 2005 Sunday

FIVE STAR LIFT EDITION

Copyright 2005 St. Louis Post-Dispatch, Inc.

Section: EDITORIAL; Pg. B2

Length: 1163 words

Body

Solidarity with London on terrorist bombings

The Council on American-Islamic Relations, St. Louis Chapter, joins Americans of every faith and people of conscience across the world in condemning Thursday's bomb attacks in London.

We offer our sincere condolences to the families and friends of those who were killed or injured in these attacks. We also call for swift action in apprehending and punishing the perpetrators.

No injustice done to Muslims can justify the massacre of innocent people, and no act of terror will serve the cause of Islam. We repudiate and dissociate ourselves from any group or individual who commits, condones or justifies such brutal and un-Islamic acts, whatever name they give themselves. These acts violate the Islamic principles of preserving the sanctity of life and protecting the safety and security of innocent civilians.

We refuse to allow our faith to be held hostage by the criminal actions of a tiny minority acting outside the teachings of the Quran and the teaching of Prophet Muhammad.

Kamal Yassin Executive Director, Council on American-Islamic Relations, St. Louis Chapter Town & Country

Rooting out terrorists

The bombings in London took place 30 miles from where I grew up. I remember the **Irish Republican Army** bombs. Growing up in England, I remember the numerous times we had to evacuate a store because of a bomb threat. We learned to live with it.

Now, the terrorists have made a huge mistake. Britons don't take lightly to threats. This is the nation that was prepared to stand and fight Hitler to the bitter end, and thankfully had friends such as the United States to help. This is a nation that, when attacked, stands strong and hits back.

The terrorists have just strengthened the British resolve. During World War II, under the constant reality of bombings, Britons went about their daily lives, as they will now. The nation will become even more committed to destroying every element of al-Qaida.

This is a terrible tragedy, and my prayers and thoughts are with those injured or who lost loved ones in the attack. But wait and see what the British do to the terrorists now.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Mark Sutherland St. Louis

The recent bombing incident in London informed the world that one part of it no longer can ignore another's desperation as if the desperate were to remain quiet forever and accept their fate.

Years ago, in a talk to a Kiwanis group, I pointed that out, having heard it from Fidel Castro via one of his shortwave radio broadcasts to Latin America. I was accused of being an East Coast egghead fear-monger without the notion of how powerful and correct America was.

Terrorism was quiet then, limited solely to warnings from the desperate. It no longer is limited, and the quiet desperation that once made the powerful comfortable has morphed into fire, which few will have the power to extinguish because we have not prepared for it.

Manuel L. Ponte Olivette

As the recent attacks in Great Britain have shown, terrorism is alive and well. Naturally, there will be people in England and in America who will claim that the terror attacks are the result of our involvement in Iraq, and there will be apologists who will seek to defend the actions of these murderers as justified due to "years of Western exploitation." There will be demands that we release terrorists we are holding so they can plan and participate in more terrorist attacks.

America and its allies must understand that these fanatics have vowed to destroy our way of life. The hatred bred by extremists began long before Sept. 11, 2001, or July 7. We either destroy these fanatics where they live, or fight them in our own streets.

D.W. Wilber St. Charles

(Editor's note: The letter writer is employed in Baghdad, Iraq, by a Defense Department contractor.)

No sane person applauds what happened in London, but no informed person should applaud foreign policies that gave to the world such great civil libertarians as the Marcos family of the Philippines, Israel's radical right Zionists, the Shah of Iran, Rios Montt of Guatemala, Roberto D'Aubisson of El Salvador, the Duvaliers of Haiti, Alfredo Stroessner of Paraguay, Rafael Trujillo of the Dominican Republic, Idi Amin of Uganda, Augusto Pinochet of Chile and even Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Until European and United States imperialism are exposed and dealt with, terrorism sadly will thrive and increase. No justice, no peace.

Chris Martin O'Fallon, Mo.

O'Connor, the caregiver

Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to serve on the nation's highest court, is among countless women and men whose lives have been deeply touched by Alzheimer's disease.

Justice O'Connor has been balancing her career and the responsibility of caring for her husband since his Alzheimer's became evident several years ago. Now, well past the age many people retire, Justice O'Connor has chosen to leave her very singular career to dedicate herself to her husband's needs.

The Alzheimer's Association, St. Louis Chapter, serves about 66,000 people with Alzheimer's and their family members and caregivers in eastern Missouri and western Illinois. The number of people with Alzheimer's will increase sharply in the next few decades.

Each Alzheimer's patient has a profound impact on the people close to him or her, some of whom become 24-hour, seven-day-a-week caregivers.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

President Ronald Reagan's death last year brought a lot of attention to the need for more research on Alzheimer's disease. I hope this decision by Justice O'Connor will spur America to develop more and better ways to help families deal with Alzheimer's disease.

Jennifer Gettman Administrator, Parc Provence Creve Coeur

DDT was cheap, effective

Your editorial "Setting a poor example" (July 5) about African aid that mentioned malaria forgot the history. When DDT was banned, malaria deaths went from 50,000 deaths a year worldwide to 2 million per year.

DDT was a safe, effective and cheap agent to control the spread of the malaria mosquito. It was replaced by parathion and malathion, which were deadly agents. Now, you recommend spending \$3.5 billion to bring malaria under control. Where were you in 1972?

John Czarnecki Bonne Terre, Mo.

Give them a raise

Every day that the minimum wage is not increased, it continues to lose value, and our lowest wage earners fall farther behind. Clearly, \$5.15 an hour is no longer acceptable, and it is time that we increase the minimum wage.

Raising it by \$2.10 per hour over three years would give low-wage workers an additional \$4,368, money that would help them support families.

The "Fair Minimum Wage Act of 2005," a bill by Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., and Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., addresses our substandard minimum wage.

It is time to increase the minimum wage so that it provides a solid income for our low-wage workers. These hard-working folks deserve to provide for basic needs. We believe that America needs and deserves a raise.

John Antonich Legislative and Political Representative, U.F.C.W. Local 88 St. Louis

Load-Date: July 11, 2005

The Illusions of London

The Forward

July 15, 2005

Copyright 2005 The Forward Association, Incorporated All Rights Reserved

Section: Editorial; Pg. 8

Length: 1172 words

Body

Sixteen years ago, the Israeli folk-rocker Chava Alberstein went platinum with a searing song of despair about the unbearable uncertainty of life in Israel and the yearning to move someplace else where life could be simpler and safer. It was called "London."

"Goodbye, I'm going," she sang. "Not that I have illusions about London. I'll be lonely there, too. But at least I can despair in comfort."

Anat Rosenberg was one of the Israelis that Alberstein was singing about. She had moved to London two years earlier, at age 21, partly to pursue a career in art and partly - mostly, her friends suggest - to get away from the violence that had erupted with the outbreak of the first intifada. Over the years since then, she had taken to visiting her parents in Jerusalem with decreasing frequency and growing unease, avoiding Israeli bars and never riding buses. In London she felt safer, her British boyfriend told reporters this week. The last time he spoke to her, in a cell-phone call last Thursday morning, July 7, she was trying to get the Underground to work. Finding her station curiously closed, she hopped onto a double-decker bus. The last thing he heard from her was a scream. She was 39.

Alberstein was wrong. We all have illusions. We imagine that there's someplace to run and hide, someplace we can be safe, and we find it isn't so. The bombs follow us to London, to Madrid, to New York, even to far-off tropical resorts like Bali and Mombasa.

We think that the terror will cease if we are kind and understanding and attentive to its root causes, but it does not stop. We think we can stop the terror by hunting down the terrorists mercilessly, but it does not stop. Terrorists attack in England, which has troops in Iraq, and Morocco, which does not. They kill on the streets of tolerant, freewheeling Holland and of repressive Saudi Arabia. Their leaders are arrested or killed and new leaders emerge. And still we strut and pose and flatter ourselves that we know the answer, if only the others would listen.

Ariel Sharon, who knows something about fighting terrorists, wisely told his ministers and diplomats in the first hours after the London bombings to restrain any natural impulse they might feel to draw quick lessons and share them with the world at large. Express sympathy for London's suffering, the prime minister's office ordered, but don't compare it to Israel's experiences or imply that Israel knows something it can teach England. It's in bad taste and won't be well received. Besides, some Israeli officials added privately, Londoners know a thing or two themselves about living through bombings. They survived the Nazi blitz. They lived through two decades of *Irish Republican Army* bombings. Their intelligence services are among the world's most highly regarded.

Some Israelis and their supporters around the world wanted to see the July 7 bombings as evidence that Londoners and Europeans in general were insufficiently alert to the dangers of radical Islam. For days afterward, they railed

The Illusions of London

against the political correctness that impels Europeans and other liberals to seek coexistence and understanding rather than confrontation. They argued, too, that Europeans were foolishly seeking to address the Islamic terrorist threat through the tools of law enforcement, rather than treating as a military threat and declaring war, as the right-thinking folks in Jerusalem and Washington have done.

Israelis have a term for the flood of moralizing and political posturing that seems to follow every terrorist incident in that tortured land. They call it "dancing on the blood." By this they mean the almost celebratory passion with which advocates on all sides seize on such incidents to prove the truth of whatever political or military approach they already favored.

Sharon understood correctly in the first moments after the London bombings that such an impulse would serve Israel poorly in the current instance. Yes, Israel needs to show its solidarity and sympathy. Yes, it needs to have such feelings reciprocated. But no, Londoners would not have responded favorably to the voluble, garrulous Israeli approach. This was a moment, Sharon knew, to emulate the British stiff upper lip.

Just four days after the London attacks, suicide bombing returned to the streets of Israel, ending a five-month lull. Two women were killed instantly outside a Netanya shopping mall; two others died later of their wounds. Israeli press accounts suggest that the bombers, a cell of Palestinian Islamic Jihad from the Tulkarm area, were known to Israel's military intelligence and security forces, but that they could not be interdicted under the current rules of engagement. In return for a cease-fire accepted last February by Hamas and the main Fatah groups, Israel has informally agreed to refrain from targeted killings of suspected terrorists and to limit major troop movements in the main Palestinian population centers. Both sides, Israel and the main Palestinian groups, share an interest in maintaining quiet - to ensure the success of the upcoming Gaza disengagement and to give their suffering populations some rest. The agreement has been largely effective. But it has had the perverse effect of giving freedom of action to Islamic Jihad, a small, extremist group that never accepted the cease-fire.

Israel, understandably, wants the Palestinian Authority under Mahmoud Abbas to take responsibility for enforcing the cease-fire and breaking up the armed gangs. Abbas has been appallingly weak and ineffectual, particularly as Islamic Jihad has stepped up its efforts to mount attacks and trumpeted its contempt for the very goal of coexistence pursued by the two sides' main leaders. Islamic Jihad is a threat first of all to the stability of the Palestinian Authority, and only secondarily to Israel. It is in the interest of Abbas and his aides to quash the threat. Israelis understand Abbas must do more. But they understand that there is not much he can do. And so they grit their teeth and work with what they've got. In effect, they find themselves in a position strikingly similar to the Europeans: surveilling the known targets, watching for signs of trouble, hoping to head them off soon enough. Law enforcement.

Terrorism is a condition of our modern age. It has been with us for decades in various forms and guises. It can be inhibited by various means. Hunting down the leaders and securing public places have dramatically reduced terrorism in some hot spots. Elsewhere, authorities have achieved good results by negotiating with guerrilla armies and addressing the grievances that drove populations to support the desperadoes. There is no single answer, but there is one truth: Terrorist violence will not go away. Rage and hate breed violence, and no one has found a cure for rage and hate. In our age of high-technology, the effects of violence can be awesome. We must reduce it to a minimum, by all practical means. And we must know that there will be more violence to come. On this, no illusions.

Load-Date: June 14, 2006

IRA gives up armed struggle

The Toronto Star
July 29, 2005 Friday

Copyright 2005 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A01

Length: 1053 words

Byline: Olivia Ward, Toronto Star

Body

A bloody page of history was turned yesterday as the ***Irish Republican Army*** ordered all of its units to dump their arms and announced a historic end to the "armed struggle" that devastated Northern Ireland for 36 years.

The group's huge storehouse of weapons will be "verifiably put beyond use," an IRA statement said, and it invited Protestant and Catholic clergy to witness the decommissioning, which has been overseen by retired Canadian Gen. John de Chastelain since 1997, a year before the Good Friday peace accord was signed.

But why the sudden end to the sectarian violence known as the Troubles, which claimed more than 3,500 Catholic and Protestant lives?

Northern Ireland watchers have been speculating on the reasons behind the IRA move, which comes a week after a second wave of attacks on London by suspected members of an Al Qaeda cell.

So was the IRA the latest casualty of Osama bin Laden - or were five young Belfast ***women*** behind the landmark decision of Northern Ireland's most powerful paramilitary to give up its guns?

"The timing of the IRA statement is certainly interesting," says David Carlton, a terrorism expert at England's Warwick University. "It could be a long-term consequence of the 9/11 attack. For the IRA and other groups with a narrow territorial aim that kind of action was a great embarrassment, and they don't want to be linked with it."

Carlton, author of the forthcoming book *The West's Road to 9/11*, doubts there was such an immediate link: "I don't think this was a consequence of what happened in London. It had been clear for some time that Adams and McGuinness had been considering this move."

Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, leaders of the IRA's political wing Sinn Fein, expressed regret over the July 7 London bombings and deplored the latest attack, which has only hardened Western attitudes to terrorism.

In the past week, Irish Justice Minister Michael McDowell also told reporters he believed the two politicians had abandoned membership of the IRA army council, the group's command centre. Adams and McGuinness have consistently denied that they belong to the council, and distanced themselves from militant activities.

"They were coming close to (ending the armed struggle) in December, but negotiations failed," says Paul Arthur, director of the peace and conflict studies program at University of Ulster. "At that time Sinn Fein was doing very well politically, in both northern and southern Ireland, the European elections, and the 2005 Westminster (British) elections. They had acquired a certain arrogance."

IRA gives up armed struggle

But meanwhile, the growing revulsion for violence that followed 9/11 was bringing increased pressure on the IRA to disarm. And, says Arthur, it intensified when the five sisters of murdered Belfast man Robert McCartney - stabbed to death in a Belfast bar last January - launched a campaign to call the IRA to account for involvement in the incident.

They blamed the IRA for the murder, and interference with evidence and prospective witnesses. Three men were later expelled from the IRA, and it offered to shoot the murderers.

But McCartney's sisters continued their battle for justice, with support from violence-weary Catholics as well as Protestants. "We are now dealing with criminal gangs who are using the cloak of romanticism around the IRA to murder people on the streets and walk away from it," Catherine McCartney told the BBC.

And, she added, the republican group's "struggle in terms of what it was 10 years ago is now over."

While the McCartney sisters took their campaign to the United States, Sinn Fein and the IRA were reeling from much higher level accusations of wrongdoing - a stinging rebuke from the British and Irish prime ministers, following a \$55 million armed robbery of a Belfast bank last December.

"When Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern insisted publicly that the robbery was the work of the Provisional IRA ... the die was cast. Romantic freedom-fighting was one thing, squalid criminality quite another," wrote Andrew Stephen, U.S. editor of the New Statesman, in a scathing account of Adams's declining popularity in America.

The disapproval of the IRA's traditional American allies - and funders - was a major factor in its about-face, agrees U.S. president Bill Clinton's former Northern Ireland envoy, Bruce Morrison.

"Any credibility that the use of force had (in America) has drained away," he told the BBC. "The politics of armed struggle is gone. Only peaceful democratic struggle will be supported."

This spring, Adams had a bitter taste of how much things had changed since he was welcomed into elite Washington circles a decade earlier, to the annoyance of the British government.

"His traditional St. Patrick's Day pilgrimage to the nation's capital will not include two stops that he has grown accustomed to in recent years," said the Washington Post. "An audience at the White House and a meeting with long-time supporter Sen. Edward Kennedy."

During Adams's visit, U.S. President George W. Bush and some of his Democratic opponents made their displeasure public, with Bush urging the IRA to disband, and Kennedy declaring "the IRA's criminality is undermining the peace process, and it's time for Sinn Fein and the IRA to hear this message clearly from the U.S."

While doors were closed to Adams, the five McCartney sisters were received by Bush and prominent congressmen, including Kennedy - a signal that if the war in Northern Ireland was not over, the IRA had lost the battle for hearts and minds. For the group's political leaders, the way forward seemed clear.

"There is a time to resist, to stand up and to confront the enemy by arms if necessary," Adams said yesterday. "In other words, unfortunately, there is a time for war. There is also a time to engage, to reach out, to put the war behind us all ...

"This is that time."

Belfast's streetwise Catholics and Protestants didn't agree.

"A lot of good men who died would be turning in their graves, just like my stomach is turning over listening to this," said Harry McClafferty, 51, as the news was broadcast in a pub in Ardoyne, an IRA power base.

Robert Smith, a salesman in one of the roughest Protestant areas, said: "They've seen what has happened in London and New York and they can't be seen as terrorists any more ... but they're still terrorists."

IRA gives up armed struggle

with files from

IRA

Graphic

AP FILE PHOTO Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, who stood by the coffin of IRA hunger striker Bobby Sands in May, 1981, said yesterday: "There is a time to resist, to stand up and to confront the enemy by arms if necessary. There is also a time to engage, to reach out, to put the war behind us all ... This is that time." AP file photo The cenotaph at Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, with the devastated community centre in the background after it was hit by an IRA bomb, is seen in this photo taken Nov. 11, 1987. The IRA killed 1,775 of the 3,650 victims of decades of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland. JOHN COGILL ap Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, in Dublin yesterday, said the IRA had declared its war over. JOHN COGILL ap Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, in Dublin yesterday, said the IRA had declared its war over. AP file photo The cenotaph at Enniskillen, Northern Ireland, with the devastated community centre in the background after it was hit by an IRA bomb, is seen in this photo taken Nov. 11, 1987. The IRA killed 1,775 of the 3,650 victims of decades of sectarian violence in Northern Ireland.

Load-Date: July 29, 2005

End of Document

Farewell to arms

Canberra Times (Australia)

July 30, 2005 Saturday

Final Edition

Copyright 2005 The Federal Capital Press of Australia Pty Limited

Section: A;

Length: 1164 words

Byline: The Canberra Times

Body

IT WAS the thought of the widows which first came to mind when the ***Irish Republican Army*** promised that it would create no more of them, that it would opt for peace and politics and leave terrorism behind.

The IRA, once one of the world's mostmerciless and relentless killing machines, has formally signalled to the world that after almost four decades and 3700 funerals (about half of them caused by the IRA), its "war" has run its course. It declared that its members "must not engage in any other activities whatsoever", accept peaceful ones, saying it intended to put its arms beyond use as quickly as possible.

Thus an organisation which regards itselfas undefeated in the field, which survived all that the army, police and intelligence service could throw at it, announced that it was going into voluntary liquidation.

Unless something goes horribly wrong, ithas the potential to go into the history books as one of the most decisive of all the "historic" moments that the last decade has seen.

It was a statement that has been keenlyawaited for years. Though some reacted initially with deep scepticism and suspicion, it was hailed in other quarters as an historic change of heart.

But it is too late for all those widows.Nobody knows how many the IRA created, but the figure runs into the hundreds. The organisation killed 1700 of the 3700 troubles'

dead, leaving men, ***women***, children, families to grieve.

The guns and explosives it now promisesto do away with caused decades of destruction as it sought to unite Ireland by force.

But instead of achieving Irish unity, it caused all those deaths, ruining lives and shattering families.

The bereaved and injured will have mixed feelings about this latest move: the main hope of most of them will be that no one else should suffer as they have.

Some of those affected are deeply bitter; others have shown transcendent qualities of forgiveness.

As the figures show, the IRA was not theonly source of violence, but it was always the most proficient of the killing groups, the most cunning and the most dangerous.

Farewell to arms

But now it has found an alternative form of empowerment, putting its faith in the rapid advance of Sinn Féin as a political force.

The republicans also suffered their own casualties, with hundreds of IRA and Sinn Féin people dying.

The signs were that republicans really mean it, and are ready to turn a new page, having satisfied themselves that they can succeed politically without further recourse to guns and bombs. But the past republican record of blatant denials means no one will take the statement at face value. The arms must be decommissioned, and all illegality must stop.

But although months of verification lie ahead, British Prime Minister Tony Blair was ready on Thursday to describe it as a step of unparalleled magnitude, adding: "This may be the day when finally, after all the false dawns and dashed hopes, peace replaced war, politics replaces terror on the island of Ireland." His sentiments were echoed by the Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams with words which in terms of the republican movement unmistakably signalled that it envisages a new era: "Today's decision by the IRA to move into a new peaceful mode is historic and represents a courageous and confident initiative. It is a truly momentous and defining point in the search for a lasting peace with justice.

"There is a time to resist, to stand up and to confront the enemy by arms if necessary.

In other words, there is a time for war. There is also a time to engage, to reach out and put war behind us." The IRA and Sinn Féin have previously rejected all demands that they should say the war is over. But opinion in Belfast, London and in particular Dublin has decisively swung against them this year, as republicans were linked with a pub killing, money-laundering and a major bank robbery.

Republican illegality had been reduced but the fact that it persisted, and was accompanied by implausible denials, brought torrents of criticism on the IRA and Sinn Féin. Thursday's announcement may have been hastened by this.

The statement appears to meet the insistent demands of Britain and Ireland for an end to IRA recruitment, training, surveillance of targets, robberies, extortion, intimidation and indeed all the other trappings of paramilitarism.

First of all the guns are to go, their decommissioning witnessed by Canadian General John de Chastelain and two clergymen, a Catholic priest and a Protestant minister.

The Government is, meanwhile, to round up some aspects of security, dismantling army watch towers on the border and paving the way for republican fugitives to return to Northern Ireland without prospect of prosecution.

It will also indicate that it is prepared to legislate for potential devolution to Northern Ireland to be beefed up by having some security powers transferred to a new devolved administration. There will also be periodic reports by an Independent Monitoring Commission, which the authorities hope and assume will confirm that IRA illegality has ceased.

The idea is that Thursday's move will prove hugely valuable on two counts. First, the IRA will never kill again.

Second, confirmation of the IRA's shutdown will over the months lead to new political negotiations for the restoration of devolution. The Reverend Ian Paisley and his Democratic Unionists are the key to this, since they will have to declare themselves satisfied that the republican movement has been transformed and is suitable for inclusion in government.

This will probably stretch into next year, given that such verification will realistically take months and involve fresh elections to a Belfast Assembly.

"Even on the face of the statement, they have failed to explicitly declare an end to their multimillion-pound criminal activity and they have failed to provide the level of transparency that will be necessary to truly build confidence that the guns have gone in their entirety," Paisley said.

Farewell to arms

"This lack of transparency will prolong the period the community will need to make its assessment." But, most participants in the peace process will be happy if Thursday's statement gets on the road again a show that has been stalled for a long time.

The announcement of its departure from the scene echoed the words with which it wound up its previous campaign in the early 1960s. Then, too, it instructed units to "dump arms" -but this time it went much further, saying they would be rendered inoperable.

Back in the 1960s, the New York Times wrote of that campaign's closure: "The IRA belongs to history, and it belongs to better men in times that are gone. Let us put a wreath of red roses on their grave and move on." That hope for the disappearance of the IRA turned out to be premature.

This time the widows and the other bereaved, some of whom still place wreaths on more recent graves, will hope that Thursday's announcement really is the epitaph of the IRA. -The Independent David McKittrick has reported from Belfast since the early 1970s and has won many awards

Load-Date: July 29, 2005

End of Document

'To get on with our lives is a matter of pride'

USA TODAY

July 11, 2005, Monday,

FINAL EDITION

Copyright 2005 Gannett Company, Inc.

Section: NEWS;

Length: 1082 words

Byline: Judy Keen

Dateline: LONDON

Body

LONDON -- In many parts of this city over the sunny weekend, it was hard to imagine that rescue workers were battling stifling heat and rats as they extricated victims of Thursday's terrorist bombings from mangled cars deep inside subway tunnels.

Shoppers crowded Oxford Street. Sidewalk cafes were filled with laughing people enjoying temperatures that soared into the 80s. "We are open as usual," read a sign outside a Marks & Spencer department store near the Edgware Road subway station where one of the bombs exploded.

Things seemed normal even on the Underground, although some passengers on Sunday morning scanned the floors of cars for unattended bags. "Life does go on," says Patrick Whelan, 31, a computer analyst riding the subway to a picnic with friends. "This is London, and we can't be beaten by a bunch of bloody thugs. To get on with our lives is a matter of pride."

The bells of Westminster Abbey pealed Sunday as thousands of veterans and 250,000 Londoners gathered to mark the 60th anniversary of the end of World War II, a conflict that tested this city's endurance and inspired its reputation for resilience in the face of calamity.

That spirit is intact despite the terrorist attacks that left at least 49 dead and at least 700 injured. Baroness Betty Boothroyd, speaking Saturday at the unveiling of a monument commemorating the contributions of women to the World War II effort, said, "We did not waver then. We shall not flinch now."

But in the four neighborhoods where bombs erupted -- on subway cars at Edgware Road, King's Cross and Aldgate, and on a red double-decker bus in Tavistock Square -- there's grief and disbelief.

Plastic barriers now block the view of the shredded bus and the entrances to the subway stations. Blue and white police tape keeps gawkers back. Even so, Elizabeth Morgan, 43, who works for a nearby investment bank, had to come to Tavistock Square. "You know it could have been you, could have been any one of us," she says. "It's hard to just get on with it."

Morgan says she'll never ride the subway or bus again. "We all knew it was inevitable -- just a question of when, how, who," she says. "But everyone's just shocked at the audacity of it." She'll come back even after the wrecked bus is gone, she says. "I don't understand it, but it's quite peaceful to be here."

'To get on with our lives is a matter of pride'

Katie McCann was drawn to Tavistock Square, too. McCann, 35, who teaches languages to executives, came early in the morning carrying candles and a glass vase filled with blue flowers.

She took a bus to work Thursday. She works in a high rise and, after news of the bombings broke, felt an urgent need to get out. She feared that jets hijacked by terrorists would crash into it. She walked home that day.

McCann heard Queen Elizabeth and Prime Minister Tony Blair say that Londoners would get through this together. The words were intended to comfort, but they didn't make her feel better. "I feel they're out of touch," she says. "There is no community. We are all alone here." She hands her vase of flowers to a police officer and walks away, the candles still in her pocket.

Dagmara Kodlubanski came back to Aldgate, a neighborhood leveled during the blitz in World War II, early in the morning, too. She's leaving London to visit friends and family in Poland for a few days. Her boss, who witnessed an ***Irish Republican Army*** car bombing a few years ago, told her she needs to get away. She was riding the subway when the three bombs detonated. When she got to work, her building was evacuated. "I've been breaking down every single day," says Kodlubanski, 27, a project manager. "Yesterday I walked into the tube station and broke out in cold sweat and anxiety. I looked at the people around me, and I was so amazed at how brave they are. I need some distance. I'm not brave."

Edgware Road is in a neighborhood where many shop signs are in Arabic. Muslims constitute about 3% of Britain's population. Brian Paddick of the Metropolitan Police says there have been reports of hate crimes since the bombings. Mosques in Leeds and Wirral have been hit by arson.

"One of my friends, in her neighborhood of Croyden, someone swore at her on the street," says Intissar Khreeji, 20, a law student who volunteered over the weekend at a cultural awareness event at a community center and mosque in Finsbury Park.

"We are concerned" about a backlash, says Mohammed Kousba, new director of the mosque where the radical cleric Abu Hamza Al-Masri, who praised al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, once preached. "We hope the people who did this are not Muslims, but even if they are Muslims, they have to be caught and punished," he says.

Prominent Christian, Jewish and Muslim religious leaders made a joint appearance appealing for people to avoid reprisals and to work together.

King's Cross Station, a major transportation hub, has become the unofficial headquarters for the media, the curious and people who want to do something to show their solidarity with victims.

Signs with photos of the missing and pleas from family and friends who are trying to find them are taped to the station's walls and a nearby bus shelter. "Karolina is still missing!" says one large poster. Another seeks information about Gamze Gunoral. "On incident day she was wearing blue jeans, white jumper, double-breasted white jacket and Adidas trainers," it says.

Police haven't publicly released the names of any of the dead, but have notified family members of bodies that were found with some identification on them. Police said Sunday they have received reports of 31 missing people.

Along the sidewalk outside the station, there's a mountain of bouquets. "We'll never forget," says one note. There are scores of reporters and photographers milling around; each time someone adds flowers to the pile, they are immediately surrounded by journalists.

Alan Brown, 54, an electrician, and his friend Jenny Watson, 49, just arrived by train from Scunthorpe, in the north of England. They debated whether to postpone their plans for a weekend in the city, but decided to come after seeing a photo in the newspaper of a sign that read "London will go on."

They bought a bouquet and made the King's Cross impromptu shrine their first stop. "Why let these people stop us from carrying on our lives?" Brown asks. "It was just a gut feeling that we needed to come. We're not about to let these people beat us."

'To get on with our lives is a matter of pride'

Still, Watson feels uneasy. "Every time you hear an ambulance siren," she says, "you wonder."

Contributing: Noelle Knox

Graphic

PHOTO, B/W, Odd Anderson, AFP/Getty Images; PHOTO, B/W, Ali Jarekji, Reuters; PHOTO, B/W, Francois Lenoir, Reuters

Load-Date: July 11, 2005

End of Document

Victims' kin face down Ulster terrorists

The International Herald Tribune

March 14, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 International Herald Tribune

Section: NEWS; Pg. 1

Length: 1141 words

Byline: Brian Lavery

Dateline: BELFAST:

Body

Taking heart from the campaign for justice for a Belfast man who was murdered in a bar fight in January, families of people killed by Catholic and Protestant paramilitaries are coming forward with their stories and standing up to the terrorists they once feared.

While walking home in Derry in 2001, Mark Robinson, a 22-year-old Roman Catholic, was stabbed 11 times, beaten in the head with a metal bar, and left for dead by a member of the *Irish Republican Army* who has recently been convicted of manslaughter in another stabbing, his family say.

The body of Raymond McCord, a Protestant and also 22, was found in a quarry on the outskirts of Belfast nearly eight years ago, after he had been abducted and bludgeoned to death by a Protestant gang called the Ulster Volunteer Force.

Gareth O'Connor, a 24-year-old Catholic, disappeared while driving through the IRA's heartland, three days after the group issued a death threat against him in 2003; only scraps of his clothing have been found.

The New York Times

Northern Ireland's sectarian conflict has claimed more than 200 lives since rival paramilitary organizations first called cease-fires in 1994, and only 30 people have been successfully prosecuted for murder or for manslaughter, according to British-Irish Rights Watch, an independent monitoring body.

Now some of those cases are resurfacing thanks to the sisters and girlfriend of Robert McCartney, the father of two who died in a grisly slaying by IRA members.

The women have given hundreds of interviews to force the IRA into lifting the intimidation that has prevented 70 witnesses from testifying.

Their efforts have also put extraordinary pressure on the IRA and its political wing, Sinn Fein, and has turned the women into unlikely folk heroes.

Shortly before a five-day trip to Washington, where they will meet with President George W. Bush, and Senators Ted Kennedy and Hillary Clinton, the women acknowledged an uncomfortable fact. After six weeks, their publicity campaign has received global recognition and outpourings of compassion, but regarding what they really want seeing their brother's killers in court it simply is not working.

Victims' kin face down Ulster terrorists

"We haven't moved any closer. There's been no movement as yet," Paula McCartney said at her home recently, over the noise of phones ringing and more reporters waiting at the door. The women, visibly exhausted but unbowed, have quit their jobs or dropped out of college to continue the fight.

Such frustration and overextended grief are familiar to the other families who now say that the McCartneys have given them cause to hope, tentatively, for a breakthrough. If the IRA relents in that case, they say, the door may open for them too to receive justice, or even the vital consolation of being able to bury a missing person's body.

Raymond McCord's father, also called Raymond, visited the McCartneys recently, and said that cooperative efforts by Protestant and Catholic families would let them tackle paramilitary threats effectively. "We've got to get the two communities working together," he said, in a Belfast pub. "That would put them in a corner they can't get out of."

Mark O'Connor, whose son Gareth disappeared, said that many more families will soon begin to speak out against paramilitary groups, even around his home in Armagh, the county south of Belfast where the IRA exercises the most ruthless control.

Northern Ireland's police chief, Hugh Orde, has said that the IRA was "highly likely" to have killed Gareth, and his family are certain of it.

Even a few years ago, local IRA rules meant that "nobody speaks out, because if they speak out, they go down a hole," O'Connor said.

When he began criticizing the IRA for his son's disappearance, he endured a litany of intimidation tactics, from death threats to smashed windows and a torched garden at his suburban home.

Following a string of recent cases that culminated with Robert McCartney's killing, ordinary people are starting to defy the threats.

"People will stand up to them now. Before, if they came to your door and said, 'we need your car at six o'clock,' you'd have your car running outside, with the keys in it," he said.

Even if the McCartneys have yet to obtain eyewitness testimony or criminal convictions, they have altered the atmosphere in republican areas.

Paula McCartney said that she was thrilled to find her neighbors in the Short Strand area of Belfast beginning to turn away from local IRA men.

"People now are actively shunning these characters," she said.

Robert McCartney's case is unique because almost all other victims have at least a tenuous connection with their paramilitary killers.

Raymond McCord served as a drug-runner for a UVF member on just one fatal occasion, according to his father.

Gareth O'Connor disappeared while on bail after being charged with membership of the Real IRA, but a spokeswoman for that republican splinter group confirmed that he was not involved, his parents said.

Paul O'Connor, Gareth's uncle and a spokesman for victims' families, said that those claims were malicious rumors spread to take pressure off the IRA.

"Sinn Fein has become quite expert at that kind of whispering campaign, and demonizing people who they've murdered," he said.

Sinn Fein's usually slick publicity machine has been surprisingly unable to handle the McCartney killing, which followed widely accepted accusations that the IRA robbed \$50 million from a Belfast bank last December.

Victims' kin face down Ulster terrorists

A steady trickle of grim details has kept the murder prominent in the public mind, like news on Saturday that a Sinn Fein member who ran for parliamentary office and works in a top party official's office, admitted that she was one of the 70 people in the bar.

She saw nothing, she said, and gave a statement to her lawyer, which was quickly rejected as inadequate by the McCartneys.

That news is not necessarily affecting Sinn Fein's support, however. An opinion poll published by the Belfast Telegraph newspaper on Friday found that even since top politicians have linked its leaders directly to the IRA, public support for Sinn Fein had slipped just 3 points, to 20 percent of the electorate, since November 2003, making it tied with the more moderate Social Democratic and Labor Party, which also represents Catholics.

And after weeks of criticism, its candidate in an election to a vacant seat in the Irish Parliament received 12 percent of the votes cast on Friday, up from 9 percent in the last election three years ago.

The families' campaigns will continue after the media attention dies down, Catherine McCartney said. And their struggle, so far, has held them together. Seeing their mothers and aunts continue that struggle has made it easier for the 20 children in their family.

"It's what's keeping them going," Paula McCartney said. "Without it, their hearts would be blackened. It would blacken anyone's heart."

Load-Date: March 14, 2005

End of Document

Indian-American community exerts growing clout back home

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

March 21, 2005, Monday

Copyright 2005 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: USA; Pg. 03

Length: 1131 words

Byline: By Ben Arnoldy Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Highlight: As the US's wealthiest ethnic group, it is divided over how funds sent abroad are used.

Body

When Nishrin Hussain moved to the United States in 1990, she left her parents behind in India. But her American life was tragically interrupted when her father, a Muslim, was burned alive by a Hindu mob during the 2002 riots that shook India's Gujarat state.

Since then, she has become a force in Indian politics - from her home in Delaware. Like a growing number of other Indian-Americans, Ms. Hussain is using the considerable power of the pocketbook and other forms of political activism to influence events half a world away.

And their efforts can have an impact: Last week the US State Department - largely because of the protests of Indian Americans - canceled an upcoming tour in the United States by Narendra Modi, Gujarat's chief minister, for the role he played in the riots three years ago.

In one sense, the Indian American community reflects the growing clout of many expatriate groups in the US. From Mexican-Americans to immigrants from the Muslim world, they are becoming more aware of their influence back home and are trying to capitalize on it. Irish-Americans have influenced events in their homeland for decades.

But the Indian-American community has gained new visibility in recent years as its political - and financial - clout has grown. As America's wealthiest ethnic group, it is particularly divided over allegations that some charities are funneling money to sectarian violence like that in Gujarat.

"We are seeing increased attention by Indian-Americans to how their donations are used, particularly in the wake of Sept. 11 and the Gujarat events," says Mark Sidel, an expert on Indian diaspora at the University of Iowa. "We now see the emergence of controversy and of watchdog groups of various kinds."

One such group, Sabrang Communications, released a bombshell report in late 2002. It alleged that the US-based India Development and Relief Fund (IDRF) was quietly channeling abroad more than 80 percent of its discretionary funds to pro-Hindu groups. Some of these groups, tied to an Indian organization known as the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), have been accused of fomenting sectarianism that has led to violence.

Human Rights Watch and other groups say that the RSS was among those "most directly responsible" for the Gujarat riots. They also fault Modi for doing little to rein in the organized mobs that killed more than 2,000 people, mostly Muslims. The riots started after Muslims set fire to a train full of Hindu activists, killing 58 men, women, and children.

Indian - American community exerts growing clout back home

Many of the groups that were preparing to protest Modi's visit are also tracking Indian-American charities that support RSS activities. "The people who are sending donations to these groups are not aware of where the money is going," says Hussain. "And I do fear that after the [2001 Gujarat] earthquake that some of the money collected was geared toward this hatred."

But Ramesh Rao, a professor of communications at Truman State University in Kirksville, Mo., says the IDRF has been unfairly targeted. At IDRF's request, he published a detailed rebuttal to the Sabrang report. While not denying that some IDRF money may go to groups affiliated with the RSS, he says that both the amount and the effect are overblown. Mr. Rao calls the Sabrang report a political attack by leftists, part of a decades-long campaign to vilify the RSS and any group directly or indirectly connected with its work.

That the US should be center stage for this long-running dispute has a lot to do with the rising wealth of Indian-Americans.

In a first study of its kind, Devesh Kapur at Harvard University found that Indian-Americans donated an estimated \$ 150 million in 2004. He says they are the most educated ethnic group in the US and have the highest median income. "I think the real story is how little they give," he says.

The way they give is also noteworthy. Sidel says that as with other more established ethnic groups, Indian-Americans are no longer just sending money back to family, but are increasingly putting it toward social and charitable causes through nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and professional associations.

One of the biggest professional groups is the Asian American Hotel Owners Association. Modi had been invited to the US by AAHOA to speak this week at their annual convention in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Nearly all the group's members, who control more than half of America's economy lodging, hail from Gujarat.

In a press release sent after the State Department revoked Modi's visa, AAHOA said it "understood" the government's position and reasserted that Modi was invited to speak about business opportunities and tourism in Gujarat.

Protest organizers, however, said the trip was an effort to raise Modi's profile for an eventual bid for prime minister. Modi was not the only foreign leader to be snubbed by the US last week.

Breaking with a St. Patrick's Day tradition, political leaders did not host Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams. Sinn Fein's militant wing, the **Irish Republican Army**, is embroiled in a murder and bank heist scandal. The killing of Robert McCartney has touched off concern among Irish-Americans, who are a key source of funding for Sinn Fein.

But it is not easy to establish that donated dollars end up funding violence abroad.

"I don't know if money given to RSS schools leads to violence," says Rao. "While one can make that causal stretch for political purposes, no good social scientist would be willing to do that."

Biju Mathew, a professor at Rider University and contributor to the Sabrang report, admits the report found no legal smoking gun. But he describes as a "relic of the past" the notion that to catch someone red-handed "you would mark a currency bill and see where it surfaces again."

After Sept. 11, the US released a new set of regulations for charitable giving, and established a blacklist of groups that finance terror. There is anecdotal evidence, supported by new research on the Pakistani community by Adil Najam at Tufts University in Medford, Mass., that Muslim-Americans are shifting their donation dollars to local rather than international causes.

Corporations are also changing the way they donate. Cisco Systems, Inc. was once a major contributor to IDRF through its employee-matching program. In May 2003 the company suspended its program, a move a spokeswoman said was related to uncertainty over the changing federal guidelines. IDRF no longer receives matching funds from Cisco, or from Oracle.

Indian - American community exerts growing clout back home

Despite these losses, IDRF's general funding did not drop after the November 2002 report. The group's president says IDRF raised \$ 757,000 in 2003 compared with \$ 702,000 in 2002.

Meanwhile, Nishrin Hussain takes satisfaction that Modi cannot come to America. "I am delighted," she says.

(c) Copyright 2005. The Christian Science Monitor

Load-Date: March 20, 2005

End of Document

**Turning back is not an option;
SINN FEIN ARD FHEIS 2005**

Irish News

March 07, 2005

Copyright 2005 The Irish News Limited

Section: Pg. 20

Length: 1192 words

Body

THE republican leadership is working to create the conditions in which the IRA ceases to exist - something which can be achieved, Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams said at the weekend.

Mr Adams, who predicted that Sinn Fein and the DUP will be in government together in the future, told delegates at his party's centenary year ard fheis in Dublin that the most important thing now was to rebuild the peace process. Turning back is not an option, he said.

This was one of the most difficult speeches of Mr Adams's leadership, coming against a background of pressure on Sinn Fein over allegations of republican criminality and the alleged involvement of republicans in the murder of Robert McCartney.

Mr Adams opened his address with an outline of Sinn Fein's development over the past 100 years and the beginning of preparations for the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the 1981 hunger strikes.

He then turned directly to the murder of Robert McCartney.

"His murder was dreadful, not only because of the way he died and not only because it robbed his family of a father, a partner, a brother, a son, " Mr Adams said.

"His murder was dreadful because. . . some republicans were involved in it. That makes this a huge issue for us.

"As president of Sinn Fein or as an individual I could not campaign for the victims of British or unionist paramilitary thuggery, if I was not as clear and as committed to justice for the McCartney family.

"I have met with the McCartney family a number of times.

And I remain in contact with them. I believe their demand for justice and truth is a just demand. I have pledged them my support and the support of this party.

"Those responsible for the brutal killing of Robert McCartney should admit to what they did in a court of law. That is the only decent thing for them to do. Those with any information should come forward.

"I am not letting this issue go until those who have sullied the republican cause are made to account for their actions."

Turning back is not an option; SINN FEIN ARD FHEIS 2005

Mr Adams then said that republicans rejected the label of criminality. He said that 25 years ago British prime minister Margaret Thatcher could not criminalise republicans.

"The women prisoners in Armagh and the blanketmen and the hunger strikers in Long Kesh wouldn't allow her, " he told the ard fheis.

"That was then; this is now.

"Michael McDowell has stepped into Margaret Thatcher's shoes. But he will not criminalise us either, because we will not allow them. And we won't allow anyone within republican ranks to criminalise this party or this struggle.

"There is no place in republicanism for anyone involved in criminality.

"Our detractors will say we have a different view of what criminality is.

"We have not. We know what a crime is both in the moral and legal sense, and our view is the same as the majority of people.

We know that breaking the law is a crime.

"But we refuse to criminalise those who break the law in pursuit of political objectives.

"Are we saying republicans can do no wrong? Of course not.

"We need to be as strong minded in facing up to wrong doing by republicans, as we are in opposing wrong doing by anyone else."

Mr Adams said Sinn Fein was accused of recognising the army council of the IRA as the legitimate government of this island.

"This is not the case, " he said.

"The supreme governing and legislative body of Sinn Fein is the ard fheis. This is where this party makes its big decisions.

This is where we elect our leadership, agree our policies and set in place our strategies.

"I do not believe that the army council is the government of Ireland. Such a government will only exist when all the people of this island elect it.

"Does Sinn Fein accept the institutions of this state as the legitimate institutions of this state? Of course we do. But we are critical of these institutions.

We are entitled to be."

Referring to the overall political process, Mr Adams complained that the British and Irish governments were seeking to reduce all of the issues to one - that is the issue of the IRA - even though, he claimed, the governments are aware that the IRA is not the only issue.

"Historically and in essence the Irish Republican Army is a response to British rule in Ireland. It is a response to deep injustice. In contemporary terms it is evidence of the failure of politics in the north and a consequence of the abandonment by successive Irish governments of nationalists in that part of the country.

"And let me be clear about this. Our leadership is working to create the conditions in which the IRA ceases to exist.

"Do I believe this can be achieved? Yes I do.

Turning back is not an option; SINN FEIN ARD FHEIS 2005

"But I do not believe that the IRA can be wished away, or ridiculed or embarrassed or demonised or repressed out of existence.

"Hundreds of IRA volunteers have fallen in the struggle."

To loud applause Mr Adams said: "There is justifiable pride among republican families about the role of their loved ones. When people decided to take up arms it was because they believed there was no alternative.

"But there is an alternative.

That is a positive.

"It is in tatters. But it can be rebuilt. That is another positive.

"The IRA cessation continues.

That also is a positive.

"The IRA has demonstrated time and again its commitment to support genuine efforts to secure Irish freedom by democratic peaceful means. Another positive. I do not underestimate the difficulties. I take nothing for granted. But let no-one ignore, diminish or belittle the progress that has been made."

Mr Adams said Sinn Fein has used its influence with the IRA in a positive way and said he believed there was merit in continuing to do this.

But he said republicans could not make peace on their own.

"We cannot resolve the outstanding issues of policing and demilitarisation, and equality and human rights on our own.

The British and Irish governments have their parts to play.

"Whatever else happens the peace process is our priority.

"Inevitably that will mean more hard choices, more hard decisions for Irish republicans as we push ahead with our political project and as we seek to achieve a united Ireland.

"Those who want fundamental change have to stretch the furthest and take the greatest risks. Let use continue, despite the difficulties - to reach out to unionism to build a just and lasting peace on our island.

"Ian Paisley says he is willing to share power with us. Let us test him. Again. We know it will be a battle a day."

Later Mr Adams said it was his conviction that the DUP and Sinn Fein would in future be in government together.

On policing, Mr Adams described so-called punishment beatings and shootings as counter-productive.

"There is no place for so-called punishment beatings or shootings. Our party has a lengthy opposition to these. They are counter-productive.

"They should stop."

On north south politics Mr Adams pointed to the electoral successes of Sinn Fein.

He claimed that the leaderships of the Labour Party and Fine Gael had never been comfortable with the peace process.

"Now they have colluded, once again, in a vicious anti-Sinn Fein agenda and Fianna Fail ministers increasingly borrow the invective of Michael McDowell's rhetoric, " he said.

Graphic

100 YEARS ON: Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams addresses delegates at his party's ard fheis in the RDS during his keynote speech on Saturday

Load-Date: March 11, 2005

End of Document

Walker's World: The Nobel Curse

UPI

October 7, 2005 Friday 2:43 PM EST

Copyright 2005 U.P.I. All Rights Reserved



Length: 1222 words

Byline: MARTIN WALKER

Dateline: WASHINGTON, Oct. 7

Body

One must hope for the best, but it is hard not to fear the worst for the cause of controlling nuclear weapons now that the International Atomic Energy Agency has fallen under the curse that seems to attend so many winners of the Nobel Peace Prize since it was first awarded to commemorate the man who got rich by inventing dynamite back in 1901.

This year's award to Mohamed El-Baradei and the IAEA recognizes the work they have put into monitoring Iran's nuclear ambitions. It may also be a little tweak of President George Bush's tail feathers, since Baradei stoutly refused to give the Bush administration the verdict against Iraq that was sought before the war. That, after all, seems to have been the motive behind the 2002 award to former President Jimmy Carter.

It is all very well to use the Peace Prize to make a political point, or to recognize the Iran human rights activist Shirin Ebadi as they did in 2003, or to hail last year the founder of Africa's Green Belt movement, Wangari Maathai. But it is getting repetitive to continue awarding the Peace Prize to the United Nations and its various agencies -- like this year's prize.

No fewer than 15 of the Peace Prizes since 1945 have gone to the U.N. or its agencies or its staff, often with unhappy consequences. Kofi Annan won the prize in 2001, a time when the Oil for Food scandal was festering in secret bank accounts in the world's choicer tax havens. The U.N. Peacekeeping Forces, the Blue Helmets, won the prize in 1988, on the eve of the decade in which they were fail so wretchedly in the Balkans. The International Labor Organization won the prize in 1969, about the last time when the advanced industrial nations of Europe and North American could claim to be enjoying full employment.

In addition to those cited already, the U.N.'s laureates are:

- The Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1981 and in 1954,
- France's Rene Cassim, father of the U.N. Declaration of Human Rights, in 1968;
- The U.N. International Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 1965;

Walker's World: The Nobel Curse

- Dag Hammarskjöld of Sweden, U.N. secretary-general (awarded posthumously) in 1961;
- Britain's Philip Noel-Baker, who helped found the League of Nations and the U.N., in 1959;
- Canadian Prime Minister Lester Pearson, for helping resolve the Suez conflict, in 1957;
- France's Leon Jouhaux, a labor leader who helped found the ILO in 1919 and was a French delegate to the U.N. General Assembly, in 1953;
- American, Ralph Bunche, U.N. mediator in Palestine, in 1950;
- Britain's Lord Boyd-Orr, founding director general of the U.N. Food and Agricultural Organization, in 1949;
- American Cordell Hull, former U.S. secretary of state who helped found the U.N., in 1945.

These awards to the U.N. are all very well, if one approves of international civil servants getting very large sums of money for doing what they are paid for professionally. And the Nobel Peace Prize committee did just the same for the old League of Nations, whose luminaries or institutions were awarded five of the prizes between 1919 and 1939 (and there were five years when no award was made). They got nine, if one includes the Nansen passport system for stateless people and the parallel 'Society of Nations.'

And between 1901 and 1914, the worthies of the International Peace Bureau based in Switzerland won six peace prizes. And in 1974, having survived two world wars, the League of Nations, a Cold War, and the coming of the UN, the International Peace Bureau was still in there fighting, and shared a Peace Prize in 1974 for its President, Sean MacBride, better known in his youth to the forces of law and order in Dublin and London as a senior officer of the **Irish Republican Army**

Perhaps, as with Israel's Menachem Begin or Dr. Henry Kissinger, MacBride's prize was awarded for conversion to more peaceful paths. More likely, it was the longevity of the Peace Bureau that did it. They do love their institutions, the Norwegians who sit in the committee that decides the prizes. They also like international law, and it seems a safe bet that the new International Criminal Court will be getting the fat check from Oslo in the foreseeable future -- and probably all the faster because the Bush administration refuses to join it.

There is something rather sad about the blasted hopes that all these Peace Prizes represent, the disappointments and the disillusion and the deep frustration of well-meaning people at the stubborn refusal of poor, flawed humanity to be reasonable and sit down and resolve their differences through compromise and the rule of international law. It goes against all logic that people and nations should resort so often to war when we all know how uncontrollable the violence almost inevitably becomes -- witness the bloody aftermath of the Iraq war. And yet war is such a constant in human affairs that we might almost call it endemic, coded into our genes.

The British economist and humanist Norman Angell, another Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, made a global reputation (after working as a ditch-digger in the American West and then as a reporter in St Louis) for arguing that war had become quite obsolete in the modern world, that the great industrial powers were far too inter-dependent ever to resort to violence, and if the politicians dared and generals dared to try, then the bankers and industrialists and the workers would prevent them. His book, "The Great Illusion," was published just four years before the outbreak of World War I.

It is in this rather unfortunate sense that there seems to be some kind of curse on the Peace Prize, or at least on many of its recipients. Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin won it, along with Shimon Peres, in 1994. Rabin was assassinated, Arafat is dead and not greatly mourned, and while Peres is happily still with us, that is more than can be said for the abortive Oslo peace process their Nobel prize rewarded.

Mikhail Gorbachev got his prize in 1990, just before the collapse of the country he was trying to reform. In 1976, the Belfast **Women** for Peace got the prize, without much impact on the long terrorist campaign of the IRA, and while John Hume and David Trimble were recognized for the work in finally bringing about the Northern Ireland cease fire,

Walker's World: The Nobel Curse

it was but a prelude to Trimble's political eclipse. It is not as though the Peace Prize conveys much protection; Burma's Aung San Suu Kyi was the laureate in 1991, and has barely been out of house arrest since.

We had better pass over without comment the most infamous award of all, the 1973 Peace Prize to Dr. Henry Kissinger and Le Duc Tho, supposedly for their efforts in trying to resolve the Vietnam War. Saigon fell 18 months later; the curse of Nobel strikes again.

Let's hope it spares this year's winners, for if the curse is to make yet again a mockery of the peace laureate system and the IAEA falls into disrepute or fails to do its job of keeping the nuclear age under some kind of organized supervision, then the price of failure could be very high indeed. And right now, caught between Iran's proven record of nuclear deception on the one hand, and Israel's fear for its existence and America's mistrust on Tehran on the other, the IAEA is in one of the hottest seats on the planet, trying to control a explosive that make Alfred Nobel's dynamite look like kitchen match.

Load-Date: October 8, 2005

End of Document

WORLD at 1700GMT

AP Worldstream

August 6, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 1429 words

Body

HIGHLIGHTS:

Update: RUSSIA-NAVY ACCIDENT: US-British rescue teams head for trapped sub.

Update: SUDAN-GARANG: Garang buried with promises of pursuit for peace.

New: ITALY-PLANE DOWN: Plane goes down in sea off Sicily with 39 aboard, 19 killed.

New: IRAN-NUCLEAR BRINKSMANSHIP: Brinksmanship has paid off handsomely so far.

New: IRAQ: U.S., Iraqi troops repel coordinated insurgent attacks in south Baghdad.

New: VENEZUELA: Local elections seen as test for Chavez's political allies.

New: US-HIROSHIMA. At Los Alamos, Hiroshima survivors join disarmament activists.

IRAN-NUCLEAR: Iran rejects European deal on nuclear program, installs conservative president

TEHRAN, Iran - Iran issues a stern rejection of Europe's proposal to limit Tehran's nuclear program and inaugurates a new, conservative president who promises to strengthen the role of Islam in setting the domestic and international course for the country. BC-ME-GEN--IRAN. Moved. By Ali Akbar Dareini.

BC-BC-ME--IRAN-NUCLEAR BRINKSMANSHIP. ISFAHAN, Iran - Iran's nuclear brinksmanship has paid off handsomely so far. Tehran gained two years to complete unfinished work on facilities to enrich and convert uranium during unproductive negotiations with Europe, which has threatened but not carried out a threat to seek U.N. sanctions. An AP news analysis by Ali Akbar Dareini. AP Photos XHS101-116

TRAPPED SUBMARINE: Rescuers loop cables under structure trapping sub

PETROPAVLOVSK-KAMCHATSKY, Russia - The Russian navy scrambles to save seven men stranded in a vessel trapped deep beneath the Pacific Ocean surface, their air supply dwindling as American and British rescue teams race against time to reach the remote site of the drama. BC-EU-GEN--RUSSIA-NAVY ACCIDENT. Developing. By Vladimir Isachenkov. AP Photos MOSB803-804. AP Graphics RUSSIAN SUB; RUSSIA NAVY ACCIDENT; RUSSIA SUB DEPTH.

ITALY-PLANE DOWN: Plane goes down in sea off Sicily with 39 aboard, 19 killed

ROME - A Tunisian airliner attempting an emergency landing in Sicily ditches off the coast and 19 of the 39 people on board are killed, Italian officials say. Some of the 20 survivors had clung to the wings as rescuers rushed to their aid, a news report says. BC-EU-GEN--ITALY PLANE DOWN. Developing. By Frances D'Emilio.

SUDAN-GARANG: Garang buried with promises that family, leaders will pursue peace dream

WORLD at 1700GMT

JUBA, Sudan - The family members and political leaders who buried key southern leader John Garang de Mabior vow that the peace process has not died with him. Garang's widow, Rebecca, tells Sudanese they would be the "watchdogs" of the peace agreement her husband had struggled for, and the Sudanese president clasped the hand of Garang's successor over his head and pledged their commitment to unity. BC-AF-GEN--SUDAN. Moved. By Rodrique Ngowi. AP Photos.

MARADI, Niger - The sacks of beans have been piled one on the other on the concrete floor of the zinc-roofed warehouse for a week. Bottles of oil are lined up next to the beans like orange plastic toy soldiers. None of the food was ready to do battle against hunger, though. Not until aid workers finish training support staff, identify the villages they'll serve and how they'll reach them, and complete the other steps that can make responding to crises frustratingly slow. BC-AF-GEN--NIGER-GETTING AID OUT. Moved. By Nafi Diouf. AP Photos.

BRITAIN: Critics warn new anti-terror plans could alienate British Muslims

LONDON - Prime Minister Tony Blair's government defends its plans to crack down on extremist Islamic clerics who preach hate and encourage terrorism, as critics warned the measures could further alienate British Muslims. Three men are to appear in court accused of withholding information from police investigating the July 21 terror attacks. BC-EU-GEN--BRITAIN-BOMBINGS. Moved. By Ed Johnson.

-BC-EU-GEN--BRITAIN-MUSLIMS. LONDON - Representatives of the Islamic group Hizb ut-Tahrir, facing a ban in Britain insist they are non-violent and pose no threat, and say the move would undermine human rights. Moved. By Slobodan Lekic.

IRELAND-COLOMBIA-IRA: Ireland, IRA deny secret deal over Colombia fugitives

DUBLIN, Ireland - The Irish government and Irish Republican Army-linked Sinn Fein deny they struck a secret deal over the return of three fugitives from Colombia who fled 17-year prison sentences for training Marxist rebels how to make and use IRA-style weapons systems. BC-EU-GEN--IRELAND-COLOMBIA-IRA. Moved. By Shawn Pogatchnik.

SERBIA-TRUMPET FRENZY: Brass band festival trumpets more than just a mass party

GUCA, Serbia-Montenegro - The first week of every August, a sleepy village in western Serbia erupts with the sound of battling trumpets at the largest - and possibly the noisiest - Balkan folk music festival. BC-EU-A&E--SERBIA-TRUMPET FRENZY. Moved. By Katarina Kratovac. AP Photos XSI101-1110.

ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS: Israeli Arab leaders fault government for deadly attack, but call for non-violent response

JERUSALEM - Israeli Arab leaders criticize the government for failing to intercept a Jewish soldier who deserted to an extremist West Bank settlement before he killed four members of their community. But they overwhelmingly call for a non-violent response to the attack, which was linked to Israel's upcoming withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. BC-ME-GEN-- ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Moved. By Amy Teibel.

ISRAEL-PREPARING THE PULLOUT: Soldiers train for evacuating Gaza settlements

TSEELIM ARMY BASE, Israel - In the desert sands of southern Israel, a mock Arab town built to train soldiers fighting the Palestinian uprising has been turned into a mock Jewish settlement to train troops to remove Jewish settlers during the upcoming Gaza pullout. BC-ME-GEN--ISRAEL-PREPARING THE PULLOUT. By Steven Weizman. AP Photos. Moved.

IRAQ: U.S., Iraqi troops repel coordinated insurgent attacks in south Baghdad

BAGHDAD, Iraq - U.S. and Iraqi troops repel a series of coordinated insurgent attacks in southern Baghdad, killing six rebels and capturing 12, the U.S. military says. BC-ME-GEN--IRAQ. Moved. By Qassim Abdul-Zahra.

SPACE CENTER, Houston - Space shuttle Discovery unhitches from the orbital outpost its astronauts called home for nine days, readying itself for the long, dangerous journey back to Earth. BC-NA-GEN--US-SPACE SHUTTLE. Developing. By Pam Easton. AP Photos DN401 TXDC105, 107, 110-113. AP Graphic SHUTTLE REENTRY.

VENEZUELA: Local elections seen as test for Chavez's political allies

CARACAS, Venezuela - Thousands of candidates are competing Sunday in local elections that could forecast the popularity of President Hugo Chavez's political allies ahead of Venezuela's key congressional elections in December. BC-LA-POL--VENEZUELA-LOCAL ELECTIONS. Moved. By Jorge Rueda.

WORLD at 1700GMT

KOREAS-NUCLEAR: U.S. envoy says North Korean talks "rather excruciating" but weekend meetings to go ahead
BEIJING - Nuclear negotiators say they have no plans to suspend North Korean disarmament talks despite a lack of progress, and Washington and Pyongyang scheduled a meeting to discuss how to speed up the process. BC-AS-GEN--KOREAS-NUCLEAR. Moved. By Audra Ang. AP Photos BEJ101-106.

HIROSHIMA: For Hiroshima's 60th anniversary, a moment of silence, water for the dead

HIROSHIMA, Japan - For a brief moment, the trolleys stopped and the city fell silent. Then, with offerings of water and flowers for the dead, Hiroshima remembered how a flash in the early morning sky 60 years ago turned life to death for more than 140,000 and forever changed the face of war. BC-AS-GEN--JAPAN-HIROSHIMA. Moved. By Eric Talmadge. AP Photo XJK101-102, XITS104-105.

- US-HIROSHIMA. LOS ALAMOS, New Mexico - At the birthplace of the atomic bombs that devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki 60 years ago, survivors of those deadly blasts join disarmament activists in support of a global ban on nuclear weapons. BC-NA-GEN--US-HIROSHIMA. By Barry Massey. Expected by 2000GMT. AP Photos planned.

US-WAL-MART: Wal-Mart, facing billions of dollars in damages, wants bias case tossed

SAN FRANCISCO - Has Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest private employer, grown too big for the U.S. justice system?

That provocative question is the key to Wal-Mart's defense against a lawsuit filed on behalf of 1.6 million former and current women employees. Lawyers pursuing the class action claim Wal-Mart systematically denied raises and promotions to women and paid them less than their male counterparts. BC-NA-FIN--US-WAL-MART DISCRIMINATION. Moved. By David Kravets. AP Photos FX101-102.

YOUR QUERIES: Contact your local AP bureau, the Europe-Africa Desk at +44 207 427 4300, or the Americas Desk at +1-212-621-1650 or ami@ap.org.

Load-Date: August 7, 2005

End of Document

Murder victim's sisters return to more hostile climate in Belfast: The McCartney family's trip to the US is part of a wider plot to harm Sinn Fein, some republicans allege

The Guardian (London) - Final Edition

March 19, 2005

Copyright 2005 Guardian Newspapers Limited

Section: Guardian Home Pages, Pg. 12

Length: 1267 words

Byline: Angelique Chrisafis, Ireland correspondent

Body

On the radio phone-ins, the barometer of Northern Ireland's bottomless pit of moral outrage, some republican voices have raged about the plot to destroy their movement.

The McCartney sisters were making "a complete political issue" of their brother's killing by IRA members, one said.

American Teresa McShane was affronted, having not had a shred of help from her own government since her husband was crushed to death by an army personnel carrier in Derry nine years ago. She too was convinced the McCartneys were "being used" as a part of an anti-republican crusade.

The Belfast to which the sisters and fiancée of Robert McCartney are returning this weekend is a more hostile place than the one they left. Despite the hundreds of interviews in Washington and an audience with the president, they are no closer to justice. Their brother's killers are still free to saunter to the bookies near their home.

But the fight the family faces has got tougher. Republican gloves have come off. Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams have publicly suggested that a political machine is manipulating the sisters to damage Sinn Fein.

The feeling that republicans are being victimised echoes the fury of one woman in the tea-room at Sinn Fein's party conference two weeks ago, who complained: "My husband was murdered by loyalists. Why should these women get more publicity than anyone else?"

The family has long complained of a whispering campaign against it. But Sinn Fein's line now that political enemies are exploiting the McCartneys seems meant to plant a seed of doubt in the minds of a wider nationalist community pained and confused by the murder and its implications.

When Mr McGuinness gives you a piece of friendly advice, and you live in a republican area of Belfast, it's a good idea to listen. His "well-intentioned" words to the McCartney sisters this week to keep their noses out of party politics was interpreted as a threat. He denied this. But many saw it as a bid to stop them running as highly embarrassing independents in May's elections. Catherine McCartney has since decided not to stand. Paula McCartney may still run for a council seat.

Mr McGuinness claimed the sisters were being secretly advised by a Svengali figure who was against the Good Friday agreement - Anthony McIntyre, an ex-IRA prisoner and a prominent republican critic of Sinn Fein.

Murder victim's sisters return to more hostile climate in Belfast: The McCartney family's trip to the US is part of a wider plot to harm Sinn Fein, some republi....

Mr McIntyre, who served 18 years in the Maze, contributes to the Blanket, one of the most read political websites in Northern Ireland. He dismissed claims that he had called himself an adviser to the McCartneys. He interviewed the sisters for the website soon after the murder, and attended the vigil and funeral. But he had not advised them, he said, nor did they need advice.

The McCartneys laugh off the suggestion that Mr McIntyre or anyone else is pulling their strings. Catherine McCartney is a politics lecturer who trains women to become community activists. She finds it strange that anyone doubts her ability to run a campaign.

Belfast was still a macho and sexist place, she said. "Just because we are women, people underestimate us, hoping to find someone behind us."

The McCartney sisters have no PR people or fixers, something which shocked and frustrated Washington politicians and the media when they arrived in the US. They write their own statements on A4 pads in their kitchen, surrounded by their children and cups of tea.

As republicans and Sinn Fein voters themselves, they made a point of appearing with Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness at Sinn Fein's conference earlier this month.

But the sisters' growing frustration with the party was becoming clear even as they left for Washington. When it emerged that three Sinn Fein election candidates were in Magennis's bar on the night of the murder and had made statements to solicitors saying they saw nothing, Paula said the situation "stinks of a cover-up".

One former Sinn Fein assembly candidate, Cora Groogan, said she had seen nothing. But a taxi driver who picked her up half an hour after the initial bar brawl told a Sunday newspaper: "She told me Magennis's had erupted and there were glasses and bottles flying everywhere."

Gemma McCartney, noting that many people in the bar were probably members of Sinn Fein or the IRA, said the lack of witnesses who had seen anything was sinister.

Sinn Fein has now turned the spotlight on the police, saying they are deliberately holding up the investigation in order to damage the party.

It said a key suspect made himself available to police for interview this week but was turned away. One witness had named the person who hit him with a steel bar outside Magennis's.

A second witness had named people involved in the bar brawl, and a third said he could pick out McCartney's attackers in an identity parade, it said. Mr Adams questioned why charges had not been brought against those named, and why an identity parade had not been arranged.

The chief constable, Hugh Orde, dismissed claims of political manipulation. Witnesses were not coming forward to give evidence, so the investigation could not progress quickly, he said.

The SDLP accused Sinn Fein of creating a "smokescreen". The police ombudsman, Nuala O'Loan, could launch an inquiry were she to suspect officers of behaving inappropriately, but has not intervened.

Catherine McCartney said: "The police are accountable and under scrutiny. The only people who aren't accountable are the IRA."

Whether all these accusations are damaging the McCartneys, who still have overwhelming support, or Sinn Fein itself, remains to be seen.

guardian.co.uk/nireland

Tuesday am

Murder victim's sisters return to more hostile climate in Belfast: The McCartney family's trip to the US is part of a wider plot to harm Sinn Fein, some republi....

Dismissing a warning by Sinn Fein to stay out of US politics, four of the sisters, top left, of the murdered 33-year-old Belfast man Robert McCartney - (l-r) Gemma, Donna, Claire and Catherine - arrive at Dublin airport to collect their tickets ahead of their St Patrick's Day meeting with US President George Bush. Prior to boarding the Baltimore flight, Catherine McCartney said: 'We are being very careful not to be used - we're not stupid women. The only person behind this is our Robert.'

Tuesday pm

On arriving at Baltimore Washington International airport, left, the five McCartney sisters, now joined by Paula (in blue jacket) and their brother's fiancée, Bridgeen Hagans (at back right), give a further press conference at which they promise to dispel any romantic visions that the US might have about the **Irish Republican Army**.

Wednesday Senator Edward Kennedy, above, the US's most influential Irish-American politician, welcomes the sisters to Capitol Hill. He said that their presence in Washington sent 'a very powerful signal that it's time for the IRA to fully decommission, end all criminal activity and cease to exist as a paramilitary organisation'. Earlier, Senator Kennedy had pointedly refused to meet Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams.

Thursday

President Bush, with the Irish prime minister Bertie Ahern beside him, shakes hands with Robert McCartney's sister Paula, above, as Bridgeen Hagans and Catherine look on. During their St Patrick's Day meeting at the White House, the visitors gave Mr Bush details of their claim that IRA members murdered Robert McCartney in a brawl in a Belfast bar on January 30.

Thursday, later

Bridgeen Hagans and the McCartney sisters leave the White House. According to Paula McCartney, the president appeared to have a 'very good understanding' of their campaign and told them that he was 100% behind them.

Catherine McCartney added: 'He said he believed we would get justice, and he felt that the peace process was not safe unless justice was done.'

Load-Date: March 19, 2005

John DeLorean, 80, Automotive Entrepreneur

New York Sun (Archive)

March 21, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 The New York Sun, Two SL, LLC All Rights Reserved

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 5

Length: 1400 words

Byline: By STEPHEN MILLER, Staff Reporter of the Sun

Body

John DeLorean, who died Saturday at age 80, was the car design prodigy from General Motors who developed the Pontiac GTO and revived the fortunes of Chevrolet before setting off to found his own firm producing the stainless-steel, gull-winged DeLorean sports car.

The venture collapsed within three years, and the same day that DeLorean's factory was shuttered in 1982, he was arrested in an FBI sting operation at a Los Angeles hotel room with a suitcase full of cocaine. The government alleged that he was trying to save the company with funds from selling drugs.

In 1984, DeLorean was acquitted after mounting an entrapment defense, this despite appearing in a surveillance video referring to the cache of powder as "as good as gold."

The trial, a press spectacle in its day, and the 1985 film "Back to the Future," in which a DMC-12 had a featured role as a time-machine, ironically served to bring the DeLorean into the public's mind at precisely the moment when it was unavailable for purchase.

DeLorean's legal problems were far from over. A further attempt at prosecution awaited him for embezzlement from his company - he beat that charge, too. But the IRS continued to hound him, and DeLorean spent his last two decades pursuing chimerical business ventures - a watch company, a new car business - while dodging lawsuits, taxmen, and process servers. In 2000, he was evicted from his Bedminster, N.J., estate; his sole remaining significant asset was a warehouse of spare parts for his cars, in Columbus, Ohio.

Long-divorced from his supermodel wife (though remarried), DeLorean had, by the end, apparently lost almost everything. He blamed his problems on Prime Minister Thatcher whom, he claimed, canceled his company's government-backed financing because she suspected that his Belfast, Northern Ireland, workers were tithing to the **Irish Republican Army.**

Yet DeLorean remained optimistic, and a few years ago insisted to Ward's Auto World magazine, "I'm still working on my legend." It was the same supercharged optimism that had fueled his rise to the upper echelons of GM, and the kind everybody expected of a man about which one biographer wrote, "They used to say, long before John got into all his trouble, that he could fall out of a 40-story building and land on top of a beautiful blonde."

DeLorean was practically born into the car business. His father was an hourly wage-earner at Ford Motor Company's foundry in Detroit, and John attended the nearby Lawrence Institute of Technology. Despite graduating

John DeLorean, 80, Automotive Entrepreneur

with a degree in mechanical engineering, DeLorean managed to attend the school on a music scholarship. He earned spending money playing the saxophone in jazz clubs.

In 1948, DeLorean joined the engineering staff at Chrysler. He had an intense drive to succeed, attending night school to obtain first a masters in industrial engineering, and later an MBA. Meanwhile, he decided Chrysler was too big a pond, and moved on to be chief of research and development at Packard.

DeLorean quickly developed a reputation for innovative design work. Eventually, he would hold about 200 patents for such inventions as the overhead cam engine, concealed windshield wipers, and windshield-encased radio antennas.

Notoriously impatient with bureaucracy and shoddy organization, DeLorean became unhappy at Packard, where he described the company's administration as "similar to Czechoslovakia's." In 1956, shortly before the company's demise, DeLorean moved from Packard to GM.

At first constituting a one-man department of "advanced design," DeLorean eventually conceived of the bold Catalinas and Bonneville's that graced Pontiac's lines of the late 1950s and early 1960s. By 1961, Pontiac had become the third-largest car manufacturer in America, and DeLorean was made chief engineer.

With the GTO, introduced in 1963, DeLorean broke a long-standing corporate rule against producing racing cars. The car had flashy good looks, and was unveiled in a blaze of publicity that included a jingle that became a hit song, for Ronny & the Daytonas. The car was a tremendous seller, and DeLorean became general manager of the Pontiac division. He maintained the emphasis on styling and racing, with a revamped Firebird, as well as the compact Tempest. He was as much of a manipulator of pop culture as cam shafts. "These rock stations, the things they say, what they discuss, that's what counts," he told Newsweek magazine in 1968. "It's the cheapest education you can get."

Forever chafing at meetings and strait-laced business culture, DeLorean welcomed the sartorial excesses of the 1960s. He became known for sporting outrageous clothes and affecting long sideburns. He had a face-lift and a chin implant. He trolled the streets of Detroit in gaudy European racers like Lamborghinis and Maseratis, breaking every norm of Detroit's staid business culture.

DeLorean's dandified appearance fit in well with the outrageous modifications offered on one of his finest creations, "The Judge," a version of the GTO. Named for a Flip Wilson/Pigmeat Markham comedy routine that featured the tagline "here comes da judge!" the GTO version featured, according to the Los Angeles Times, "flame-orange paint with swirling body graphics and 'The Judge' written in modish script on the front GTO fenders and rear deck. The Judge also featured hood scoops, a rear-deck spoiler, and a 400-cubic-inch Ram Air III engine, four speed Hurst shifter, Rally II wheels and rally gauges. The Judge was to fuel economy what carpet-bombing was to shuttle diplomacy."

His first marriage ended after his wife found him "living with a Las Vegas show girl," and DeLorean became known for squiring a large number of highly-visible women, including Ursula Andress, Nancy Sinatra, Raquel Welch, and Candice Bergen. He married at least three more times, including to Vogue model Christina Ferrare.

In 1969, DeLorean was given the assignment of turning around the fortunes of GM's flagging Chevrolet division. He introduced the compact Vega a year later. Through cost savings and attention to quality control, DeLorean managed to bring Chevrolet back to record-setting profitability. In 1971, Chevrolet became the first Detroit automobile division to sell more than three million cars in a year, and DeLorean was made head of GM's North American operations.

It was here that DeLorean's dissatisfaction with bureaucracy and tradition finally undermined him. When a series of his initiatives failed to be undertaken, including introducing catalytic converters ahead of schedule and speeding up the design cycle, DeLorean abruptly resigned, in May of 1973.

John DeLorean, 80, Automotive Entrepreneur

He immediately took a year-long appointment as head of the National Alliance of Businessmen, where he worked on developing employment programs for ex-prisoners and American Indians, a rather unexpected, but long-held, interest of DeLorean's. He then formed his own company, with a variety of automotive-related business interests, including the development of campers and trailers. He also invested in the San Diego Chargers, the Yankees, and a string of miniature race tracks. It was around this time that he seriously began contemplating developing his own car.

Before the Northern Ireland venture imploded amid lawsuits and international recriminations, nearly 9,000 DeLorean DMC-12s were snapped up drivers who became so loyal to the cars that, according to an owner's group, over 6,000 of them are still on the road today, and they sell for several times their original purchase price of \$25,000. The fanaticism has led to various rumors, such as that, after the plants were shuttered, the body molds were dumped in the middle of the Irish Sea. This rumor apparently has a grain of truth to it, for the molds were said to have been sold as scrap and broken up and used as weights for commercial fishing nets.

DeLorean remained a trenchant critic of the automotive industry, and especially of the executives who followed him at GM. He said chairman Roger Smith had fumbled badly by opening Saturn as a new car company. "What should have been done when they wanted to show the world GM could build a quality car is start with Chevy, or Olds, or Buick," he said in the interview with Ward's Auto World. "If I had suggested in my time that GM sales would drop from 50% in the 1970s to less than 30% of the market as they have today, I would have been considered insane."

DeLorean drove an Acura.

Load-Date: March 23, 2005

End of Document

WORLD at 0200GMT

Associated Press International

February 21, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 1349 words

Body

HIGHLIGHTS:

Update - EUROPE-BUSH VISIT: Bush scolds Russia for slipping on democracy

New - KOREAS-NUCLEAR: North Korea says it will return to nuclear talks on conditions.

Update - IRAQ: Chalabi to face off against al-Jaafari as Shiite ticket's PM candidate.

New - AUSTRALIA-IRAQ: Australia says it will send 450 more troops to Iraq.

New - LEBANON: Opposition faces uphill battle to drive Syria out.

New - MEXICO-DRUG SONGS: School libraries stock songbook glorifying drug traffickers.

BRUSSELS, Belgium - U.S. President George W. Bush scolds Russia for backsliding on democracy and urges Mideast allies to take difficult steps for peace, appealing for Europe's help in both troubled areas to "set history on a hopeful course." BC-EU-GEN--EUROPE-BUSH VISIT. Moved. By Tom Raum. AP Photos BELD101-105, BESA101-111.

-BC-EU-GEN--BUSH-MIDEAST. BRUSSELS, Belgium - Bush pledges support for Middle East peace. Moved.

-BC-EU-GEN--EU-FOREIGN MINISTERS. BRUSSELS, Belgium - European Union foreign ministers on Monday approved the opening of a Baghdad office to coordinate the training of hundreds of Iraqi judges and prosecutors. Moved. By Constant Brand.

-BC-EU-GEN--NATO-SUMMIT. BRUSSELS, Belgium - Bush to discuss trans-Atlantic ties, Iraq, Afghanistan, during NATO summit. Moved. By Paul Ames.

-BC-EU-GEN--EUROPE-BUSH-LEADERS LIST - Who is attending the EU and NATO summits.

-BC-EU-GEN--EUROPE-BUSH-EXCERPTS - Highlights of Bush's speech.

KOREAS-NUCLEAR: North Korea says it will return to nuclear talks if conditions are met

SEOUL, South Korea - North Korean leader Kim Jong Il tells a visiting Chinese envoy that his government will return to six-party nuclear disarmament talks if the United States shows "sincerity," the communist state's official news agency reported. BC-AS-GEN--KOREAS-NUCLEAR. Moved. By Sang-Hun Choe.

IRAQ: Chalabi to face off against al-Jaafari as Shiite ticket's PM candidate

WORLD at 0200GMT

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Ahmad Chalabi, a secular Shiite once known for his ties to Washington, and Ibrahim al-Jaafari, the conservative interim vice president, will face off in a secret ballot Tuesday to determine who will be the Shiite majority's choice for Iraqi prime minister, officials say. BC-ME-GEN-IRAQ. Moved. By Maggie Michael. AP Photos.

AUSTRALIA-IRAQ: Australia says it will send 450 more troops to Iraq

CANBERRA, Australia - Australia will send 450 more troops to southern Iraq to help protect Japanese engineers and bolster democracy, Prime Minister John Howard announces. BC-AS-GEN--AUSTRALIA-IRAQ. Developing.

KASHMIR SNOW: Avalanches in India's Kashmir region kill at least 154; 200 missing in heaviest snowfall in 15 years

SRINAGAR, India - Avalanches and slides triggered by heavy weekend snowfall in India's portion of Kashmir kill at least 154 people and leave 200 missing, an official says. Much of the region remains cut off for a third straight day, blanketed under the heaviest snowfall in 15 years. BC-AS-GEN--INDIA-KASHMIR-SNOW. Moved. By Mujtaba Ali Ahmad.

BANGLADESH-FERRY CAPSIZE: At least 118 dead, dozens missing after ferry sinking in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh - Divers find 36 more bodies to boost the death toll in a weekend ferry sinking to 118, rescuers say while calling off search for dozens more people still missing in a river near the Bangladesh capital. BC-AS-GEN--BANGLADESH-FERRY CAPSIZE. Moved. By Farid Hossain. AP Photo DHA103.

ASIA-TSUNAMI: Former U.S. presidents Clinton, Bush wrap up tour of tsunami-hit areas in Asia

MALE, Maldives - Wrapping up a tour of tsunami-ravaged nations, former U.S. presidents Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush sit with child survivors at a temporary shelter in southern Sri Lanka, and mingle with European tourists at a luxury beach resort in the Maldives. BC-AS-GEN--ASIA-TSUNAMI. Moved. By Christopher Torchia.

JAPAN-**FEMALE** SUCCESSION: Princess Aiko reportedly next in line for Japan's throne after her father.

TOKYO - Japan is reportedly preparing for a reigning empress for the first time in more than 200 years as the government drafts legal changes allowing **female** succession. BC-AS-GEN--JAPAN-**FEMALE** SUCCESSION. Moved. By Audrey McAvoy. AP Photos TOK202-203.

LEBANON: Chants and demands aside, opposition faces uphill battle to drive Syria out

BEIRUT, Lebanon - A new spirit emerged in Lebanon with billionaire politician Rafik Hariri's assassination, one that galvanized opponents to Syria's complete domination of Lebanese politics. Despite the loudest and largest condemnation ever against Syria's hold, their battle is decidedly uphill. BC-ME-GEN--LEBANON-DEMANDING CHANGE. Moved. By Sam F. Ghattas. AP Photos.

ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS: Palestinians face political crisis over Cabinet confirmation battle

JERUSALEM - Palestinians face a political crisis over installation of a new Cabinet with a deadline looming, the two top leaders feuding, critics calling for reforms and lawmakers withholding their support. BC-ME-GEN--ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Moved. By Mohammed Daraghme. AP Photos.

VATICAN CITY - Three weeks after being rushed to the hospital with breathing problems, Pope John Paul II is resuming many of his activities and brushing aside any suggestion he step down. BC-EU-GEN--VATICAN-POPE'S COMEBACK. Moved. By Victor L. Simpson.

-BC-EU-REL--VATICAN-MEDIA. Papal message urges greater voice for public in news management.

NATO-UKRAINE: Ukraine seeks closer ties with EU; NATO to help weapons destruction

BRUSSELS, Belgium - Ukraine pursues its drive to build closer ties with the West, negotiating a cooperation plan with the European Union on the eve of President Viktor Yushchenko's summit with NATO leaders. BC-EU-GEN--EU-NATO-UKRAINE. Moved. By Paul Ames.

NIRELAND: Police chiefs discuss efforts to track down IRA bank robbers

HILLSBOROUGH, Northern Ireland - Police chiefs from both parts of Ireland discuss their joint efforts to track down **Irish Republican Army** bank robbers and a wider operation to shut down IRA money-laundering. BC-EU-GEN--NIRELAND-BANK ROBBERY. Moved. By Shawn Pogatchnik.

WORLD at 0200GMT

AMERICA'S IMAGE: In their poverty and oppression, many Africans see U.S. military as saviors

LOME, Togo - For many of the young people who take to the streets in protest in Lome and other blighted, overlooked capitals across Africa, only one distant power seems great enough to defeat the local forces of tyranny: the U.S. military. BC-AF-GEN--AFRICA-VIVE L'AMERIQUE. Moved. By Bryan Mealer.

COLOMBIA-REBELS: Series of attacks show main rebel group far from beaten

BOGOTA, Colombia - Colombia faces a hard road in its fight against leftist rebels, President Alvaro Uribe says after two days of deadly attacks that blacked out towns, shut down a highway and shattered notions that the nation's main insurgent group was nearing defeat. BC-LA-GEN--COLOMBIA-REBEL OFFENSIVE. Moved. By Andrew Selsky.

BRAZIL: Brazil's president promises to catch suspects in nun's killing

BRASILIA, Brazil - In his first public statement since the brutal murder of an American nun in the Amazon rain forest, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva says Brazil will spare no effort to defend and sustainably develop the world's largest wilderness. BC-LA-GEN--BRAZIL-MISSIONARY KILLED. Moved. By Vivian Sequera.

MEXICO-DRUG SONGS: Mexican school libraries stock songbook glorifying drug traffickers

MEXICO CITY - Mexico's school libraries are stocking a book that includes the lyrics of "narcocorridos" - folk songs that glorify drug traffickers - causing a storm of criticism in a country where the drug market and its violence have become part of life in thousands of communities. BC-LA-GEN--MEXICO-DRUG SONGS. Moved. By Mark Stevenson. AP Photos MO104,105.

RUSSIA-US ENERGY: Yukos turmoil keeps US-Russia energy relations at low ebb

MOSCOW - Although Russia is a comparatively minor feeder of the United States' giant hunger for petroleum, concern over Russia's oil industry is one of the main items on the agenda for this week's summit between presidents Vladimir Putin and George W. Bush. BC-EU-GEN--RUSSIA-US ENERGY. Moved. By Alex Nicholson.

YOUR QUERIES: Contact your local AP bureau, the Europe/Africa Desk at +44-207-427-4300, or the Asia Desk in Bangkok at +66-2-632-6911.

Load-Date: February 22, 2005

End of Document

Iraq's dispossessed Sunnis seek new strategy: The relative success of last month's elections has forced the former ruling minority now at the heart of the insurgency to rethink its tactics. Charles Clover reports

Financial Times (London, England)

February 26, 2005 Saturday

London Edition 1

Copyright 2005 The Financial Times Limited

Section: MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA; Pg. 7

Length: 1270 words

Byline: By CHARLES CLOVER

Body

At a waiting room in the Um al-Qura mosque, a grandiose structure on the outskirts of Baghdad whose four minarets spire into the shape of Scud missiles, two elderly women in black robes wait for an appointment.

They have come for news of their sons, who were kidnapped last week in Baghdad, and in hopes of negotiating their release. They have come to this mosque because it is known as the place to deal for hostages' lives. It is known, more broadly, as the place to come to reach the ear of the many shadowy, faceless groups that collectively fight Iraq's insurgency.

The relationship between the Sunni clerics and the insurgency is a mysterious one. But that relationship, while they deny it publicly, is exactly what the holy men in Um al-Qura bring to the bargaining table. The mosque is the base for the Association of Muslim Scholars, probably the most powerful group of Sunni clerics in Iraq. They claim the allegiance of 4,000, or 80 per cent, of Iraq's Sunni mosques.

Um al-Qura is where US diplomats came in January to seek, unsuccessfully, to prevent a Sunni Arab boycott of Iraq's parliamentary elections. Ultimately, if a political deal is to be reached to end Iraq's guerrilla war, it is expected to be there that it will be agreed.

Increasingly, there are signs that such a deal is actively being sought by both sides. This week, the association has been holding talks with tribal and religious leaders from Iraq's war-ravaged Sunni triangle, hoping to create a broad political front to negotiate an end to the US-led occupation, according to association spokesman Omar Raghhab al-Kubaisi.

At the same time, the association has begun to distance itself from extremist groups, denouncing, for example Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the Jordanian militant leader linked to al-Qaeda. It has also begun making public overtures for a political solution to Iraq's bloody insurgency, with some conditions attached.

"There is a big change in the strategy of the resistance," said Sunni cleric Ahmed al-Samarra'i, who heads the government office of Sunni Waqf, or religious property, and is an association member. "We are hearing from the leaders, some, not all, that we should get involved in politics."

Iraq 's dispossessed Sunnis seek new strategy: The relative success of last month's elections has forced the former ruling minority now at the heart of the insu....

The move to politics has been emerging for the past year among the Sunni Arab community, estimated at a fifth of Iraq's population. Chastened by political miscalculation, shorn of their traditional leadership by purges of the former regime and suffering the brunt of an 18-month guerrilla war, their future has never looked dimmer. What they seek is a foothold in the political process, which they largely forfeited by staying away from the elections.

"We knew we had two options: participate (in the elections) in a big way, or not all," said Mr Samarra'i. "We knew we could not get a large turnout because of the security situation and the sensitivities, so we opted for not at all."

A senior US official in Baghdad, who confirmed that coalition officials have held informal talks with insurgent leaders, said: "The election was a profound shock to the insurgency, because they thought they could stop it." He speculated that this might help explain the recent interest in deal-making.

But the official played down the significance of the talks: "There is nothing going on which has any authorisation to be a negotiation. They tend to say 'this is what we want'. And we often listen to these things. But a large part of the conversation is telling them that we are not the ones making the deal." Any negotiation was up to the interim government, he said.

That has left matters in limbo. To begin with, there is currently no government to negotiate with, until various factions agree on a prime minister, president, and cabinet.

But the Sunnis face a greater problem. " T h e y have no leadership," said Humam Hamoudi, a Shia cleric from the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, a leading force in Iraq's new parliament.

Sunni Arabs may be a minority in Iraq, but thanks largely to the British colonial legacy in Iraq, they have dominated every regime for the past 80 years. This ended after the fall of Saddam Hussein, when US policies designed to weed out loyalists of the former ruling Ba'ath party, and dissolve the army, left them bereft of a political command.

The association was created just days after Baghdad's fall and is one of several groups now competing to fill this vacuum. What distinguishes the association, however, is that it has demonstrated its cachet with the resistance, when it acted as intermediary in releasing several western hostages last year.

"We did this with pure aims in mind. But it really ruined our reputation," said Mr Kubaisi. "All the foreign embassies started to come to us to get their hostages back. And everyone thought, because we could get them released, that we were the hostage takers."

The association is now nonetheless considered the one Sunni group indispensable to any peace process. Western officials use the analogy of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the ***Irish Republican Army***, as a model for what may eventually happen to the insurgency. Many are trying to decide whether the association already fits this role.

On this subject, Mr Kubaisi is frank: "The Iraqi resistance is not the IRA. It is made up of very small groups who don't even know each other. There is no structure, no political representation. Sometime they listen to us, and sometimes they don't. Some, they listen one day and not the next."

Likewise, while the association broadly agrees that it wants a more political role in Iraq, there is little consensus within its ranks over what to do next.

The more moderate Mr Samarra'i, for example, has been in contact with Shia groups, who have a majority in the new parliament, seeking to win some role in writing a draft constitution, due later this year.

These Shia groups, according to Dr Hamoudi, are supporting him in order to split the association and create a moderate counterweight. "Then the association will lose its privileged status," he predicted. Mr Samarra'i insists that his project is designed to include the association, and should not threaten them.

Iraq 's dispossessed Sunnis seek new strategy: The relative success of last month's elections has forced the former ruling minority now at the heart of the insu....

Mr Kubaisi, said however, that Mr Samarra'i is freelancing, and that in this he "does not represent the Association of Muslim Scholars" even if he is a member. He said the association would not enter the political process and use its influence to quell the insurgency until one goal was met: US agreement to a strict timetable for withdrawal.

"If we got a withdrawal schedule from the US, we could ask the resistance: 'Boys, why are you fighting?' And they would say: 'To drive the US out of our country.' And we could answer that they will leave, that they have given us a schedule," said Mr Kubaisi.

US and British officials in Baghdad expect that among the first issues debated by the new parliament will be a new mandate for coalition forces in Iraq, though the majority Shia parties say a withdrawal timetable is not under consideration. More likely is a document specifying the conditions under which withdrawal would take place, said Mr Hamoudi.

To help end the deadlock, Mr Samarra'i has planned a conference on Monday of all major Sunni factions designed to forge a common position, likely as not to compete with the common front being worked on by the Association.

To speed their work, delegates to the meeting will be given a ballot paper which lists five possible options for Sunni political participation, and delegates will be asked to check off the ones they support.

The last one is likely to be the most popular. It says: "Please write your suggestion in the space provided."

Load-Date: February 26, 2005

End of Document

'I'll drink to the end of Third World debt

The Sunday Times (London)

December 11, 2005

Copyright 2005 Times Newspapers Limited All Rights Reserved

Section: FEATURES; Eire Business & Money; Pg. 14

Length: 1288 words

Byline: Fiona McGoran

Body

Former finance minister Ruairi Quinn tells Fiona McGoran how he used to work out his income by the number of pints it bought, but now he thinks global

RUAIRI QUINN has 35 years of politics under his belt and has no intention of slowing down. The Labour TD's career has seen him take on the powerful positions of finance minister and leader of the Labour party, but it has not always been a smooth ride.

Quinn's passion for politics began at a young age. "My father grew up in Newry and he was a member of the *Irish Republican Army*. He fought in the civil war and, as you can imagine, dinner conversations were often of a political nature in our house. My mother's family are from Dundalk so, between her and my father, there was always plenty of healthy debate. I learnt a lot from them."

The Quinn family moved to Sandymount, Dublin, in 1939 and seven years later Ruairi was born. He attended Blackrock College where he excelled at academia and became a proficient debater. In 1968, he enrolled at University College Dublin (UCD) where he studied architecture.

It was as a college student that Quinn got his first real taste of socialist politics. "We occupied the school of architecture and led a revolt against the poor academic standards in the department," he said. "This resulted in a lecturer being fired from his post."

It was around this time Quinn earned the nickname Ho Chi Quinn and so began his career in left-wing politics. Although he left UCD and swiftly secured a job as an architect working in Dublin City Council designing local authority housing, his interest remained in the government.

In 1976, he was appointed to the Seanad and was elected a Labour TD for Dublin Southeast at the 1977 general election. "Looking back, getting elected was a big career highlight for me," he said.

Quinn lost his seat at the 1981 general election, but was re-elected as TD in the following year's election and has retained his seat since. In 1982, he became minister of state at the department of the environment and seven years later he was elected deputy leader of the Labour party.

In the Fianna Fail-Labour coalition government of 1993-94, Quinn became minister for enterprise and employment and the following year he became minister for finance in the Fine Gael-Labour coalition.

I'll drink to the end of Third World debt

In 1997, the leader of the Labour party, Dick Spring, retired and Quinn became its new leader. In 2002, he retired and was replaced by Pat Rabbitte. "My other career highlights include being involved in the creation of the single currency and the establishment of the Community Employment Scheme, which has helped 300,000 people enter the jobs market since the mid-1980s," he said.

Quinn remains a TD and leads the European Movement Ireland, a civil society organisation campaigning on European issues in Ireland. He is also party spokesman for European affairs and chairman of the Holocaust Educational Trust.

How much money do you normally have in your wallet and do you carry anything unusual or sentimental in it?

I carry E50 to E100 and a lot of plastic as well. I'm not a bit sentimental about the plastic because I have a chequered history with credit cards. I used to fall into the red all the time, but I've grabbed myself up by the boot straps and I mainly stay in the black now.

What was your first job and how much were you paid?

In 1969, I got a job as a junior architect for Patrick Campbell and Associates in Dublin. I was paid the handsome sum of IR£ 30 (E38) per week.

Have you ever been really hard up or broke?

I have never been really hard up in the proper sense of the word. But, there were some periods as a student when I found it hard to get by. I spent some time in London during the summer holidays when I was in college. I would go from job to job and it was when I was between jobs that I would be strapped for cash.

Are you a saver or a spender?

I'm a bit of both, but if I had to choose one I would say that I'm a little bit more of a spender.

What is the worst thing that has ever happened to you financially?

When I lost my Dail seat in 1981 it looked like I was going to be out of a job for four years. It was a terrible time because it was all so public. It gave me

a real fright.

Thankfully, there was a general election the following February, so I only had to wait seven months before I regained my seat.

What is the most lucrative work you have done and did you use the fee for something special?

When I was a student I had the contract for posters for the L&H, commerce and economic and SRC societies. Each society wanted a poster a week and I was paid IR£ 1 for the negative. I equated it to the number of pints that could be bought with the money. It worked out at 24 pints a week.

Do you own property and would you consider investing in the property market now?

I own my house in Sandymount and we have a family holiday home in the west.

I have never wanted to be

a landlord so I don't invest in the market.

What do you invest in and do you consider yourself a risk taker?

I've invested in various insurance policies, but my main investment would be my family home and job. I'm not

I'll drink to the end of Third World debt

a risk-taker by nature.

What has been your worst investment?

I bought a second-hand Volkswagen Beetle many years ago. It only cost me IR£ 80 so it didn't break the bank, but it wasn't even worth that sum. It taught me a lesson - never allow sentiment to

get in the way of a financial decision. I bought a better Beetle a few years later and it worked a dream. As you can probably tell, I'm a big fan of that make.

Do you have a special savings incentive account and if so what do you plan on spending the money on?

Yes, but I have yet to decide where the money will go.

How are you going to fund your retirement?

Whatever prudent savings I have managed to accumulate will fund my retirement, hopefully. I don't plan on retiring any time soon. I'll be running for the Dail again in the next election.

What is more important, time off or money in the bank?

Time off because nothing is more important than your health. You need time off to look after your health.

Have you ever received really bad financial advice?

I'm tempted to quote some officials from the finance department, but that wouldn't be fair.

Would you like to live somewhere other than Ireland?

No, I love this country and its climate. My favourite type of holiday is travelling around Ireland and admiring its archaeology and landscape.

Have you ever seen anyone else spend money in a way that shocked you?

Two weeks ago, I heard about a Dublin 4 mother who bought breast implants for her 17-year-old daughter.

If you could change one thing about the Irish tax system what would it be?

I'd introduce a minimum tax for every citizen. There are a small number of people who have legitimately taken advantage of various tax incentives and as a result pay no income tax. I think everybody should pay some form of tax.

Have you ever won or surprisingly come into a sum of money?

I've won the odd raffle. I play the Lotto occasionally. I used to play it more often, but because I never won anything I got disheartened.

Do you donate to charity?

Yes: Goal, Concern, Women's Aid and Amnesty.

What is the most important money lesson you have learnt?

Even if you suffer a serious financial devastation, you will recover more quickly from that than you would from the loss of health or a loved one.

If you had an unlimited supply of money for one week, what would be the top three items on your shopping list?

I'll drink to the end of Third World debt

I would eliminate homelessness, because without a home you cannot get a job or benefit from any decent study opportunities. It's the key to a stable society. I would then pay off Third World debt. Finally, I would connect every house in the country to broadband because I think it is like water was in the past.

Load-Date: December 16, 2005

End of Document

YOUR SAY

The Sunday Mail (Queensland, Australia)

October 9, 2005 Sunday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 62

Length: 1462 words

Body

Dire drug dangers laid bare

Your article on why "Cocaine Kate" Moss is a total hypocrite strips the gloss and glamour the social pets love to attach to their disgusting habit.

I wonder if Kate and her air-headed defenders would be interested in putting their pampered noses in a commercial showing the true chain of horrors that happens every day so people like her can indulge.

While she snapped her fingers, another family lost someone to drugs.

I applaud this article.

It's such a shame Cocaine Kate won't be likely to read it.

-- MERILYN ENRIGHT, PETRIE

Is Kate Moss really such a hypocrite? Every time you fill your car with petrol you help to support dictatorships every bit as evil as the drug-fuelled economies of South American countries.

Do you check that every purchase is made in a country that supports human rights?

Every time a person drinks alcohol or smokes nicotine, do they realise they are supporting the legal and most destructive drugs in our society and the slick advertising that helps to make more addicts?

The victims of these drugs aren't found on the London catwalk and in New York hotel suites, they are in our city centres -- the pensioner beaten beyond recognition by some alcohol addict, the parent who has seen an offspring sucked into a life of alcohol addiction, the family living in terror of an alcohol-fuelled thug.

I can't watch a football match without seeing alcohol advertising.

Hypocrisy is a way of life in our country.

-- NAME SUPPLIED,

GAYTHORNE

HELP FIGHT

YOUR SAY

THE BULLIES

I have experienced the venom of nasty women at work in both a private workplace and the public service. These queen bees and princesses have secured a minor position of power and rigorously rule the roost, using ostracism, malicious gossip and fabricated complaints of poor work performance. One day you are just one of the gang, working, chatting and laughing. The next day you are brutally ignored and censured. I found it upsetting and bewildering. Management who perhaps have unwittingly supported the bully over the years are reluctant to recognise the complaints of targets, who end up leaving the job (and the pain) behind. I urge The Sunday Mail to keep on exposing the horror of workplace bullying in all its odious forms.

-- LORRAINE BLANEY, BEACHMERE

PRODUCERS NEED

HELP, NOT WELFARE

I am sick of hearing about cheap overseas produce such as frozen prawns flooding our markets. What does Prime Minister John Howard think he is doing in allowing this? Surely destroying people's livelihoods and putting them out of business cannot be good for our already struggling economy. Rather than put people on welfare, we should be stopping the rubbish coming into the country in the first place.

-- J. ARMISTEAD, DOOLANDELLA

PM SHOULD ACT

ON PETROL PRICE

Of course the Federal Government can do something about the cost of petrol. But Prime Minister John Howard is a Conservative not a Liberal. Conservatives follow the long-discredited laissez-faire policies of letting market forces drive the economy and the American capitalist creed of greed that puts profits before people. Liberal ideology is based on a mixed economy that puts people before profits with all essential services owned by the people. But how can you expect the major parties to go against their major sponsors? Pauline, where are you now Australia needs you?

-- C.O. MORGAN, ACACIA RIDGE

The oil companies have run Australia for 55 years. Under Ben Chifley's Labor Government we had our own petrol company, COR. When the oil companies tried to increase their prices, COR would reduce its price. Petrol was subject to postwar rationing but no one went short. In the 1949 election Robert Menzies' Liberals promised to abolish petrol rationing and the gullible voters put him in power. He sold COR to the oil companies and since then we have been ripped off.

-- G.F. SLOAN, HOLLAND PARK

OUR SICK

HOSPITALS

Now we know the Royal Brisbane, Princess Alexandra and Redcliffe hospitals are also in crisis. It seems the Gold Coast Hospital is not alone in the neverending suffering of its patients. Oh, but Premier Peter Beattie says he is sorry! Saying "sorry" does not fix anything, Mr Beattie -- but I suppose it makes you feel better. The people of Queensland are also sorry you are doing nothing. Why don't you put some GST dollars into our health system!

-- JACKIE MOORE, BURLEIGH HEADS

SINISTER SIDE

YOUR SAY

OF BALI MOVES

If Westerners who continue to visit Bali really want to help the Balinese people, they need to understand the islamification of Bali is happening regardless of Western tourist numbers. The Indonesian Government has forcibly relocated many Balinese Hindus, replacing them with Javanese Muslims. Tourist goodwill will not end this.

-- MATTHEW HARTLEY, ROCHEDALE SOUTH

IT AMOUNTS

TO AN ERROR

Your coverage of the spelling and grammar controversy is to be applauded. Two letters last week were indicative of the erosion of our language. Both correspondents were obviously well educated but used the word "amount" instead of "number". When grammar was a mandatory subject "number" was used in reference to a group of things. "Amount" was used to indicate the volume of a single item. The same distinction was also applied to "fewer" and "less".

-- ALLAN WALKER, OXENFORD

I'm not about to defend bad spelling, but so many English words defy logic phonetically that good spelling depends on a good memory, and this is helped by frequent rehearsing. This rote learning was very much a part of teaching strategy when I was in primary school in Brisbane in the 1950s and 60s. Anyone who went to school in Queensland in those decades would recall the whole-class morning drills when we would all chant our spelling lists and multiplication tables. Because modern education needs to fit in many more vital educational skills than when I was at school, the time allocated to spelling rehearsal has evaporated to a large extent, and it is now left to the wise teacher to make up for this deficit in rehearsal time. The really smart child will always do some rehearsing, because that's really the only effective way of enhancing memory. Ask any stand-up comedian.

-- STEVE KAZOULLIS, MANSFIELD

TO THE POINT

I have about as much respect for Lotto winners Donna Lynden and her partner, who blew \$800,000 in seven weeks, as they have for money. The word "no" was all that was needed for their bludging friends and relatives.

-- R. GEE, BRACKEN RIDGE

The Lotto winners said Aboriginal culture led them to give away the money. As the old saying goes, you can choose your friends but you can't choose your family.

-- GEOFF WYLIE, TOOWOOMBA

For those of us who have to get going at daylight before the heat gets into our crops, so-called daylight saving robs us of an hour before the transport goes.

-- N.S. SCELLS, COTTONVALE

How nice it was to read about the 72-year-old motorbike rider Shirley. I got my open motorbike licence 26 years after originally intended, so it's never too late.

-- CHRIS SUFFOLK, WINDSOR

Interesting to read a surgeon can give patients a new face. I have always wanted the features of Clark Gable or Cary Grant. Problem is, the rest of me resembles Woody Allen on a good day.

-- FRANK SHRUBB, CORINDA

YOUR SAY

Bob Hawke's idea for a nuclear waste dump has merit. If Andrew Bolt's figures are correct, Australia could make billions from it. Part of the money could go to improving our defence forces to protect the site.

-- RAY JOHNSON, ADDRESS SUPPLIED

It is all right for a city slicker like Andrew Bolt to condone a nuclear waste dump, but what about the outback souls who have to put up with radioactive sludge in their back yards?

-- WALDO McFERRIS, SINNAMON PARK

Ah bliss! Cool morning, hose in hand, dawn breaking soon, frogs and geckos singing -- this watering regime is not too bad. Aaah! Face full of wet cobwebs and dead insects! I'm off to buy a hat and try the evening instead!

-- J. COX, SPRINGFIELD

I hope Jim Soorley read about the ***Irish Republican Army*** and his "friend" Gerry Adams. At last someone who truly understands the links between Adams, Martin McGuinness and the IRA has described some of the terrorist activities they have been involved in while claiming to be the "champions of peace".

-- NAME SUPPLIED, OXENFORD

'I am sick of hearing about cheap overseas produce flooding our markets. What does John Howard think he is doing?

-- J. Armistead

TALK TO US:

All correspondence with the Editor must include your name, address and telephone number. Letters must be short and may be edited. Queensland Newspapers Pty Ltd, as publisher of The Sunday Mail, may license third parties to reproduce in electronic form and communicate these letters. To the point letters must be brief. Our address is GPO Box 130, Brisbane 4001; fax (07) 3666 6787; email: smletters@qnp.newsltd.com.au; sms 0421 261 271

Load-Date: October 8, 2005

WORLD at 0200GMT - Correction Appended

AP Worldstream

Correction Appended

Copyright 2005 Associated Press

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 1430 words

Body

HIGHLIGHTS:

New: AFRICA-TERRORISM. U.S. general says Algerian insurgents more active in African deserts.

New: IRAQ-PEACE DIVIDEND. Baghdad's Shiite stronghold becomes model of security.

New: US-SERIAL MOLESTER: Suspect allegedly left decades-long trail of thousands of young victims.

New: SUDAN-PEACE: Sudanese government, opposition sign reconciliation accord in Cairo.

New: VIETNAM-US: Vietnamese prime minister departs for U.S. on groundbreaking visit.

New: SKOREA-SOLDIER SHOOTING. South Korean soldier goes on a shooting spree, kills eight soldiers and injures two others.

Update: US-MIDEAST. Rice says Israelis, Palestinians need to coordinate on Gaza withdrawal.

Update: IRAQ: US-Iraqi forces kill more than 50 insurgents as part of two joint offensives.

IRAN-ELECTIONS: Historical runoff returns Rafsanjani, Tehran's hard-line mayor to the campaign trail

TEHRAN, Iran - A historical second-round election runoff for Iran's next president returns to the campaign trail political veteran Ayatollah Hashemi Rafsanjani and Tehran's hard-line mayor, two men whose style couldn't be more different. BC-ME-GEN--IRAN-ELECTIONS. Moved. By Kathy Gannon.

IRAQ: US-Iraqi forces kill more than 50 insurgents as part of two joint offensives

KARABILAH, Iraq - Helicopter gunships and fighter jets streak across the desert sky in the hunt for foreign fighters near Syria's border as part of two U.S.-Iraqi offensives that have killed more than 50 insurgents. BC-ME-GEN--IRAQ. Moved. By Jacob Silberberg. AP Photos JLS102-104, 106; BAG111. AP Graphic IRAQ WEEK IN REVIEW.

- BC-ME-GEN--IRAQ-PEACE DIVIDEND. BAGHDAD, Iraq - Baghdad's Shiite stronghold becomes model of security, but life remains tough. Moved. By Hamza Hendawi. AP Photos DV101-3.

VIETNAM-US: Vietnamese prime minister departs for U.S. on groundbreaking visit

HANOI, Vietnam - Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai departs on a groundbreaking visit to the United States, seeking closer ties with Washington and support for Vietnam's bid to join the World Trade Organization. BC-AS-GEN--VIETNAM-US-PRIME MINISTER. Moved, developing. By Christopher Bodeen. AP Photo RJV101-103.

WORLD at 0200GMT

SKOREA-SOLDIER SHOOTING. South Korean soldier goes on a shooting spree, kills eight soldiers and injures two others

SEOUL, South Korea - A South Korean soldier threw a grenade and went on a shooting spree near the border with communist North Korea, killing eight soldiers and injuring two others, the Defense Ministry says. BC-AS-GEN--SKOREA-SOLDIER SHOOTING. Developing.

MYANMAR-SUU KYI AT 60. Global campaign to free Myanmar democracy icon Suu Kyi unlikely to move military rulers

BANGKOK, Thailand - Thousands of birthday cards are sent and a pop star will release a song to draw attention to the plight of Myanmar's pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi as she marks her 60th birthday and 3,523rd day under military detention. BC-AS-FEA-GEN--MYANMAR-SUU KYI AT 60. Moved. By Denis D. Gray. AP Photos NY107-108.

US-MIDEAST: Rice says Israelis, Palestinians need to coordinate on Gaza withdrawal

RAMALLAH, West Bank - U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's motorcade swept past the glass-enclosed tomb of Yasser Arafat, carrying her to a meeting with the man the Bush administration hopes can be the peacemaker Arafat was not. Rice had only warm words for Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, but said the new Palestinian government and the Israelis must quickly settle their differences over this summer's planned withdrawal of Jewish settlers and troops from the Gaza Strip. BC-ME-GEN--RICE-MIDEAST. Moved. By Diplomatic Writer Anne Gearan. AP Photo JEM107.

LEBANON: Last round of voting will determine whether opposition can take parliament

BEIRUT, Lebanon - Politicians are waging their final contest over Lebanon's shaken-up political landscape, with a last, crucial round of elections Sunday that will determine whether the anti-Syrian opposition can seize parliament and how much influence Damascus will hold in the country. BC-ME-POL-LEBANON-ELECTIONS. Moved; Polls open at 0400GMT. By Sam F. Ghattas. AP photos.

-BC-ME-POL--LEBANON-KEY PLAYERS: Thumbnails of top politicians and factions.

-BC-ME-POL--LEBANON-ELECTIONS-SUMMARY BOX: Electoral facts on last round of voting.

-BC-ME-GEN--LEBANON-GLANCE: Facts and figures on Lebanon

-BC-ME-GEN--LEBANON-CHRONOLOGY: Timeline of political turmoil of last months.

-BC-ME-GEN--LEBANON-HISTORY: Timeline of events since start of 1975 civil war.

DEFIANT WOMEN: Anger over sexual assaults energizes women in Egypt's reform movement

CAIRO, Egypt - Aida Seif el-Dawla is a die-hard secular activist, while Heba Raouf is an Islamist who has worn the veil since she was 13. Still, they stood shoulder to shoulder at a recent rally, united in anger. Sexual assaults on female protesters have rallied many women, bringing more into Egypt's increasingly vocal reform movement. BC-ME-GEN--EGYPT-DEFIANT WOMEN. Moved. By Nadia Abou el-Magd. AP Photos.

EU CRISIS: EU crisis reopens bitter rivalry between Britain and France over what Europe should be

LONDON - As dawn broke on Saturday, and hopes for a budget deal at a crucial European Union summit collapsed for good, a historical anniversary was being rung in: that of the Battle of Waterloo, in which Britain punctured France's dreams of a pan-European superstate. The fierce feud between today's leaders of France and Britain has left many Europeans anxiously asking where the half-century effort to unite the continent is headed. BC-EU-GEN--EUROPE IN CRISIS? Moved. By Thomas Wagner.

SPAIN-ELECTIONS: Franco-era politician faces stiff challenge in Spanish regional election

MADRID, Spain - For many Spaniards, Manuel Fraga is a political dinosaur - an aging, cantankerous symbol of Spain's rightwing past who has ruled his own staunchly conservative home region of Galicia comfortably since 1990. On Sunday, that hold on power will be tested in a regional election. BC-EU-GEN--SPAIN-ELECTIONS. Moved. By Daniel Woolls.

WORLD at 0200GMT

BELFAST, Northern Ireland - Britain sends a high-profile ***Irish Republican Army*** convict back to prison after accepting police evidence that he has become reinvolved in terrorism. Sean Kelly was convicted of murdering nine Protestants in a botched 1993 bombing, one of the IRA's most notorious acts. BC-EU-GEN--NIRELAND-IRA BOMBER. Moved. By Shawn Pogatchnik.

SOMALIA: Somali prime minister goes home to establish government in southern Somalia

NAIROBI, Kenya - Somali Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gedi, accompanied by cabinet members and lawmakers, has returned home to set up a government-in-exile in southern Somalia, the president's spokesman says. BC-AF-GEN--SOMALIA-PRESIDENT. Moved. By Tom Maliti.

TERRORISM: AP Interview: Algerian insurgents more active in African deserts, U.S. general says

DAKAR, Senegal - Algerian insurgents are becoming more active in Africa's remote, ungoverned deserts, and increased cooperation and intelligence-sharing among African nations will be key to averting future attacks by such groups, a top U.S. general says. BC-AF-GEN--AFRICA-TERRORISM. Moved. By Todd Pitman.

SUDAN-PEACE: Sudanese government, opposition sign reconciliation accord in Cairo

CAIRO, Egypt - Sudan signed a reconciliation deal with one of the country's largest opposition groupings, seeking to end a 16-year conflict with an agreement officials hope will also help resolve the bloody fighting in Darfur. BC-ME-GEN--EGYPT-SUDAN-RECONCILLIATION. Moved. By Sarah El-Deeb. AP Photos XAN108-111.

US-SERIAL MOLESTER: Serial molester allegedly left decades-long trail of thousands of young victims

SAN FRANCISCO - Despite being arrested at least nine times for molesting boys, Dean Arthur Schwartzmiller managed to avoid lengthy prison terms, coach youth football, move in with another convicted sex offender - and be named by authorities as one of the most prolific child molesters in history. Police suspect he molested children as many as 36,000 times in several states, Mexico and Brazil. BC-NA-GEN--US-SERIAL MOLESTER. Moved. By Kim Curtis. AP Photos of June 16: CAPS103, 105, 106, 114-116. AP Graphic SERIAL MOLESTER.

US-CIVIL RIGHTS KILLINGS: Prosecution rests in trial for killings of civil rights workers

PHILADELPHIA, Mississippi - Prosecutors wrap up their case against a one-time Ku Klux Klan leader facing the first-ever state murder charges in the 1964 deaths of three civil rights workers. BC-NA-GEN--US-CIVIL RIGHTS KILLINGS. Moved. By Emily Wagster Pettus.

YOUR QUERIES: The editor in charge is Tarek El-Tablawy at the Americas Desk in New York. Contact your local AP bureau, the Americas Desk at +1-212-621-1650, or the Asia Desk in Bangkok at +66-2-632-6911.

Correction

In a June 18 story, The Associated Press reported that Dean Schwartzmiller, a convicted child molester jailed in California, may have committed sex crimes against thousands of victims. In May, San Jose police seized notebooks and computers from Schwartzmillers home that contained more than 36,000 entries, including boys' names and codes which may indicate sexual acts or other descriptions. However, the story should have made clear that police do not know the number of alleged victims or molestations. The same figure was in a June 17 story from Seattle.

Correction-Date: June 22, 2005 Wednesday

Load-Date: June 19, 2005

IRA losing battle in blood-soaked city: McCARTNEY KILLINGS / Even working-class Catholics say the IRA has become a criminal gang

The Vancouver Sun (British Columbia)

March 19, 2005 Saturday

Final Edition

Copyright 2005 CanWest Interactive, a division of CanWest Global Communications Corp. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. C11

Length: 1309 words

Byline: John Daniszewski, Los Angeles Times

Dateline: BELFAST, Northern Ireland

Body

BELFAST, Northern Ireland -- Along the mean streets of this city soaked in blood and memory, something strange is happening. On a wall in the overwhelmingly Roman Catholic neighbourhood of Short Strand, two words of graffiti have appeared: "Disband Now."

The ***Irish Republican Army***, long the law in Short Strand, is finding itself under attack not only by its longtime nemeses, the Protestant Ulster unionists and the British government, but by working-class Catholic families. They say the organization has become a criminal gang, killing and robbing without regard to common decency.

In this tight-knit community where a code of silence normally prevails, the catalyst for the growing outrage was the killing of a popular 33-year-old Catholic working father after a fight that by most accounts began with nothing more than a perceived insult to an IRA man's ***female*** companion.

A six-week campaign by Robert McCartney's sisters to bring the killers to justice and their public denunciations of alleged IRA intimidation of witnesses have sparked parades and candlelight vigils -- and emboldened others to speak of their anger and resentment. To many, Ra, as the IRA is called here, has become the Rafia.

The McCartney killing added to a mood of disgust with the IRA that had been building since police blamed the group for Britain's largest bank robbery, as well as other crimes, even as the IRA and other armed groups have adhered to a 1997 ceasefire in this British province long ravaged by sectarian violence.

As a result, Gerry Adams, the leader of Sinn Fein, which has been considered the IRA's political wing, has seen his reputation questioned and his popularity plummet. Responding to public pressure, Adams suspended "without prejudice" seven Sinn Fein members who were at the scene of the attack, and he called on witnesses to get any useful information to the police.

The IRA responded too. It announced an investigation and said it was expelling three members it believed had taken part in the attack. Then the group delivered its coup de grace: It revealed it had met with the victim's sisters and offered to shoot the perpetrators.

IRA losing battle in blood-soaked city: McCARTNEY KILLINGS I Even working-class Catholics say the IRA has become a criminal gang

The statement only provoked further revulsion. The family insisted it wanted the attackers tried in court and reiterated that witnesses felt threatened.

A tussle of loyalties grips Short Strand, a community of 3,000 Catholics set off by high fences from the militantly unionist Protestant area of 60,000 next door. McCartney and the men accused of attacking him lived here, on streets where the IRA had always been seen as a bulwark against the community's enemies.

"In certain circumstances, you need them," a burly resident with a shaved head said of the IRA's soldiers. Unionist politician "Ian Paisley couldn't give a damn about this place; now he's all concerned," scoffed the man, who would not give his name.

"I wouldn't want to be in their position," Kate Gorman, a postal worker walking her young child, said of the people being asked to come forward. "But if you were, you'd have to do the right thing."

Her friend Bernadette Ronay agreed. "Any true republican is disgusted by the killing, and so are the real IRA," she said.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair, expressing shock at the IRA pronouncement that it was willing to kill the perpetrators, said republicans faced a stark choice.

"They can either embrace the democratic and peaceful route or be excluded," Blair said.

The U.S. special envoy to Northern Ireland, Mitchell B. Reiss, last week added the Bush administration's view. "It's in Sinn Fein's interest to make a clear break," he said.

Little wonder that Sinn Fein leaders were not asked to the White House for St. Patrick's Day on Thursday, as they have been in the past. Instead, invitations went to McCartney's sisters and his girlfriend.

Irish political historian Paul Bew thinks the snub could be a harbinger. "I am starting to hear the A-word, for Arafat, applied to Sinn Fein," said the Queen's University professor, who added that Sinn Fein was far from being out of the political game.

Still, it has been an enormous fall for Sinn Fein, which in December seemed on the verge of a historic power-sharing deal with Paisley's Protestant-based Democratic Unionist Party -- until Paisley insisted on public photos of the IRA destroying its weapons beforehand. Paisley said the IRA deserved to be seen in "sackcloth and ashes." The IRA did not agree.

Days after the negotiations broke down, about \$50 million was stolen from Northern Bank's downtown Belfast cash centre in a well-planned heist that included hostage-taking. The head of the Police Service of Northern Ireland said almost immediately that it looked like an IRA job.

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern went further, accusing Adams and his deputy, Martin McGuinness, of being on the IRA's army council. He insisted that they must have known about the heist plan even while negotiating with the British and Irish governments.

Damaging as the bank robbery was to Sinn Fein's image, worse was yet to come.

Magennis's Bar is a dark-paneled, old-fashioned pub next to the Victorian-era St. George's Market in central Belfast. A few streets from City Hall, it sits on the edge of the Markets, a part of town known for Catholic nationalism. According to one resident who requested anonymity, the bar had become a hangout for IRA toughs, who were said to provide its security.

On the night of Jan. 30, after a commemoration in Derry for the victims of 1972's Bloody Sunday, some IRA men were drinking in the bar. So was McCartney, with his friend Brendan Devine.

IRA losing battle in blood-soaked city: McCARTNEY KILLINGS I Even working-class Catholics say the IRA has become a criminal gang

According to family members, McCartney and Devine got into an argument with a leading IRA member, reportedly about a remark made to a woman in the bar. Despite offering an apology, McCartney and Devine were hauled out to the street. There, on the dark pavement, someone produced a knife from the bar's kitchen, sliced McCartney open, gouged his eyes and left him for dead. Devine, beaten with an iron bar and stabbed, survived.

Associates of the killer went back in the bar, cleaned up physical evidence, took the tape from the bar's security camera and instructed the patrons to keep silent because it was "IRA business," McCartney's family said.

That might have been the end of it. Like so many acts of violence in Belfast, where armed paramilitaries on both sides carry out "punishment" attacks in their own communities, police would normally add the killing to their files of unsolved cases.

In McCartney's case, his sisters were having none of it. Paula, Gemma, Donna, Catherine and Claire say 70 people were in the bar that night, and threats by the IRA are preventing witnesses from telling what they saw. The accusations have roiled Short Strand, on the other side of the Lagan River from Magennis's.

Alex Maskey, the Sinn Fein city councilor for the area that includes the pub, is defiant. A scrappy former amateur boxer wounded by a unionist bullet in 1987, he said the accusations were unproved and exploitive, and that the IRA and Sinn Fein had been working hard to cope with a situation "not of their making."

As to broader charges of criminality, he said much of what was bandied about the IRA was "so much nonsense."

"They say they are responsible for all the cigarettes stolen in Northern Ireland, all the fuel smuggling, even for driving up property prices. To me, the IRA is not responsible for a lot of the things," he said. The real issue, he said, is the lack of a political accord, which makes proper policing impossible.

Long a political factor in the six counties of British-ruled Northern Ireland, Sinn Fein had been on the rise in the Irish Republic to the south. A 2002 election lifted the party from one seat in the Irish parliament to five, with 6 per cent of the vote.

Times special correspondent Ron DePasquale in Derry and Navan, Ireland, contributed to this report.

Graphic

Colour Photo: Paul McErlane, Getty Images; A young girl in face paint takes part in the main St. Patrick's Day parade on the Falls Road in Belfast Thursday.

Load-Date: March 19, 2005

EUROPE AT 1200GMT EDITORS: The following is a digest of Europe's top general news,

Associated Press International

February 25, 2005 Friday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 1426 words

Body

TOP STORIES:

POPE HOSPITALIZED: Vatican says pope breathing on his own after surgery

VATICAN CITY - Pope John Paul II is breathing on his own and is not suffering from pneumonia, the Vatican says, a day after he underwent surgery to ease another breathing crisis. Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls says the frail 84-year-old pontiff spent a restful night at Rome's Gemelli Polyclinic hospital and had eaten breakfast, but should not speak for several days. It was the pope's second bout of breathing trouble in less than a month. BC-EU-GEN--VATICAN-POPE. Moved. By Victor L. Simpson. AP Photos XOR101.

-BC-EU-REL--VATICAN-POPE'S SUFFERING. VATICAN CITY - Young and vigorous when he assumed the papacy, John Paul II has been a picture of suffering in recent years, a stooped figure with trembling hands and quavering voice. Yet the 84-year-old pontiff is sending out a message of dignity, courage and acceptance of the tribulations sent down by God. The Vatican newspaper suggested he was sharing in Christ's suffering, and said "The bed of pain" has become "the cathedral of life." By 1600GMT. By Victor L. Simpson. AP Photos.

-BC-EU-REL--POPE-GLOBAL VIGIL. WARSAW, Poland - Roman Catholics around the world hold vigils and pray for the pope's speedy recovery. By 1400GMT. By Vanessa Gera.

-BC-EU-GEN--VATICAN-POPE-MEDICAL BULLETIN. VATICAN CITY - The medical bulletin released by the Vatican. Moved.

-BC-EU-GEN--VATICAN-POPE'S HEALTH-GLANCE. A chronology of John Paul's health troubles.

ANGLICANS-GAYS: Anglican leaders agree that U.S., Canadian churches to withdraw temporarily

LONDON - Anglican leaders struggling to resolve explosive differences over homosexuality ask the U.S. Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada to temporarily withdraw from a key council of their global communion because of the election of a gay bishop in the United States and the blessing of same-sex unions there and in Canada. BC-EU-REL--ANGLICANS-GAYS. Moved. By Robert Barr.

CHINA EMBARGO: U.S. angered, but is there much of an embargo to lift?

PARIS - Europe has angered the United States with talk of canceling its arms embargo against China - but governments and companies on the continent have for years delivered weapons and other equipment to Beijing and its rapidly modernizing People's Liberation Army. In Germany, a subsidiary of DaimlerChrysler AG says it is

EUROPE AT 1200GMT EDITORS: The following is a digest of Europe's top general news,

supplying diesel engines for Chinese submarines. BC-EU-GEN--EUROPE-ARMS TO CHINA. Moved. By John Leicester. AP Graphic EUROPE CHINA MILITARY.

PARIS - Former French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing predicts in an AP interview that the French will vote in favor of the EU constitution he helped draw up and says that a rejection of the charter by voters would be "destructive" for France. BC-EU-GEN--FRANCE-GISCARD INTERVIEW. By 1300GMT. By Jamey Keaten. AP Photo.

BRATISLAVA, Slovakia - Vladimir Putin and George W. Bush can consider their meeting in Slovakia a mission accomplished, for the short term, but the patches they placed on the strained Russian-American relationship will be no guarantee against further disagreement and drift. BC-EU-ANL--SLOVAKIA-BUSH-PUTIN. By 1300GMT. By Steve Gutterman.

-BC-EU-GEN--SLOVAKIA-RUSSIA. BRATISLAVA, Slovakia - Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with Slovak officials in an effort to boost ties with the former Soviet-bloc country. Moved. By Andrea Dudikova.

LONDON - By hosting next week's conference on Palestinian reform, Prime Minister Tony Blair also hopes for reconciliation in a governing Labour Party which was bitterly divided by the Iraq war. Many in Labour still relentlessly mock their leader as U.S. President George W. Bush's poodle. BC-EU-GEN--BRITAIN-MIDDLE EAST-BLAIR'S CHALLENGE. By 1400GMT. By Ed Johnson.

LONDON - A parliamentary committee sharply criticizes the government's anti-terrorism bill, saying a proposal to let the country's top law enforcement official order suspects detained would undermine British principles of justice. BC-EU-GEN--BRITAIN-TERRORISM BILL. Moved. By Beth Gardiner.

OSNABRUECK, Germany - Three British soldiers convicted of abusing Iraqi civilians face sentencing and could receive up to two years in prison each. BC-EU-GEN--GERMANY-BRITAIN-IRAQ ABUSE. Moved; sentencing hearing to start 1300GMT. By Matt Surman.

- BC-EU-GEN--BRITAIN-IRAQ-ABUSE. LONDON - The British military says it will investigate allegations by five Iraqi men who say they are the prisoners featured in photographs showing abuse by British troops. Moved.

PARIS - Embattled Economy Minister Herve Gaymard, caught in a growing scandal over a luxury apartment rented for him with taxpayer's money, will explain himself on national television, his ministry announces. BC-EU-GEN--FRANCE-MINISTER'S HOME. Moved; TV appearance set for after 1900GMT.

- BC-EU-FIN--FRANCE-UNEMPLOYMENT. PARIS - French jobless rate hits 10 percent. Moved. By Laurence Frost.

ROTTERDAM, Netherlands - A Dutch court unexpectedly adjourns the trial of a young Dutch Muslim suspected of plotting terrorist attacks to allow for closed-door questioning of Intelligence Service agents. BC-EU-GEN--NETHERLANDS-TERROR TRIAL. Moved. By Anthony Deutsch.

DUBLIN, Ireland - Public approval for Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams has plummeted in the Republic of Ireland, according to a poll that finds attitudes hardening against the outlawed **Irish Republican Army**. The shift follows a failed Northern Ireland deal, the IRA's alleged robbery of a Belfast bank, police swoops against IRA money-laundering, and the Irish government's identification of Adams as an IRA commander. BC-EU-GEN--IRELAND-POLL. Moved. By Shawn Pogatchnik.

BELGRADE, Serbia-Montenegro - A retired Bosnian Serb general who was charged by the U.N. war crimes tribunal for alleged atrocities against Bosnian Muslims in 1995 will voluntarily surrender to the court in the Netherlands, Serbia's government announces. BC-EU-GEN--SERBIA-WAR CRIMES. Moved. By Dusan Stojanovic.

LONDON- An attention-seeking mother who killed her son by putting salt into his intravenous drip is sentenced to five years in prison. BC-EU-GEN--BRITAIN-SON POISONED. Moved.

EUROPE AT 1200GMT EDITORS: The following is a digest of Europe's top general news,

LJUBLJANA, Slovenia - Seven non-Slovene citizens end their four-day hunger strike, saying they got promises from politicians that they would get back their citizenship rights. Mostly Bosnians, Serbs and Croats, they declined offers of Slovene citizenship in 1992, immediately after the country gained independence from the former Yugoslavia. BC-EU-GEN--SLOVENIA-THE ERASED. Moved.

MOSCOW - Ex-Yukos CEO Mikhail Khodorkovsky tells the court trying him for tax evasion, fraud and misappropriation that he is completely innocent. "I do not consider myself guilty of a single charge that has been brought against me," he says in a three-hour testimony from the courtroom cage where he has sat during the 9-month-old trial. BC-EU-FIN-ECO--RUSSIA-OIL FIGHT. Moved. By Alex Nicholson. AP Photos.

VIENNA, Austria - Crude futures slip from four-month highs but remain above the US\$51 mark after U.S. government data shows a smaller than expected build in crude stocks. BC-EU-FIN--OIL PRICES. Moved. By George Jahn.

BASEBALL VS SOCCER: Wayward cricket ball changes history of the world - sports world, that is

LONDON - Baseball may have lost its chance to be the world's pastime back in 1751. The heir to the English throne, Frederick Louis, died that year after being struck in the head fielding a cricket ball. The death allowed his son, King George III, to ascend to the throne - in time for the American revolution. Frederick Louis had been experimenting with a baseball-like game, explains Stefan Szymanski, a British economist and writer: "Had Frederick Louis lived, he might have introduced baseball to a wider British public." BC-EU-FEA-GEN-SPT--BRITAIN-BASEBALL VS SOCCER. Moved. By Stephen Wade. AP Photos LON501-504

LONDON - A few months ago, Steven Gerrard was considering a move to Chelsea. Now, he hopes to complete a miserable week for Chelsea by leading Liverpool to a record eighth League Cup title. BC-EU-SPT-SOC--LEAGUE CUP FINAL. Moved. By Robert Millward.

SAN SICARIO, Italy - The women's speed course for next year's Turin Olympics gets its debut Friday with a World Cup super-G race. Speed specialists Renate Goetschl, Michaela Dorfmeister and Lindsey Kildow are the favorites. BC-EU-SPT-SKI-ALP--WOMEN'S WCUP. By 1230GMT. By Andrew Dampf.

LOOKING AHEAD: German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder leaves Berlin on Sunday for a six-nation tour of the Persian Gulf region. Through March 3.

YOUR QUERIES: The AP Europe-Africa Desk in London can be reached at (44) 207-427-4300.

Load-Date: February 26, 2005

New formula for terror?; U.S. authorities have been tracking a nationwide theft ring specializing in shoplifted infant food and over-the-counter medicines. The money trails run to 'fences' with Middle Eastern ties.

Hamilton Spectator (Ontario, Canada)

July 2, 2005 Saturday Final Edition

Copyright 2005 Metroland Media Group Ltd

Section: FOCUS; Pg. F04; News

Length: 1578 words

Byline: Mark Clayton

Body

On the day terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center, a Texas state trooper pulled over a rental van driven by a Middle Eastern man going towards Houston. Opening the cargo door, the officer found a huge load of ... baby formula.

False alarm? Not really. Police later identified the driver as a member of a terrorist group and linked him to a nationwide theft ring that specialized in reselling stolen infant formula, says Sergeant Johnnie Jezierski of the Special Crimes Service of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

Proceeds were wired to the Middle East. The driver is still under investigation.
The Christian Science Monitor

Operation Blackbird, as Texas investigators dubbed their multistate baby-formula investigation, has since led to felony charges against more than 40 suspects, about half illegal immigrants. Authorities have seized some \$2.7 million in stolen assets, including \$1 million worth of formula.

Blackbird was just the beginning. In the nearly four years since 9/11, police have uncovered and dismantled a growing number of regional and national theft rings specializing in shoplifted infant formula, over-the-counter medicines and personal-care products.

At least eight of the major baby-formula cases have involved "fences" who are of Middle Eastern descent or who have ties to that region, according to a Monitor review of congressional testimony, news accounts, and a study by the National Retail Federation released Tuesday.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has traced money from these infant-formula traffickers back to nations where terrorist groups, such as Hamas and Hezbollah, are active, investigators say. Then, the trail usually goes cold.

Once funds enter such countries, there's often no way to track them.

FBI director Robert Mueller first talked of a possible link in a speech last fall. He did it again in testimony before the Senate Committee on Intelligence in February, saying: "Middle Eastern criminal enterprises involved in the organized theft and resale of infant formula pose not only an economic threat, but a public health threat to infants, and a potential source of material support to a terrorist organization."

New formula for terror?; U.S. authorities have been tracking a nationwide theft ring specializing in shoplifted infant food and over-the-counter medicines. The

So far, most officials are unwilling to draw conclusive links between proceeds from shoplifted formula and terror financing, saying only that they're "likely" or "probable" in some cases. "Just because you have an infant-formula operation doesn't mean it's a terror-funding operation," says Jezierski. "But to say there's no terrorist funding isn't the case either."

While many terrorist groups eschew criminal commerce because it tends to attract police attention, other groups finance themselves with theft, fraud and smuggling. The ***Irish Republican Army***, Colombia's FARC and Hezbollah all have engaged in criminal enterprises, says Matthew Levitt, a former FBI counter-terrorism analyst, now director of terrorism studies at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Some Al-Qaeda cells, at the fringes of their operations, have engaged in criminal self-financing, he says. "Important operational funding can come from these criminal activities ... If you are funding yourself, it's freeing up the home organization."

Less convinced is Mardi Mountford, executive director of the International Formula Council, an Atlanta-based trade association that represents infant formula manufacturers in the United States. "We've heard that speculation, but we're not aware of a direct connection."

Theft of baby formula from store shelves has risen over the past decade, costing retailers billions of dollars. Formula was the fourth most-often-shoplifted item last year, according to a survey by the Food Marketing Institute, a Washington, D.C., trade group.

In the wake of several cases in North Carolina and Florida, some retailers have transferred formula from store shelves to behind the counter. One big grocery chain, Albertsons Inc., now keeps a few cans on the shelf -- along with a sign directing customers to the courtesy counter.

Calling it "a serious security issue" for retailers, the National Retail Federation unveiled its 200-page report highlighting "organized retail theft" of infant formula. At least seven of the report's 10 case studies detail fencing operations run by citizens of Middle Eastern origin.

"The rings I identified dealing in stolen infant formula are operated mostly by Middle Easterners," says Charles Miller, a loss-prevention consultant and author of the report. They typically organize the rings, pay the shoplifters (who are mostly from Latin America), repackage the formula, and resell it. Out of \$30 billion in annual retail theft, about \$7 billion of infant formula is stolen and resold for profit, Miller estimates.

The scheme works this way: A shoplifter may get \$5 for a can of formula from his fence, who then reboxes the loot and sells that to a dishonest retailer for \$9 a can. That retailer then sells it for perhaps \$15 or \$16 a can. The result may be a \$6 or \$7 profit a can for the dishonest retailer -- instead of pennies a can for the honest merchant, Miller says.

Several Middle Eastern businessmen have already been charged or convicted in connection with baby-formula thefts.

Mohammed Khalil Ghali was sentenced in February to 14 years in prison, convicted on 15 counts that included transporting stolen goods and money laundering. A search warrant states that money generated from the sale of the goods was wired to banks in the Middle East, "specifically Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine."

Nine of the 11 individuals indicted in the case are of Middle Eastern descent, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

Samih Fadl Jamal was a fixture in Phoenix, until investigators discovered that his company gained \$11 million in profits from the sale of \$22 million of stolen baby formula from 2001 to 2003, prosecutors say.

New formula for terror?; U.S. authorities have been tracking a nationwide theft ring specializing in shoplifted infant food and over-the-counter medicines. The

In all, 27 people connected to the Jamal Trading company scheme were indicted, most from Iraq, Jordan or Lebanon. Some are naturalized U.S. citizens; others overstayed student or visitor visas, the National Retail Federation report said.

Investigators' wiretaps indicated that about \$8 million was funnelled to countries in the Middle East, where it disappeared. Jamal, a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Lebanon, was convicted in April of 20 counts of conspiracy to transport and receive stolen property and other related charges, as well as money laundering.

Of course, just because the money goes to the Middle East doesn't mean it's going to terrorists, some groups point out.

"To say that -- 'Oh, there's a chance that these funds went to fund terrorism because there are terrorist groups active in this country' -- is irresponsible," says Rabia Ahmed of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Washington. "We've seen many cases like this, where a prominent Muslim leader has been charged with horrible things, but it ends up being some kind of immigration technicality."

First identified in the early 1980s, organized retail theft is a key feature of baby-formula theft. Teams of professional shoplifters may travel 300 to 400 kilometres over a week or more, Miller says. Typically each has a shoplifting list of specific brands of infant formula, medications, shaving products and batteries given them by their fences.

Shoplifting teams may involve five or six women or young men. Typically they disperse into a store in pairs or separately, posting lookouts to watch for store security. Then a separate team loads carts of formula and goes straight to the exit where a vehicle is waiting, investigators say.

Formula is a favourite of theft rings mostly because of the steady demand, high cost and large profit margins. Its price is also supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's \$4.9 billion Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.

To battle this trend, Texas authorities mandated that retailers participating in WIC must purchase their infant formula from approved WIC wholesalers or the manufacturers themselves. U.S. Republican Representative John Carter of Texas sponsored legislation included in the WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 that aims to eliminate the market for stolen infant formula with a similar mandate. But those measures have not been implemented in most states.

As of May, the USDA has mandated that stores nationwide use a licensed wholesaler, say Oklahoma officials, where a recent burst of formula shoplifting has drawn attention even though Oklahoma is one of the few states that require stores to buy from a licensed wholesaler.

A key problem is that many local law enforcement officers view baby-formula theft as petty shoplifting -- and shoplifting laws tend to be soft, experts say. Few shoplifters go to jail.

But there are signs that that attitude is changing. The Retail Industry Leaders Association in March testified before Congress, asking for tougher laws to crack down on organized shoplifting. Major retailers like Wal-Mart, Kroger, Walgreens and others reported to be losing millions on shoplifted baby-formula have internal teams focused on the problem.

Although the FBI has also deployed teams nationwide to crack down on organized retail theft, some investigators say the problem is growing -- and moving onto the Internet.

On Monday, the online auction house eBay carried more than 1,000 offers of Enfamil baby formula. "This problem is getting worse, no question," Miller says. "It is in every state in the union, and neither law enforcement nor the retailers have their arms around it."

New formula for terror?; U.S. authorities have been tracking a nationwide theft ring specializing in shoplifted infant food and over-the-counter medicines. The

Graphic

Photo: Canadian Press File Photo; Trained teams of shoplifters travel up to 400 kilometres a week and, using in-store strategies, steal millions of dollars in infant formula.

Load-Date: July 2, 2005

End of Document

Is black-market baby formula financing terror?

Christian Science Monitor (Boston, MA)

June 29, 2005, Wednesday

Copyright 2005 The Christian Science Publishing Society

Section: FEATURES; CURRENTS; Pg. 01

Length: 1583 words

Byline: By Mark Clayton Staff writer of The Christian Science Monitor

Body

On the day terrorists destroyed the World Trade Center, a Texas state trooper pulled over a rental van driven by a Middle Eastern man toward Houston. Opening the cargo door, the officer found a huge load of ... baby formula.

False alarm? Not really. Police later identified the driver as a member of a terrorist group and linked him to a nationwide theft ring that specialized in reselling stolen infant formula, says Sgt. Johnnie Jezierski of the Special Crimes Service of the Texas Department of Public Safety. Proceeds were wired to the Middle East. The driver is still under investigation.

Operation Blackbird, as Texas investigators dubbed their multistate baby-formula investigation, has since led to felony charges against more than 40 suspects, about half illegal immigrants. Authorities have seized some \$ 2.7 million in stolen assets, including \$ 1 million worth of formula.

Blackbird was just the beginning. In the nearly four years since 9/11, police have uncovered and dismantled a growing number of regional and national theft rings specializing in shoplifted infant formula, over-the-counter medicines, and personal-care products. At least eight of the major baby-formula cases have involved "fences" who are of Middle Eastern descent or who have ties to that region, according to a Monitor review of congressional testimony, news accounts, and a study by the National Retail Federation released Tuesday.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has traced money from these infant-formula traffickers back to nations where terrorist groups, such as Hamas and Hizbullah, are active, investigators say. Then, the trail usually goes cold. Once funds enter such countries, there's often no way to track them.

FBI Director Robert Mueller first talked of a possible link in a speech last fall. He did it again in testimony before the Senate Committee on Intelligence in February, saying: "Middle Eastern criminal enterprises involved in the organized theft and resale of infant formula pose not only an economic threat, but a public health threat to infants, and a potential source of material support to a terrorist organization."

So far, most officials are unwilling to draw conclusive links between proceeds from shoplifted formula and terror financing, saying only that they're "likely" or "probable" in some cases.

"Just because you have an infant- formula operation doesn't mean it's a terror funding operation," says Sergeant Jezierski. "But to say there's no terrorist funding isn't the case either."

While many terrorist groups eschew criminal commerce because it tends to attract police attention, other groups finance themselves with theft, fraud, and smuggling. The *Irish Republican Army*, Colombia's FARC, and Hizbullah

Is black-market baby formula financing terror?

all have engaged in criminal enterprises, says Matthew Levitt, a former FBI counterterrorism analyst, now director of terrorism studies at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. Some Al Qaeda cells, mostly at the fringes of their operations, have engaged in criminal self-financing, he says. "Important operational funding can come from these criminal activities... If you are funding yourself, it's freeing up the home organization."

Less convinced is Mardi Mountford, executive director of the International Formula Council, an Atlanta-based trade association that represents infant formula manufacturers in the United States. "We've heard that speculation, but we're not aware of a direct connection."

Theft of baby formula from store shelves has risen over the past decade, costing retailers billions of dollars. Formula was the fourth most-often-shoplifted item last year, according to a survey by the Food Marketing Institute, a Washington, D.C., trade group.

In the wake of several cases in North Carolina and Florida, some retailers have transferred formula from store shelves to behind the counter. One big grocery chain, Albertsons Inc., now keeps a few cans on the shelf - along with a sign directing customers to the courtesy counter.

Calling it "a serious security issue" for retailers, the National Retail Federation unveiled its 200-page report highlighting "organized retail theft" of infant formula. At least seven of the report's 10 case studies detail fencing operations run by citizens of Middle Eastern origin.

"The rings I identified dealing in stolen infant formula are operated mostly by Middle Easterners," says Charles Miller, a loss-prevention consultant and author of the report. They typically organize the rings, pay the shoplifters (who are mostly from Latin America), repackage the formula, and resell it. Out of \$ 30 billion in annual retail theft, about \$ 7 billion of infant formula is stolen and resold for a tidy profit, Mr. Miller estimates.

The scheme works this way: A shoplifter may get \$ 5 for a can of formula from his fence, who then reboxes the loot and sells that to a dishonest retailer for \$ 9 a can. That retailer then sells it for perhaps \$ 15 or \$ 16 a can. The result may be a \$ 6 or \$ 7 profit a can for the dishonest retailer - instead of pennies a can for the honest merchant, Miller says.

Several Middle Eastern businessmen have already been charged or convicted in connection with baby-formula thefts.

Mohammed Khalil Ghali was sentenced in February to 14 years in prison, convicted on 15 counts that included transporting stolen goods and money laundering. A search warrant states that money generated from the sale of the goods was wired to banks in the Middle East, "specifically Jordan, Egypt, and Palestine." Nine of the 11 individuals indicted in the case are of Middle Eastern descent, according to the Department of Homeland Security.

Samih Fadl Jamal was a fixture in Phoenix, until investigators discovered that his company gained \$ 11 million in profits from the sale of \$ 22 million of stolen baby formula from 2001 to 2003, prosecutors say.

In all, 27 people connected to the Jamal Trading company scheme were indicted, most from Iraq, Jordan, or Lebanon. Some are naturalized US citizens; others overstayed student or visitor visas, the National Retail Federation report said. Investigators' wiretaps indicated that about \$ 8 million was funneled to countries in the Middle East, where it disappeared. Mr. Jamal, a naturalized US citizen born in Lebanon, was convicted in April of 20 counts of conspiracy to transport and receive stolen property and other related charges, as well as money laundering.

Of course, just because the money goes to the Middle East doesn't mean it's going to terrorists, some groups point out.

"To say that - 'Oh, there's a chance that these funds went to fund terrorism because there are terrorist groups active in this country' - is irresponsible," says Rabia Ahmed of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Washington. "We've seen many cases like this, where a prominent Muslim leader has been charged with horrible things, but it ends up being some kind of immigration technicality."

Is black-market baby formula financing terror?

First identified in the early 1980s, organized retail theft is a key feature of baby-formula theft. Teams of professional shoplifters may travel 200 to 300 miles over a week or more, Miller says. Typically each has a shoplifting list of specific brands of infant formula, medications, shaving products, and batteries given them by their fences.

Shoplifting teams may involve five or six women or young men. Typically they disperse into a store in pairs or separately, posing lookouts to watch for store security. Then a separate team loads carts of formula and goes straight to the exit where a vehicle is waiting, investigators say.

Formula is a favorite of theft rings mostly because of the steady demand, high cost, and large profit margins. Its price is also supported by the US Department of Agriculture's \$ 4.9 billion Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program.

To battle this trend, Texas authorities mandated that retailers participating in WIC must purchase their infant formula from approved WIC wholesalers or the manufacturers themselves. US Rep. John Carter (R) of Texas sponsored legislation included in the WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 that aims to eliminate the market for stolen infant formula with a similar mandate. But those measures have not been implemented in most states.

As of May, the USDA has mandated that stores nationwide use a licensed wholesaler, say Oklahoma officials, where a recent burst of formula shoplifting has drawn attention even though Oklahoma is one of the few states that require stores to buy from a licensed wholesaler.

A key problem is that many local law enforcement officers view baby- formula theft as petty shoplifting - and shoplifting laws tend to be soft, experts say. Few shoplifters go to jail.

But there are signs that that attitude is changing. The Retail Industry Leaders Association in March testified before Congress, asking for tougher laws to crack down on organized shoplifting. Major retailers like Wal-Mart, Kroger, Walgreens, and others reported to be losing millions on shoplifted baby-formula have internal teams focused on the problem.

Although the FBI has also deployed teams nationwide to crack down on organized retail theft, some investigators say the problem is growing - and moving onto the Internet. On Monday, the online auction house eBay carried more than 1,000 offers of Enfamil baby formula. "This problem is getting worse, no question," Miller says. "It is in every state in the union, and neither law enforcement nor the retailers have their arms around it."

(c) Copyright 2005. The Christian Science Monitor

Load-Date: June 28, 2005

Group on U.S. terror list lobbies hard

UPI

May 31, 2005 Tuesday 3:49 PM EST

Copyright 2005 U.P.I. All Rights Reserved



Length: 1632 words

Byline: ANGELA WOODALL

Dateline: WASHINGTON, May 31

Body

U.S. lawmakers and former military officers are backing Mujahedin-e Khalq, an Iranian opposition group, despite its inclusion on the State Department's list of foreign terrorist organizations and its role in the killing and wounding of U.S. military personnel and civilians in the 1970s.

Supporters acknowledge the status of the group, once funded by deposed Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, as well as its role in the killings of U.S. military personnel and civilians in the 1970s in Iran when it was allied with Ayatollah Khomeini, but say the MEK has shed its past activities and is a potential ally against the theocratic regime in Iran.

Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., who sits on the House Intelligence Committee, responded in a written statement saying he supports the MEK because it is an "asset to U.S. intelligence" and "the most reliable source of information for the region."

In recent years the MEK's political branch, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, has provided information about Iran's nuclear facilities, which the Bush administration contends are being used to secretly make nuclear weapons.

Tancredo's press secretary, Carlos Espinosa, said it is not "too unusual" for members of Congress to support a group listed as a foreign terrorist organization, citing Sen. Ted Kennedy's support for the **Irish Republican Army** as an example.

"Are these guys saints? No." Espinosa said. But, "if there's a problem, it's that the MEK is on the list."

Other lawmakers who have expressed support for the MEK, including Robert Filner, D-Calif., did not return repeated calls for comment.

The Council's Washington office has now been shut down and the organization is banned in the United States because of its affiliation with the MEK.

Group on U.S. terror list lobbies hard

MEK leader Maryam Rajavi has suggested her group as an alternative to Iran's revolutionary regime -- with Rajavi taking the place of the supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. She has offered to head a transition government for six months, after which elections will be held, according to news accounts.

But, said Iran expert Mohamed Hadi Semati, the MEK has no support from Iranians inside the country. Semati, a political science professor at the University of Tehran and a scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center in Washington, said he had no doubt the MEK would be resisted if it tried to take over the government in Iran because the group had "killed a lot of innocent people."

"They would be killed instantly if they tried to go inside Iran," he said, recalling that in 1987 the Iranian army and security forces fended off the MEK after its members tried to invade the country during the war with Iraq. At the time, the group was financed by Saddam.

In contrast, the Iran Policy Committee, a Washington think tank of former U.S. officials that specializes in Iran policy and favors the removal of the group from the terror list, said the move would "send a signal to the Iranian rulers that their days are numbered." In a written statement to questions about the MEK, the IPC called the organization the "best organized, most credible Iranian opposition group" that stands for a democratic, secular republic in Iran.

Meanwhile, Rajavi is confined to MEK's base in France after she and 150 supporters were arrested there on suspicion of plans to attack Iranian embassies and assassinate former members working with Iranian intelligence services in Europe, according to news and think-tank reports. The MEK has been on the European Union's list of terrorist organizations since 2002.

Despite her confinement, Rajavi used a satellite link to address an April 15 convention in Washington, during which she called on all Iranians to unite toward achieving democratic change in Iran. At the same event, the Iranian-American National Convention, former military officials, Army Col. Kenneth Cantwell and Capt. Vivian Gembara praised the People's Mujahedin of Iran (another name for the MEK) and urged the Bush administration to remove it from the terrorist list, according to a news release from the event. It was not clear who sponsored the convention, however, and calls to the convention contact number were not returned.

In the past, Washington has had mixed results with the strategy of relying on opposition groups for intelligence or assistance in thwarting a regime.

Most recently, the U.S. reliance on intelligence from Iraqi exile and Iraqi National Congress leader Ahmad Chalabi proved to be unwise. Chalabi and the INC were sources of intelligence about Iraq's weapons of mass destruction capability now widely believed to be false.

Tancredo acknowledges the risk, according to Espinosa, who said everything the MEK has told Washington about Iran -- that Iran moved nuclear equipment to another undisclosed military location -- has been "100 percent true."

"Call them what you want, but they not liars," Espinosa said.

However, the information provided by the MEK to Washington was passed on to the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N. nuclear watchdog, State Department deputy spokesman Adam Ereli said during a Nov. 17, 2004, news briefing. Ereli said the State Department was not in a position to evaluate the credibility of the report and had no contact with the MEK, which he called a terrorist organization.

The State Department classification of foreign terrorist organizations is based on past terrorist attacks, as well as the capacity or intent to carry out terrorist attacks in the future -- terrorism meaning as planned, politically motivated violence against civilian targets by non-state groups, according to a 2005 fact sheet by the department's counter-terrorism office.

The group landed on the list after decades of armed opposition to the Iranian regime. The MEK's strikes on Iranian targets did not target civilians but put them at risk because it routinely aimed its attacks at government buildings in crowded cities, according to a report by GlobalSecurity.org, a group that tracks global security issues. It is unclear how many civilians were killed as a result of MEK attacks.

Group on U.S. terror list lobbies hard

The MEK is adamantly opposed to the Shiite Islamist regime in Iran and has sought to overthrow it since 1981, though they were originally allied in the movement to oust the autocratic, pro-Western Shah Reza Pahlavi (MEK members supported the 1979 takeover of the U.S. embassy in Tehran, in which 52 Americans were held hostage, according to a GlobalSecurity.org report).

However, the MEK staged an armed uprising against the revolutionary regime led by Khomeini after the group was marginalized from power. Following a brutal crackdown by Iranian security forces, the MEK was expelled from Iran and fled to France.

In 1987 Saddam offered the MEK refuge, funding and arms, which it then used to stage attacks on the Iranian regime -- also at odds with Saddam. In addition, the MEK assisted Saddam in suppressing the 1991 Iraqi and Kurdish uprisings in Iraq, according to the Council on Foreign Relations, a New York-based think tank.

Over the years the MEK has softened its Marxist-Islamist doctrine and recently renounced terrorism but has acquired notoriety because of its use of women fighters, whose devotion to Rajavi and her husband, Massoud, has taken on the aura of cult-worship, with vows of devotion and celibacy, according to a 2003 New Yorker Magazine profile. In 2003, 10 members and sympathizers set themselves on fire to protest the arrest of Rajavi in France.

A recently released report by Human Rights Watch details how the MEK's "ideological revolution" entailed the detention, severe beatings and torture of members who criticized the group's policies or requested to leave the organization. One man, Mohammed Hussein Sobhani, told Human Rights Watch investigators he was held in solitary confinement for 8-1/2 years.

Others were held in the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq after being handed over by the MEK for detention outside of its own camps, the report said.

The official U.S. position is that the MEK is a foreign terrorist organization, not a group for regime change, said a State Department official. In 2002 Secretary of State Colin Powell reaffirmed the classification after the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said the State Department had to give the MEK a hearing to rebut the charges.

The State Department has no plans to remove the group from its list but will be reviewing the case yearly, the official said. Once on the list, representatives and members of the organization that are not citizens are barred from entering the United States and can be expelled in some cases. Putting a group on the list is supposed to isolate it. Also, groups are blocked from receiving support or resources, and their assets are frozen.

Legislation is currently pending in the House that would make funds available to individuals and groups that oppose the regime in Iran. The MEK is not likely to see any of this money until its status changes.

Meanwhile, as Rajavi is being kept in France, the remaining 3,500 MEK followers are under the protection of U.S. and coalition forces in Camp Ashraf in Iraq, near the Iranian border.

When U.S. troops toppled Saddam's regime in Iraq, the group became the responsibility of the Pentagon. They are now considered refugees and protected persons under the 4th Geneva Convention, which protects non-combatants during an armed conflict.

MEK followers have surrendered their weapons and been handed over to the Iraqi government, said Lt. Col. Guy Rudisill, public affairs officer for the detainee operations in Iraq. More than 300 were returned voluntarily to Iran, he said during a telephone interview. The International Committee of the Red Cross, the Iraqi human-rights office and the U.N. refugee agency have been given the task of deciding the ultimate status of the remaining members and where they should go.

Load-Date: June 1, 2005

Group on U.S. terror list lobbies hard

End of Document

'We won't allow anyone within republican ranks to criminalise this party or this struggle'

The Irish Times

March 7, 2005

Copyright 2005 The Irish Times

Section: Ireland; Sinn Fein ardfheis; Pg. 6

Length: 1549 words

Body

Gerry Adams speech (edited): An Cead - Centenary Year. One hundred years ago Sinn Fein was founded in this city.

When the idea of Sinn Fein was conceived Ireland was awakening from the nightmare of the 19th century. But even in the midst of these horrors some dared to dream of a different Ireland - a free Ireland. And from the beginning Sinn Fein extended a hand of friendship to unionists, while always asserting that the end of the Union was in the interests of all the people of this island.

It was a time of renewal and rebirth. It was a great period of debate, of exchanges of ideas as leaders and thinkers and activists, dreamers all, met and influenced each other.

20050306215731

The result was the 1916 Rising and the Proclamation of the Irish Republic, the founding document of modern Irish republicanism and a charter of liberty with international, as well as national, importance.

It is our task - our responsibility - to see this vision realised.

I want this evening to deal fairly and squarely with some issues, which are of huge importance to us.

Murder of Robert McCartney

I want to deal first of all with the dreadful murder of Robert McCartney. His murder was dreadful, not only because of the way he died, and not only because it robbed his family of a father, a partner, a brother, a son.

His murder was dreadful because some republicans were involved in it.

That makes this a huge issue for us.

As president of Sinn Fein, or as an individual, I could not campaign for the victims of British or unionist paramilitary thuggery if I was not as clear and as committed to justice for the McCartney family.

I have met with the McCartney family a number of times. And I remain in contact with them. I believe their demand for justice and truth is a just demand. I have pledged them my support and the support of this party.

Those responsible for the brutal killing of Robert McCartney should admit to what they did in a court of law. That is the only decent thing for them to do. Others with any information should come forward.

'We won't allow anyone within republican ranks to criminalise this party or this struggle'

I am not letting this issue go until those who have sullied the republican cause are made to account for their actions.

Republicans reject criminality

Twenty-five years ago Margaret Thatcher couldn't criminalise us. The women prisoners in Armagh, and the blanketmen and the hunger strikers in Long Kesh wouldn't allow her. That was then; this is now.

Michael McDowell has stepped into Margaret Thatcher's shoes. But he will not criminalise us either, because we will not allow him. And we won't allow anyone within republican ranks to criminalise this party or this struggle. There is no place in republicanism for anyone involved in criminality.

Our detractors will say we have a particular view of what criminality is. We have not.

We know what a crime is, both in the moral and legal sense, and our view is the same as the majority of people. We know that breaking the law is a crime.

But we refuse to criminalise those who break the law in pursuit of legitimate political objectives. Are we saying republicans can do no wrong?

Of course not. We need to be as strong-minded in facing up to wrongdoing by republicans, as we are in opposing wrongdoing by anyone else. But we refuse to retrospectively criminalise a legitimate century-long struggle for freedom.

Campaigning for Irish unity

Sinn Fein is accused of recognising the army council of the IRA as the legitimate government of this island. That is not the case. The supreme governing and legislative body of Sinn Fein is the ard fheis. This is where this party makes its big decisions. This is where we elect our leadership, agree our policies and set in place our strategies.

I do not believe that the army council is the government of Ireland. Such a government will only exist when all the people of this island elect it.

Does Sinn Fein accept the institutions of this State as the legitimate institutions of this State? Of course we do. But we are critical of these institutions. We are entitled to be.

The freedom won by those who gave their lives in 1916 and in other periods, has been squandered by those who attained political power on their backs.

Apart from our criticism of the institutions themselves, the reality is that they are partitionist, and we want to see not only better institutions but open, transparent institutions of government representative of all the people of this island - and we make no apologies for that.

Peace process in crisis

In November 2003 Sinn Fein moved into becoming the largest pro-agreement party in the North. That followed a lengthy negotiation which commenced after our negotiating team had obtained a firm commitment to a date for the postponed Assembly elections from the British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

The Irish Government deeply resented our success in achieving that. Getting the British government to recognise that right was an achievement, but it was not the aim of our negotiations. It was a necessary prerequisite for them.

The aim of the negotiations was to get the Good Friday Agreement moving forward, anchored in the political institutions, including the Assembly, and the all-Ireland political infrastructure.

Our objective was clear. To restore the political institutions and end the crisis in the process.

Policing

'We won't allow anyone within republican ranks to criminalise this party or this struggle'

Sinn Fein is actively working to create an accountable policing service. We support a range of restorative justice and community initiatives to deal with the problems created by the absence of an acceptable policing service in the north.

Let me digress briefly to make an important point. The policing vacuum cannot be filled by physical punishments, no matter how frustrated communities may be by those who engage in antisocial behaviour. There is no place for so-called punishment beatings or shootings.

Our party has a lengthy opposition to these.

They are counterproductive. They should stop.

Northern Bank Robbery

Then came news of the Northern Bank robbery. The IRA is accused of that robbery. And of other incidents. It denies this.

I accept those denials. Others don't. The truth is that no one knows at this time who did the robbery, except the people involved.

Martin McGuinness and I were accused by the Taoiseach of having prior knowledge. That is untrue. But one thing is for certain, activities like this have no place in the peace process.

The IRA

The British and Irish governments are seeking to reduce all of the issues to one - that is the issue of the IRA - even though it knows that the IRA is not the only issue. Historically and in essence, the **Irish Republican Army** is a response to British rule in Ireland. It is a response to deep injustice.

Our leadership is working to create the conditions where the IRA ceases to exist. Do I believe this can be achieved? Yes I do. But I do not believe that the IRA can be wished away, or ridiculed or embarrassed, or demonised or repressed out of existence.

Hundreds of IRA volunteers have fallen in the struggle. There is justifiable pride among republican families about the role of their loved ones.

When people decided to take up arms it was because they believed there was no alternative. But there is an alternative. That is a positive.

It is in tatters at this time. But it can be rebuilt. Let no one ignore, diminish or belittle the progress that has been made.

Republicans up for the challenge

The peace process has been one of the greatest achievements of this generation. And I'm not just talking about the republican contribution - though that should not be undervalued or dismissed.

We are determined to play a positive role both in the process and in the political life of this nation. Sinn Fein wants to tackle the problems now. It has never been in our interest to prolong the peace process. It does not serve those we represent, or the country as a whole.

A process as protracted as this one runs the risk of being undermined by those who are against change. Elements of the British system, elements of unionism and unionist paramilitaries, elements on the fringes of republicanism, do not want this process to succeed.

Building an Ireland of equals

'We won't allow anyone within republican ranks to criminalise this party or this struggle'

Fundamental to Sinn Fein since its foundation has been the belief that the Irish people have the capacity to shape our own society, to build our own economy and to govern our own country to suit our needs and our character as a nation.

The past decade has seen an unprecedented growth in the Irish economy. But the management of that economy by the Government in this State has not challenged the deep-seated inequality in Irish society. This inequality exists at many levels.

The Government has not used the prosperity wisely for the benefit of the maximum number of people.

Sinn Fein needs to continue to grow. Our goal is to have a Sinn Fein cumann in every electoral ward across Ireland.

We have to open our party up to women and to people who will bring their own life experiences and values.

Let us all get our act together. Let us find a fair and equitable accommodation with unionism.

It is my conviction that the DUP and Sinn Fein will be in government together.

Let us put it up to the British government to do the right thing by Ireland. The most important thing we all have to do at this time is to rebuild the peace process.

We are up to that task. Turning back is not an option. We're moving forward - forward to a better future.

Load-Date: March 7, 2005

End of Document

AP News in Brief

The Associated Press

August 6, 2005, Saturday, BC cycle

Copyright 2005 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: Domestic News

Length: 1724 words

Body

Tunisian plane plunges into sea off Sicily after engine troubles; at least 13 dead

PALERMO, Sicily (AP) - A Tunisian airliner that reportedly lost engine power Saturday plunged into the choppy Mediterranean while trying to make an emergency landing in Sicily, and at least 13 people were killed, officials said. At least three of the 39 people on board were missing.

Some of the 23 survivors clung to the wings and fuselage of the Tuninter airline ATR-72 as they screamed to rescuers. The wreckage was battered by 10-foot waves and strong currents, delaying rescuers' arrival.

"Some people were on the wing, screaming, yelling for help," said Filippo Morgante, an official with the Palermo fire department, which sent boats out for the rescue.

"Others were on the fuselage, and some were trapped inside the plane. Some weren't wearing lifejackets. Maybe they didn't have the time to put them on."

The pilot and co-pilot survived.

Rescue crews begin lowering British vehicle to reach stranded sub

PETROPAVLOVSK-KAMCHATSKY, Russia (AP) - Rescue crews began lowering a British remote-controlled underwater vehicle to a Russian mini-submarine trapped deep under the Pacific Ocean on Sunday, hoping to reach seven trapped crewmen before their air supply ran out, a Russian spokesman said.

British crews, who arrived some hours earlier at the remote Kamchatka Peninsula, were working with Russian naval authorities to maneuver the Super Scorpio unmanned robotic vehicle down to the AS-28, which was snarled by a military listening antenna 625 feet below the surface nearly three days ago.

Capt. Igor Dygalo told The Associated Press that workers began lowering the Super Scorpio at around 11:30 a.m. local time at the site in Beryozovaya Bay about 10 miles off the east coast of the peninsula, north of Japan.

Earlier, Russian rescuers looped cables under the antenna, hoping to bring both it and the 44-foot-long sub closer to the surface where divers could reach the crew.

Russian authorities hope British and American unmanned submersibles, sent after a Russian plea for help, can cut the submarine loose.

U.S. and Iraqi troops repel insurgent attacks in Baghdad, killing six insurgents

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - U.S. and Iraqi troops repelled a series of coordinated attacks including suicide car bombs, killing six insurgents and capturing 12, in southern Baghdad, the military said Saturday.

In political developments, Sunni Arabs on the committee drafting a new constitution rejected Kurdish demands for federalism as long as foreign forces remain in Iraq. The statement came on the eve of a meeting to try to overcome differences on the charter.

Iraq's most feared terror group, meanwhile, warned Sunni Arabs that voting in a referendum on the charter this fall would be tantamount to rejecting Islam.

The fighting erupted about 8 p.m. Friday when guerrillas opened fire on an Iraqi army position, the American military said. U.S. attack helicopters responded with rockets and gunfire.

At nearly the same time, a suicide attacker drove a truck loaded with explosives into a nearby Iraqi army checkpoint, killing an Iraqi soldier. A second suicide driver tried to attack another Iraq position in the area, but a U.S. tank opened fire and the car detonated prematurely.

Discovery headed home after undocking from station, most anxiety-ridden part of flight looming

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) - With the most anxiety-ridden part of their flight still to come, shuttle Discovery and its crew of seven set off for home Saturday after leaving the international space station.

Monday's planned predawn re-entry will be the first by a space shuttle since Columbia's catastrophic descent 2 1/2 years ago.

The two space station residents wished the Discovery crew a safe landing.

"It has really been a pleasure and, no, we are not glad to see you go. We would love to have you stay a little longer," said station astronaut John Phillips. "Have a good flight."

Shuttle commander Eileen Collins stressed it was not "a final farewell," because she planned on seeing the two station men back on Earth once their expedition ends in two more months.

Iran rejects European proposal for resolving dispute over Tehran's nuclear program

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) - Iranian leaders rejected a European proposal designed to calm Western fears their nuclear program could be used to develop weapons, saying Saturday the offer failed to recognize Iran's right to enrich uranium for peaceful uses.

Germany accused Iran of being "confrontational." It and France predicted that unless Iran backed down, the matter would go to the U.N. Security Council for consideration of sanctions. The U.N. nuclear watchdog agency is meeting Tuesday to discuss that possibility.

"The European proposals are unacceptable," Foreign Ministry spokesman Hamid Reza Asefi told Iranian state radio.

He said the primary reason was the failure to allow Iran to produce enriched uranium, which is a fuel for atomic reactors that generate electricity but also can be used to make nuclear bombs.

AP News in Brief

"We had already announced that any plan has to recognize Iran's right to enrich uranium," Asefi said.

Investigators say four doors didn't function as passengers escape burning Air France jet

TORONTO (AP) - Investigators trying to determine why an Air France jet skidded off a runway said Saturday that only four of the aircraft's eight doors and emergency exits were used to escape the burning jetliner, and that two emergency slides malfunctioned.

Real Levasseur of Canada's Transportation Safety Board said one of the four exit doors used by the 309 passengers and crew in their rush to disembark was difficult to open, and that the fire after the crash last Tuesday may have prevented access to the other doors.

Levasseur also said two of the slides used failed to work, even though they are supposed to automatically unfold when the emergency doors are opened.

The discovery confirms comments by many passengers and witnesses who said some of the slides and emergency exits were not functioning, forcing people to jump from as high as 4 or 5 yards. Some aviation experts have surmised that the impact of the Airbus A340, which slammed into a ravine, might have damaged the exit doors and chutes.

Anti-nuclear activists rally on anniversary of atomic blast

LOS ALAMOS, N.M. (AP) - At the birthplace of the atomic bombs that devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki 60 years ago, survivors of those deadly blasts joined with hundreds of people Saturday in support of a global ban on nuclear weapons.

"No more Hiroshimas. No more Nagasakis," bombing survivor Koji Ueda of Tokyo wrote in a statement distributed at the rally. "We send this message to our friends all over the world, along with a fresh determination of the 'hibakusha' (atomic bomb survivors) to continue to tell about Hiroshima and Nagasaki, aiming at a planet set free of wars of nuclear weapons."

Peace activists in Las Vegas, near the Nevada Test Site, gathered Saturday for seminars on eliminating nuclear weapons, while near Oak Ridge, Tenn., protesters held a moment of silence and 15 were arrested for blocking a road outside the heavily guarded weapons factory that helped fuel the bomb during World War II.

In Japan, Hiroshima marked the anniversary with prayers and water for the dead. At 8:15 a.m., the instant of the blast, the city's trolleys stopped and more than 55,000 people at Peace Memorial Park observed a moment of silence that was broken only by the ringing of a bronze bell.

Ireland, Sinn Fein deny deal over surprise return of IRA-linked fugitives from Colombia

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) - Ireland's government and Sinn Fein, the **Irish Republican Army**-linked party, denied Saturday they had struck a secret deal to permit three fugitives from Colombia to return home.

The three IRA-linked men, convicted eight months ago in Colombia of training the South American country's largest rebel group, resurfaced unexpectedly in Ireland on Friday when one gave an interview to Irish television.

Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said his government had no advance warning that the trio - in hiding since fleeing Colombia to avoid 17-year prison sentences - were back on Irish soil.

AP News in Brief

Niall Connolly, Martin McCauley and Jim Monaghan reappeared eight days after the IRA pledged to make its 1997 cease-fire permanent and to resume disarmament - a commitment that Britain and Ireland had been pressing Sinn Fein for years to deliver.

First in a string of Marine funerals takes place

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) - More than anything, Robyn Williams will miss her little brother's smile.

"It was angelic. There's no other way to describe it," she said during a standing-room-only funeral Saturday for her brother, Marine Cpl. Andre L. Williams, 23.

The service was the first in what will be a heart-wrenching series for the families and friends of 16 Ohio Marines killed in the past 10 days in Iraq.

Williams and another Marine died July 28 in a gun battle. Five more Ohio Marines were killed in an ambush the following Monday, and nine were killed Wednesday when an armored vehicle was hit by a roadside bomb.

Uniformed Marines clutched their hats and bowed their heads as the Rev. Buddy High spoke of Williams' service to his country. Some 300 people filled the Columbus funeral home to honor the father of two from nearby Galloway who was known for his work with Toys for Tots.

No longer second-best, Nelson wins world shot put title

HELSINKI, Finland (AP) - No more silver for Adam Nelson. At last, he has gold.

After second-place finishes in two Olympics, two outdoor world championships and one indoor world meet, Nelson won the shot put competition on Saturday night with his best throw in three years - 71 feet, 3 1/2 inches.

"I don't know if the best person won," U.S. teammate Christian Cantwell said, "but I think the right person won."

Nelson's triumph in light rain capped the opening day at the world track and field championships. The night featured an Ethiopian sweep in the women's 10,000 meters and a breezy stroll through the first two rounds of the 100 by Olympic champion Justin Gatlin.

One of the sport's best showmen, Nelson had the Finnish crowd in cozy Olympic Stadium on his side all night with his usual routine. He paced like a mad bull, ripped off his T-shirt and flung it dramatically to the ground, then with a crazed stare, stepped into the ring for his throw.

Load-Date: August 7, 2005

A different path

South China Morning Post

July 30, 2005

Copyright 2005 South China Morning Post Ltd.

Section: Behind The News; Pg. 16

Length: 1623 words

Byline: With anti-Islamic sentiment internationally running at dangerous levels, Post journalist S. Wayne Morrison gives his perspective, after converting to Islam 24 years ago

Body

The name on my passport is Wayne John Morrison, but I have a Muslim name - Salman.

I became a Muslim when I married in 1981. My wife Sabariah, is a Malay from Singapore. She comes from an open-minded, professional Malay family. Her father was the first Malay in Singapore to be awarded a Colombo Plan Scholarship and studied in Sydney. He was with the Ministry of Culture and also an educationist. My mother-in-law is a retired school headmistress.

I've never changed the name in my passport, partly because people, mainly in Hong Kong, knew me as Wayne before I became a Muslim. My wife's family have always called me Wayne.

Obviously I feel the need to identify myself as a Muslim. For that reason, professionally, I've used the byline, S. Wayne Morrison, the lone initial standing for Salman.

I came from a Pentecostal/Assembly of God religious background in New Zealand. There was always a creator in my life. My father's father was a Northern Irish Protestant and his mother was Catherine Dunne, a Southern Irish Catholic. The families owned farms next door to each other in Auckland.

My dad, Jack, attended Catholic school for a few years. Religion, I think, was then mainly a question of practicalities, but perhaps the tolerance of the Catholic-Protestant mix influenced my dad - and possibly his experience, much later, influenced me.

Religion became important after my dad married my mum, Eunice Laing (Scottish and English parentage). It was as though a fork appeared in the path ahead. My dad, followed by my mother, took the branch that said "revival". My parents later described the change as a search for "something more" than was offered by the mainstream Anglican Church they attended.

I had an unorthodox upbringing in religious terms, but at the same time it was relaxed. I recall my father saying of one of my brothers - I had three; one died in a car crash at age 25 - that he would rather drank beer than smoked cigarettes. Education was very important. We took an interest in politics and the world and read the newspaper (and Reader's Digest and later Time magazine) thoroughly. Yeah, pretty conservative stuff.

I left home in my early 20s on an Italian liner for Sydney, but ended up in Singapore (my informant in Sydney said media boss Sir Frank Packer had laid off many people, so it wasn't a good time for a journalist to arrive).

A different path

I worked on newspapers and a magazine in Singapore, Thailand and Hong Kong for the next 15 years. I met my wife when I was Asiaweek's correspondent in Singapore.

I sent a message to family and friends telling them of my decision to marry and to convert to Islam. It was along the lines of: "There are different paths to God and I have chosen this one." My family in New Zealand was stunned by my decision. I have two brothers and three sisters, besides a mother, but only one brother, a politician, attended my wedding in Singapore. I recall looking through Muslim literature before the conversion and, the unfamiliar Arabic language aside, being agreeably impressed with the content. I'm glad I converted, and although my thinking now on some aspects of the religion has changed, I try to hew to the basic tenets.

After the wedding in 1981, we returned to Hong Kong, to work in Asiaweek's head office. I wasn't a practising Muslim - I did not attend Friday prayers or generally start learning about the religion - until the late 1980s. That was when the eldest of my two children - both girls - was school age. They attended a two-hour madrassa class every Sunday when they were young, at the Ammar Mosque in Wan Chai.

To me, Islam is a peaceful and simple religion. It defines the relationship between man or woman and God; in the life of a Muslim, the importance of one God cannot be overestimated. We do not have a "pope", which to a Christian may be a pity in that temporal control is seen to be lacking, but the Koran says: there is no intercessor between man and God, unless God decides otherwise.

In the 24 years that I've been a Muslim, I have met hundreds of other Muslims from many different countries, and I can honestly say that I have never heard a threatening or aggressive word from any of them. On the contrary, their demeanour is invariably one of politeness and gentleness; that is the expression of Islam one is accustomed to encountering.

While the central thing in the life of 1.3-1.5 billion Muslims is God, the Holy Koran is God's word. From the start, I was pleasantly surprised that the Koran contains references to the other "people of the book", Christians and Jews, and their worship of God. As I was soon to learn, Islam recognises and accepts the prophets of other religions. In fact, the Koran says that all peoples on Earth have had a messenger from God come to them at some stage or another. As laid down in the Koran, it is forbidden to compel someone to convert to Islam.

The practised religion, however, is not only prescribed by the Koran. Principal among other texts are the Hadiths, the sayings or traditions of the Prophet Muhammad. The idea is that the Koran gives you the principle and the Hadiths tell you how to live by it. There are four categories of Hadiths: authentic, good, weak and fabricated, and in all they number in the thousands. A noted collection of authentic Hadiths from the 1930s totals about 450. For me, the bottom line is what the Koran says, and it is comprehensive.

One must also be aware that cultural traditions in some Muslim societies may be incorrectly presented as Islamic traditions.

Certain interpretations of the Koran give rise to the subjugation of women we see in many countries, and their excessive covering-up. The origin of those interpretations is usually cultural.

Also not in the Koran is that any man can have four wives. The one reference in the Koran to "four wives" has a specific context: following a battle when many wives were widowed and children were orphaned and these people needed protection and shelter. Saying a husband must be able to deal justly with more than one wife - in material things as well as affection - doesn't amount to advocacy to marry more than one. Indeed, the notes of a standard translation of the Koran say this reference is understood to be a "recommendation towards monogamy".

Muslims wonder why a connection isn't made between the Irish Republican Army and the Roman Catholic denomination. Actually, as a Muslim journalist, I'm opposed to any published description that tends to smear any religion, and sensitive to any entity being singled out.

A different path

I have noted in the recent coverage of British Muslims that it was surprising and significant that an accused bomber seemed absolutely normal - he was playing cricket just yesterday! But that is the demeanour of a Muslim. If he was persuaded to plant a bomb, his decision was cerebral, not born of visible anger.

The only fighting by an individual justified in the Koran is against an oppressor. Oppression - meaning that one is being driven from home and land - certainly is not the case in Britain. It is simply misinterpretation when terrorists say that their actions are justified in Islam. Some terrorists do not appear to be religiously motivated - their actions are political.

For instance, the people who carried out, or masterminded, the London bombings see those attacks as part of the war in Iraq, where civilians are killed every day. Their response is not Islamic, or defensible. Also, it is not a matter of religion, but very important, that when a Muslim becomes British, he makes various commitments - all peaceful - as a citizen. I believe any change one wants to bring about must be by non-violent means.

I have found that Muslims have a well-defined sense of justice and injustice. Not that people of other religions don't. With Muslims, it comes from the teaching - after all, justice is a byproduct of truth - and it comes easily when you are treated badly. That does not apply to Britain, by the way.

I'm very careful about use of the word Islam, and from it, Islamic. For instance, I do not agree with the term "Islamic terrorist" - that strongly suggests that I am a terrorist sympathiser, and I definitely am not.

When someone says something is of Islam or Islamic, that is beyond human controversy: you are saying that is of God, or something that every Muslim should strive for. By rights, I am Islamic, or should be endeavouring to be so. How can someone say that terrorists or would-be terrorists are Islamic?

I feel that the media is sometimes too quick to follow politicians or intelligence agencies in pointing the finger at Muslims, in the event of a bomb blast. In London, there seems to be little doubt that those responsible were Muslims.

But when bombs went off in Egypt last weekend, the case against Muslims stemmed from an outrage "bearing all the hallmarks of an al-Qaeda attack". My rejoinder is that the media is too easily led. My advice as a journalist: wait until you know who is arrested and being charged with committing a bombing before accusing someone. Until then, I suspect everyone.

In a foreword to the 1930s book about the Prophet Muhammad's sayings, Mahatma Gandhi says they "are among the treasures of mankind, not merely Muslims". He adds: "I am a believer in the truth of all the great religions of the world. There will not be lasting peace on Earth unless we learn not merely to tolerate but even to respect the other faith as our own."

While a small number of extremists are being hunted, it is that kind of tolerance that holds the key to a more secure future for everyone.

S. Wayne Morrison is Associate Editor, Opinion Pages

Graphic

(Photo: AP); Wayne Morrison (top left) converted in 1981 to Islam, a faith that has had to defend itself with peaceful protests such as in Britain (above) this month.

Load-Date: August 1, 2005

A different path

End of Document

Show, life go on: Bustling, vibrant city pauses but only briefly

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

July 10, 2005 Sunday

Home Edition

Copyright 2005 The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

**The Atlanta
Journal-Constitution**

Section: News;

Length: 1529 words

Byline: BERT ROUGHTON JR.

Body

London --- The audience in the elegant old Piccadilly Theatre fell utterly silent.

The rows of American tourists and locals paused in the 75-year-old hall Friday night to pray for terrorism's latest victims. The day before, four bombs had wracked London's transit system in what appeared to be a concerted attack that killed more than 50 and injured 700.

Waiting to take the Piccadilly stage for a performance of "Guys and Dolls," Andy Playfoot was struck by the silence.

"A thousand people sitting out there, and you could hear a pin drop," said Playfoot, a 47-year-old cast member who commutes into London every day. "And then bang came the overture, and then we had a thoroughly good performance. We all needed that."

It takes something immense to produce a moment of silence in London.

Something immense happened Thursday morning as the city basked in the fresh joy of winning the right to host the 2012 Olympics --- the third Olympiad to be celebrated in London.

As Londoners made their ways to work before 9 a.m., three bombs detonated nearly simultaneously in London's Underground system, known here as "The Tube." A fourth went off on a bus as it approached a Tube station.

The attack sent a shudder through London sufficient to silence the theater district Thursday evening. By Friday night, the district --- like much of London --- was working its way back to normal.

As the audience in the Piccadilly sat silent, rescue workers toiled less than a half mile away in a hot, dusty and rat-infested tunnel. They worked to recover the bodies of 21 people who died when one of the bombs exploded.

Silence is rare in this bustle of 8 million. People surge with polite resolve through the city's rivulets of tiny streets and alleys.

Show, life go on: Bustling, vibrant city pauses but only briefly

The din of vehicle motors, street conversation in a hundred tongues and the squeaks and roars of construction generates a background hum that you can feel in your ribs. It never seems to stop.

Lucy Bailey remembers other moments of silence. On Saturday morning, the 83-year-old pensioner rode the Tube from her home in Kensington to Islington, where she watches her great-granddaughter for her 32-year-old grandson.

Bailey recalled another time in the deep Tube tunnels. On Sept. 29, 1940, the alarms sounded a bit after 6 p.m. "They came down like rain," Bailey said of the incendiary bombs that flowed from hundreds of German warplanes. The Blitz attack set off London's second great fire, destroying much of the central city including 19 churches --- 16 designed by famed architect Christopher Wren.

Bailey joined thousands of Londoners who descended into Tube stations for refuge. "I think about that every time I board the underground," she said serenely, almost sweetly.

But she remembers more. "Mr. Churchill said we would have business as usual in London, business as usual," she said. "It was a way of fighting back, wasn't it?"

Unlike Americans, Britons see their history as anything but academic. They still find German bombs in their attics or in the mud of the River Thames. Grade school children learn about the evil "Mr. Hitler" and how to make Anderson shelters, backyard air raid shelters familiar to their grandparents.

Indeed, Police Commissioner Ian Blair seemed dismissive of Thursday's attack given the city's size and experience.

"If London could survive the Blitz, it can survive four miserable events like this," he told reporters Friday.

"A canny elan"

People here also have recent memories: The **Irish Republican Army** had a penchant for bringing their struggle over Northern Ireland to the capital.

Polly Toynbee, a Guardian columnist, wrote Saturday that Londoners are accustomed to the prospect of being killed on the way to work.

"London is not given to panic, with memories of IRA bombs hard-wired into general consciousness," Toynbee wrote. "Its millions of denizens have a certain canny elan, accustomed to hard-headed calculations of the odds against being one of the unlucky few in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Playfoot, the actor, also counts Sept. 11, 2001, among his memories. "We all have in our memories 9/11 --- which eclipses something like this," he said. "This is devastating for a lot of people --- those who lost loved ones in particular. But the soul of London moves on --- as it should."

Mayor Ken Livingstone has been echoing Prime Minister Winston Churchill. "We will have business as usual on Monday," Livingstone said during a news conference Friday. "We will move on in the way we need to do."

Livingstone also borrowed from the title of the final chapter of Churchill's epic memoirs of World War II to describe the week --- it held both "triumph and tragedy."

London hosted the centerpiece of the Live 8 concerts in Hyde Park last weekend and won the 2012 Olympics on Wednesday, creating an uncharacteristic sense of near giddiness among people who seem more at ease with wry skepticism.

Both the Olympics and G-8 --- the meeting of world economic leaders last week in Scotland --- often invade conversations about the bombing. Officials don't know what inspired the terrorists, presumed to be Muslim radicals, but police say they see no link between the Olympics and G-8. The timing is nevertheless striking to everyone.

Show, life go on: Bustling, vibrant city pauses but only briefly

Livingstone, freshly returned from Singapore where the International Olympics Committee had selected London, argued that the terrorists perhaps hated the aspects of London that the Olympic committee valued.

Livingstone sees his city as a place of diversity and tolerance --- the very qualities that offend radical terrorists.

"Three hundred languages are spoken here," Livingstone said. "This city typifies what I think is the future of the human race."

London's diversity is shown in the faces of those feared dead: Neetu Jain, Anthony Fatayi-Williams, Behnaz Mozakka, Rachelle Chung For Yuen, Jamie Gordon and Laura Webb.

Their pictures adorn poles and fences near the attack sites.

The attacks seemed designed to hit such people. No city holds such a collection of familiar and irreplaceable monuments --- from Big Ben, to Westminster Abbey to the Tower Bridge. Yet, the terrorists struck at the Tube, perhaps the world's most intimate and unglamorous gathering place for ordinary people from every class and culture.

Diversity reflected

Most mornings, the bus on the No. 30 route --- the route taken by the bus destroyed Thursday --- reflects London's diversity. It moves through northwest London's ethnic neighborhoods with Turkish groceries, Jamaican jerk chicken shops and Russian restaurants.

Roger Adewuyi, a Nigerian grocer who lives in Hackney, was a bit nervous Saturday morning as he boarded the No. 30 at Euston Station.

"Of course you look at other people, to see if they are fussing with their packages or rucksacks," said Adewuyi, whose daughter Maria was at his side on the bus's top deck. "But we don't have a choice, do we? It would be a luxury to take a taxi."

The bus was in Tavistock Square when the bomb detonated, killing 13. Police speculate it might have been set off prematurely as the bus approached the Tube station at Russell Square.

Tavistock Square is in Bloomsbury, the district made famous as a scene for poets and writers. Virginia Woolf lived in a house on the square, which was reduced to rubble in the German attacks.

John Maynard Keynes, the famous economist, lived in a house nearby, and Russell Square station is the Tube stop nearest to Charles Dickens' house on Doughty Street.

Not far from the bus wreckage, anti-government activists already are linking the attack to Britain's role as America's chief ally in Iraq.

At University College, students gathered Saturday under a banner that said, "Liberate your mind." They handed out fliers, telling passers-by: "Stopping the terrorists in London means stopping the war in Iraq."

Such sentiments are not being widely expressed, but they are beginning to crop up on television chat shows and in the newspapers. For now the focus is on the crime and ensuing manhunt.

Perhaps the most striking aspect of the public conversation is the keen sense that the attack was inevitable.

Livingstone, the mayor, said this event --- bombs going off in the Tube --- has been precisely the scenario for which security teams had been preparing.

"We always knew this was likely to happen," he said. "We will have to continue to be vigilant, probably for the rest of our lives."

Show, life go on: Bustling, vibrant city pauses but only briefly

Vigilance is nothing new here.

On Saturday, a rare spate of sunshine warmed the thousands of elderly women and their families who gathered on Whitehall --- the long ceremonial boulevard that connects the Parliament district to Trafalgar Square. They came to remember the contribution British women made during World War II. It was part of the city's celebration of the 60th anniversary of the war's end.

As Queen Elizabeth II studied the crowd from a stage, a band played "God Save the Queen" and "Jerusalem" --- the beautiful hymn that also has the power to silence Londoners.

Baroness Betty Boothroyd, the former speaker of the House of Commons who led a campaign to erect a monument to the women on Whitehall, spoke of the resilience of her people --- then and now.

"We didn't flinch then," she said as cheers rose from the crowd. "We shall not flinch now."

Graphic

MICHAEL KAMBER / New York Times Passengers on a bus pass the King's Cross subway station area in London on Saturday, where rescue workers are excavating the remains of a subway carriage destroyed in Thursday's terrorist attacks. The city of 8 million is working to get back to business as usual. ; LEFTERIS PITARAKIS / Associated Press People in London pay their respects to the victims outside King's Cross station where tributes include a British flag, messages and flowers. Police said at least 49 were killed. </ImageData ID: 0003612941 Type: Photo Name: 192217_NATLONDON Date: 07/10/2005 Page: A14 Edition: Home Pub: AJC Caption: METROPOLITAN POLICE / Associated Press London Metropolitan police released this photograph Saturday showing the damage to the London Underground train at Aldgate station that was a target of Thursday's terrorist attacks. Police also revised the timing of the blasts, saying they were just seconds apart.

Load-Date: July 10, 2005

EUROPE AT 1730GMT

Associated Press International

March 8, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 1705 words

Body

TOP STORIES:

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia - Chechen rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov has been killed, a spokesman for Russian forces says. Officials say Maskhadov was killed in a raid, but there are also reports he died from accidental gun-fire from a bodyguard. Such a rare victory in Russia's Chechen campaign would be a boost for President Vladimir Putin - but it would also eliminate the only prominent Chechen leader calling for negotiations. BC-EU-GEN--RUSSIA-CHECHNYA-MASKHADOV. Moved. By Sergei Venyavsky. AP Photos planned.

WITH:

-BC-EU-GEN--RUSSIA-MASKHADOV PROFILE. MOSCOW - As Chechnya's military commander, Aslan Maskhadov organized a ragged group into a powerful force that fought the Russian army to a standstill. As Chechnya's president, his control of the fighters shrank and the insurgents provoked a new war with Russia that drove him from power. Moved. By Jim Heintz. AP Photos.

KOSOVO: Prime minister indicted by war crimes tribunal, plans to resign

PRISTINA, Serbia-Montenegro - Announcing his indictment for alleged war crimes, Kosovo's prime minister resigns and says he will surrender in "sacrifice" to the U.N. court accusing him. Ramush Haradinaj says he will leave Wednesday for The Hague, Netherlands, where the tribunal is based. BC-EU-GEN--KOSOVO-PRIME MINISTER INDICTED. Developing. By Fisnik Abrashi. AP Photos PRI101-110.

- BC-EU-GEN--KOSOVO-HARADINAJ PROFILE. A hero to Albanians, a villain to Serbs, Kosovo prime minister faces charges at U.N. war crimes court. Moved. By Garentina Kraja.

- BC-EU-GEN--WAR CRIMES TRIBUNAL-GLANCE. An overview of proceedings at the U.N. tribunal for the former Yugoslavia. Moved.

- BC-EU-GEN--GERMANY-KOSOVO. Germany welcomes the resignation. Moved.

ITALY HOSTAGE: Foreign minister says U.S. troops accidentally killed Italian agent in Iraq, demands full investigation

ROME - Italy's foreign minister says that U.S. troops killed an Italian intelligence officer by accident, but disputes Washington's version of events and demands U.S. authorities thoroughly investigate the incident. BC-EU-GEN--ITALY-IRAQ-HOSTAGE. Developing. By Frances D'Emilio. AP Photos.

TERRORISM CONFERENCE: International conference to tackle causes, solutions to terrorism

MADRID, Spain - A former Brazilian president opens a global summit on terrorism, telling delegates that governments must communicate with each other as effectively as they do with their own people to defeat terrorism.

EUROPE AT 1730GMT

Henrique Cardoso appealed to experts and government leaders attending a four-day conference to recognize that terrorism "doesn't respect national boundaries." BC-EU-GEN--SPAIN-TERRORISM CONFERENCE. Developing. By Ed McCullough. AP Photos.

WITH:

- BC-EU-GEN--SPAIN-BOMBING. MADRID, Spain - Spanish police arrest a Moroccan described as a close collaborator of several key figures in the Madrid train bombings, officials say. Developing.

LONDON - U.S. President George W. Bush's nomination of a tough-talking conservative as ambassador to the United Nations set off ripples of worry in some of America's allies. BC-EU-GEN--WORLD VIEW-UN-US AMBASSADOR. Moved.

BELFAST, Northern Ireland - The **Irish Republican Army** says it offered to shoot four people involved in killing a Belfast man, including two IRA members, but the victim's relatives rejected the offer. BC-EU-GEN--NIRELAND-IRA. Moved.

LONDON - Prime Minister Tony Blair's plans for a new anti-terrorism law face more opposition in the House of Lords, where some members have prepared a sunset amendment to make the law expire in November. BC-EU-GEN--BRITAIN-TERRORISM BILL. Moved. By Ed Johnson.

PARIS - Experts from the United Nations and Indian Ocean countries agree to set up an Indian Ocean tsunami warning system by the end of 2006 to prevent a repeat of the catastrophe that struck on Dec. 26. BC-EU-GEN--FRANCE-UNESCO-TSUNAMI WARNING. Moved.

PARIS - Officials from Continental Airlines are to be questioned by a Paris judge probing the July 2000 crash of the supersonic Concorde. The American carrier denies responsibility in the crash, which investigators say was caused by a titanium strip left on the runway by a Continental jet. BC-EU-GEN--FRANCE-CONCORDE CRASH. Moved.

HAMBURG, Germany - A U.S. investigator tells the retrial of a Moroccan accused of aiding the Sept. 11 suicide hijackers that Osama bin Laden personally approved the plot to attack the United States in 1999. The testimony is based on the Sept. 11 Commission's report to the U.S. Congress. BC-EU-GEN--GERMANY-SEPT. 11 TRIAL. Moved. By David Rising.

OSLO, Norway - Police hold eight people on suspicion of theft after recovering three stolen works of art by Norwegian master Edvard Munch, including a unique watercolor entitled "Blue Dress," officials say. BC-EU-GEN--NORWAY-MUNCH-ART THEFT. Moved. By Doug Mellgren. AP Photo OSL104,801.

VIENNA, Austria - Joerg Haider's once powerful Freedom Party - long commonly associated with the far right fringe - purges most rightists from senior positions following a new election defeat. BC-EU-GEN--AUSTRIA-HAIDER'S PARTY. Update by 1700GMT. By George Jahn.

MONACO - Monaco's 82-year-old ruler Prince Rainier III is admitted to a hospital with a chest infection and is expected to require a few days of treatment, his palace says. BC-EU-GEN--MONACO-RAINIER HOSPITALIZED. Developing.

VIENNA, Austria - Officials who fight drug use and those who fight AIDS must cooperate more to combat the rapid spread of HIV among injecting drug users, the head of the U.N. Aids agency tells a U.N. drug policy-making body. EU-GEN--DRUG AGENCY-NARCOTICS. Moved. By Susanna Loof.

STRASBOURG, France - Male attitudes must change if Europe is to achieve gender equality, European Parliament President Josep Borrell says as the legislature marks International **Women's** Day. BC-EU-GEN--EU-INTERNATIONAL **WOMEN'S** DAY. Moved. By Jan Sliva.

EUROPE AT 1730GMT

BUCHAREST, Romania - Romanian President Traian Basescu leaves for a three-day visit to the United States where he will meet U.S. President George W. Bush and discuss ways to tackle world terrorism. BC-EU-GEN--ROMANIA-US. Moved.

KABUL, Afghanistan - Unidentified gunmen shoot dead a British development worker after a long lull in violent incidents in the Afghan capital, police and the British embassy say. BC-AS-GEN--AFGHAN-BRITON KILLING. Moved. By Matthew Pennington.

ATHENS, Greece - Greece's Orthodox Church plans a night-long vigil to pray for an end to a series of sex and corruption scandals. BC-EU-GEN--GREECE-CHURCH SCANDAL. Moved. By Miron Varouhakis. AP Photos.

VIENNA, Austria - Crude futures fall amid signals that the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries will maintain its current production output at its coming meeting in Iran. BC-EU-FIN--OIL PRICES. Moved. By George Jahn.

BRUSSELS, Belgium - European Union finance ministers resume efforts to strike a deal on reforming the rules that underpin the stability of the euro. Germany, a major violator of the euro rules, is optimistic a deal is at hand. BC-EU-FIN--EU-EURO DEAL. Moved. By Robert Wielaard.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden - Mirroring the rise in information technology spending, organizers of this year's CeBIT trade show are forecasting more visitors and exhibitors jostling for a sneak peek at the next wave of technology. BC-EU-TEC--GERMANY-TECH SHOW. Moved. By Matt Moore. AP Photos planned.

FRANKFURT, Germany - Volkswagen AG's first-quarter earnings won't be satisfactory because of weak vehicle sales in the first two months of 2005, but operating earnings should improve as new models are launched later this year, the company says. BC-EU-FIN-COM--GERMANY-VOLKSWAGEN. Moved. By Melissa Eddy.

BRUSSELS, Belgium - The differences between car prices across the 25 European Union nations are continuing to shrink, the EU head office announces in a report. The European Commission finds that Germany was the most expensive car market - at least before taxes - and Estonia the cheapest. BC-EU-FIN--EU-CAR PRICES. Moved.

MADRID, Spain - National elections last year that vaulted the Socialists to power three days after terrorists bombed Madrid commuter trains bonded those events in Spaniards' minds and have fractured political life ever since. A year into Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero's term, he still seeks to confirm his legitimacy, while the conservatives, accused of falsely blaming the bombing on Basque separatists, still scramble to clear their political good name. "We need to turn the page on this chapter," says analyst Haizam Amirah Fernandez. BC-EU-GEN--Spain-Bombing-Politics. By Ed McCullough. Eds: This is the first of three stories moving this week in connection with Friday's first anniversary of the Madrid train bombings last March 11.

DIANA BALLET: Princess Diana ballet to open ahead of Charles' second wedding

LONDON - As Prince Charles prepares for his mid-life second marriage, the glamour, tragedy and soap opera of his first are bursting back into life - in dance. "Diana the Princess," a ballet by Danish choreographer Peter Schaufuss, opens Tuesday at Manchester's Palace Theatre. BC-EU-A&E-STG--BRITAIN-DIANA BALLET. Update by 2300GMT after premiere performance. By Jill Lawless. AP Photos planned.

POPE E-MAILS: Ailing pope getting thousands of e-mail messages wishing him well

VATICAN CITY - He presides over an organization with ancient roots and two millennia of history, but Pope John Paul II is like anyone who's been away from the office for a while: His e-mail is piling up. The Vatican says it's logged more than 10,000 e-mails in English alone for the ailing pope, along with some 6,000 in Spanish and thousands of others in various languages. BC-EU-GEN--VATICAN-POPE'S E-MAIL. Moved. By William J. Kole. AP Photo planned.

LONDON - Former winners AC Milan and Barcelona go into Champions League games with slender but significant leads over Manchester United and Chelsea respectively. But the team with the easiest task is a club which has never won a European title before. Lyon holds a 3-0 advantage over Werder Bremen and also has home advantage. BC-EU-SPT-SOC--CHAMPIONS LEAGUE ROUNDUP. By 2200GMT. By Stephen Wade.

EUROPE AT 1730GMT

LOOKING AHEAD: On Wednesday, European and Asian foreign ministers discuss tsunami relief and anti-terror cooperation in Jakarta.

YOUR QUERIES: The Europe-Africa Desk in London can be reached at +44 207-427-4300.

Load-Date: March 9, 2005

End of Document

EUROPE AT 1330GMT

AP Worldstream

September 28, 2005 Wednesday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 1891 words

Body

TOP STORIES:

EU-TURKEY: European Parliament, citing Cyprus dispute, delays ratification of Turkish customs union

STRASBOURG, France - The European Parliament postpones ratification of Turkey's customs union with the European Union, citing frustration over Ankara's refusal to recognize Cyprus. In another step certain to anger the Turkish government just days ahead of scheduled EU membership talks, lawmakers call on Ankara to recognize the 1915-23 killings of Armenians as genocide. BC-EU-GEN--EU-TURKEY. Moved. By Jan Sliva.

-BC-EU-GEN--CYPRUS-EU-TURKEY. NICOSIA, Cyprus - Turkish Cypriot leader Mehmet Ali Talat, in an interview with the AP, warns that forcing Turkey to recognize Cyprus before the island's division is resolved could destroy prospects for a solution and potentially lead to civil war. Moved. By Patrick Quinn. AP Photos.

-BC-EU-GEN--EU-TURKEY COUNTDOWN. BRUSSELS, Belgium - Austrian demands force EU negotiations on opening Turkey entry talks down to the wire. Developing. By Constant Brand.

-BC-EU-GEN--TURKEY-EU. ANKARA, Turkey - Turkey says deviation from full EU membership would be unacceptable. Developing.

GERMAN ELECTION: Germany's Schroeder, Merkel face new round of government talks

BERLIN - Aides to Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and rival Angela Merkel show no signs of compromise ahead of a second round of talks between the two rivals on forming a "grand coalition" between their two rival parties. BC-EU-POL--GERMANY-POWER STRUGGLE. Moved; talks start at about 1400GMT. By Geir Moulson.

MILAN, Italy - Parmalat Finanziaria SpA founder Calisto Tanzi goes on trial alongside other former company directors, lawyers and accountants, nearly two years after the massive fraud at the Italian dairy giant was discovered. BC-EU-FIN--ITALY-PARMALAT. Developing. By Aidan Lewis. AP Photos planned.

BRIGHTON, England - Military action against Iran is inconceivable, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw says, adding that he hoped diplomacy could still end the international standoff over the country's nuclear program. BC-EU-GEN--BRITAIN-IRAN. Moved. By Ed Johnson.

WARSAW, Poland - Poland's likely new prime minister pledges to build a "strong and stable" center-right government as the two winning parties in the country's election prepare to launch coalition talks. BC-EU-POL--POLAND-ELECTION. Developing. By Monika Scislowska.

EUROPE AT 1330GMT

BASTIA, Corsica - Police commandos backed by helicopters storm onto a hijacked ferry and subdue unionists who seized control of the ship out of anger over plans to privatize the ferry's operator. BC-EU-GEN--FRANCE-CORSICA-POLICE RAID. Moved. AP Photos.

MADRID, Spain - A key suspect in the Madrid train bombings, who was extradited by Serbia last weekend, denies during a near 20-hour interrogation session with a Spanish judge that he had anything to do with the attacks, a court official says. BC-EU-GEN--SPAIN-BOMBINGS. Moved. By Maria Jesus Prades.

BELFAST, Northern Ireland - The Irish Republican Army may no longer want to fight the British, but it's never been more in business. The "Provos" run Ireland's most sophisticated criminal empire, police say. BC-EU-GEN--NIRELAND-IRA. Moved. By Shawn Pogatchnik.

BAGHDAD, Iraq - According to NATO, the ranks of young men in crisp, new combat fatigues and a colorful variety of berets could, one day, be the solution to Iraq's security woes. The alliance is stepping up a military training mission which, it insists, can have a big impact despite its small scale. BC-ME--IRAQ-NATO's NICHE. Developing. By Paul Ames.

ANKARA, Turkey - The United States' new public relations chief, Karen Hughes, visits Turkey on the final stop of a Middle East mission aimed at improving America's image in the Muslim world, but the barrage of criticism she faces while visiting a women's group shows the uphill battle she will have to fight. BC-EU-GEN--TURKEY-US-PUBLIC DIPLOMACY. Moved. By Suzan Fraser

GENEVA - Escalating violence in Sudan's conflict-ravaged region of Darfur is threatening to halt aid work as increasing numbers of international staff come under attack, U.N. humanitarian chief Jan Egeland says. BC-UN-GEN--UN-DARFUR. Developing. By Bradley S. Klapper. AP Photos.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden - Officials from Israel's moderate Labor Party and the ruling Palestinian Fatah faction finish two-day talks on the future of the Gaza strip. BC-EU-GEN--SWEDEN-ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. Moved. By Mattias Karen.

-BC-EU-REL--VATICAN-MIDDLE EAST. VATICAN CITY - Pope greets Israelis and Palestinians at weekly audience. Moved. AP Photos planned.

ROSTOV-ON-DON, Russia - Chechen police discover a large homemade bomb in a car they stopped near the provincial capital, Grozny. A second car they did not manage to seize could also contain explosives, the Russian Interior Ministry says. BC-EU-GEN--RUSSIA-RESTIVE SOUTH. Moved. By Sergei Venyavsky.

PARIS - French Foreign Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy is to meet with the Egyptian president, hold talks with Muslim leaders and discuss Israel-Palestinian relations during a brief visit to Egypt. BC-EU-GEN--FRANCE-EGYPT. Moved.

TALLINN, Estonia - The prime ministers of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania vow to improve Baltic airspace security in the wake of a Russian air force jet crash in Lithuania. BC-EU-GEN--BALTIC-PRIME MINISTER. Moved. By Jari Tanner.

MOSCOW - Russia's state gas monopoly Gazprom strikes a deal to pay US\$13.01 billion ([euro]10.81 billion) for control of the private Sibneft oil company of billionaire Chelsea soccer club owner Roman Abramovich. BC-EU-FIN-COM--RUSSIA-GAZPROM-SIBNEFT. Moved. By Alex Nicholson.

FRANKFURT, Germany - At least 5,000 workers with the Mercedes Car Group faced the prospect that their jobs could be cut as the flagship brand of DaimlerChrysler AG struggles to cut costs. BC-EU-FIN-COM--GERMANY-DAIMLERCHRYSLER. Moved. By Matt Moore.

BUDAPEST, Hungary - Crude oil prices rise ahead of a U.S. petroleum inventory report that is expected to show a dip in crude, gasoline and distillate stocks because of production shutdowns from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. BC-EU-FIN-MKT--OIL PRICES. Moved. By Edith Balazs.

EUROPE AT 1330GMT

PARIS - Finance Minister Thierry Breton unveils the French budget for 2006, pledging to meet EU deficit targets while raising spending to fight unemployment. BC-EU-FIN-ECO--FRANCE-BUDGET. Developing. By Laurence Frost. AP Photos.

LONDON - Britain's economy grew 1.5 percent in the second quarter of 2005, its slowest rate of expansion for more than 12 years, according to figures released by the National Statistics Office. BC-EU-FIN-ECO--BRITAIN-ECONOMY.

STRASBOURG, France - Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs will warn EU lawmakers that Europe needs to take action to cushion the blow of soaring oil prices. BC-EU-FIN-ECO--EU-ENERGY. Moved. By Jan Sliva.

BERLIN - Damage caused by hurricanes Katrina and Rita could cost the insurance industry up to US\$40 billion ([euro]33.3 billion), the world's biggest reinsurer says. BC-EU-FIN-COM--GERMANY-MUNICH RE-HURRICANES. Moved.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden - Hennes & Mauritz AB, Europe's largest fashion retailer, posts a higher than expected third-quarter net profit on Wednesday thanks to rising sales. BC-EU-FIN-COM-EARNS--SWEDEN-H&M. Moved.

FRANKFURT, Germany The group's forward-looking consumer climate indicator for October, carried out before the inconclusive Sept. 18 elections, falls to 3.1 points from a revised 3.3 points the previous month. BC-EU-FIN-ECO--GERMANY-ECONOMY. Moved.

GIRLS' SCHOOL: Turkey confronts tradition, religion as it pushes to bring girls to school

VAN, Turkey - It's the second week of school, and Mehmet Sadik Altin, the local imam, charges up to a lopsided concrete home with a mud roof and demands to know why the five girls in the house aren't in class. Hundreds of teachers are combing through slums and villages as part of a campaign to bring 520,000 Turkish girls to school. How well the effort succeeds holds far-reaching consequences: Turkey begins entry talks with the European Union on Oct. 3 and issues include gender equality. BC-EU-FEA-GEN--TURKEY-GIRLS' SCHOOL. Moved. By Louis Meixler. AP Photos.

FORGIVE AND FORGET?: Referendum asks Algerians to vote for peace after long Islamic insurgency

ALGIERS, Algeria - The cycle of deadly violence and atrocities that gripped Algeria for more than a decade is at the heart of a referendum Thursday that asks: Is it time to forgive and move on? President Abdelaziz Bouteflika says his Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation is aimed at closing the wounds of the battle between Islamic extremists and security forces that left an estimated 120,000 people dead and resulted in thousands of mysterious disappearances. Critics claim that pardons go against the very notion of peace. BC-AF-GEN--ALGERIA-REFERENDUM. Moved. By Elaine Ganley. AP Photos.

UKRAINE'S EAST: Region famous for producing leaders ready for bigger role in government

DNIPROPETROVSK, Ukraine - A Ukrainian television station summoned a feng shui expert to analyze the phenomenon. Locals joke it's something in the air. Even former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev reportedly once commissioned a study to determine what was going on. This industrial city in eastern Ukraine has produced more leaders than any other place. So President Viktor Yushchenko's decision to tap Dnipropetrovsk governor Yuriy Yekhanurov to be the new prime minister struck many here as natural. BC-EU-FEA-GEN--UKRAINE-LOOKING EAST. Moved. By Mara D. Bellaby. AP Photos.

RISQUE WAGNER: Swedish soprano shines in eroticized staging of Wagner's Tannhaeuser

GENEVA - Erotic love verges on the pornographic in a fascinating if flawed production of German composer Richard Wagner's "Tannhaeuser" at Geneva's Grand Theatre - an experiment appreciated by spectators if less so by critics. Swedish soprano Nina Stemme excelled as Elisabeth, the heroine of Wagner's 3 1/2-hour opera, and the audience was left at times spellbound by French director Olivier Py's staging. But Py's most provocative element in this new production - one minute featuring a nude male porn star - fell flat, sparking little reaction from spectators. BC-EU-A&E-MUS--RISQUE WAGNER. Moved. By Bradley S. Klapper. AP Photos.

GEORGIA-OLD RITES: Way of life fading for old-rite Russian Christians in Georgia

GORELOVKA, Georgia - When the storks return to Gorelovka each summer, there are fewer and fewer people to see them. The village's residents are Dukhobors, old-rite Russian Christian believers, and their way of life is fading

EUROPE AT 1330GMT

as young people move away. BC-EU-FEA-GEN--GEORGIA-PHOTO ESSAY-OLD-RITE VILLAGE. Moved. By Misha Dzhindzhikhashvili. AP Photos NY360-366.

LONDON - Defending champion Liverpool faces English champion and runaway leader Chelsea at Anfield in one of eight Champions League matches on Wednesday night. Real Madrid and AC Milan are also in action. BC-EU-SPT-SOC--CHAMPIONS ROUNDUP. By 2200GMT. By Stephen Wade

LUXEMBOURG - World No. 3 Kim Clijsters opens her campaign at the Fortis championships in a second-round match against Klara Koukalova of the Czech Republic. BC-EU-SPT-TEN--FORTIS CHAMPIONSHIPS. By 2000GMT.

LUXEMBOURG - Kim Clijsters announces she will spend the last two years on tour without a coach. BC-EU-SPT-TEN--CLIJSTERS. By 1400GMT.

LOOKING AHEAD: In Brussels, ambassadors from 25 EU member nations meet Thursday to discuss Turkish membership talks.

YOUR QUERIES: The Europe-Africa Desk in London can be reached at +44 207-427-4300.

Load-Date: September 29, 2005

Why they believed Newsweek

National Post (f/k/a The Financial Post) (Canada)

May 25, 2005 Wednesday

National Edition

Copyright 2005 National Post All Rights Reserved

Section: ISSUES & IDEAS; Pg. A23

Length: 1793 words

Byline: Tony Keller, National Post

Body

Donald Rumsfeld, professor of journalism ethics, was lecturing last week. Calling Newsweek's retracted story of Korans flushed down toilets by interrogators at Guantanamo, "appalling," Rumsfeld reminded us that in this dangerous world, "people need to be very careful about what they say, just as they need to be very careful about what they do." If only the Bush administration spent more time taking that advice.

Newsweek's tale of defiled Korans may not have been properly sourced and substantiated, but it's easy to understand why the story sounded credible to a group of experienced journalists. It fits a pattern of words and behaviour from this administration that are, unfortunately, only too easy to confirm.

After 9/11, President Bush said that we were in a War on Terror. Be careful what you say: If this is a war, it has rules. According to the Geneva Conventions, which guide U.S. (and Canadian) military law, soldiers captured in a war are entitled to be treated as prisoners of war. They must be held, under humane conditions, and without threat of abuse or humiliation, until the end of hostilities. Soldiers who violate the rules of war -- by murdering civilians, for example, or harming POWs -- can be tried as war criminals. If the conflict is not a war, then perpetrators of violence can be tried as common criminals, as *Irish Republican Army* guerrillas were by Great Britain and FLQ bombers were in Canada.

International and U.S. law gave Washington a full menu options: It could detain enemy soldiers, holding them under the Geneva rules. Or it could try them as criminals, under long-established U.S. and international rules. But the Bush administration didn't like those choices. It decided to order off the menu.

On Jan. 19, 2002, Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld issued a memorandum, telling his commanders that Taliban and al-Qaeda prisoners captured in Afghanistan were not entitled to the protections of the Geneva Conventions. They would not be treated as prisoners of war; they would not even be given a hearing, as mandated by the Conventions, to determine their status. A directive from President Bush backed up this order.

But the administration also decided that Afghanistan war detainees would not be entitled to all the legal safeguards that accused criminals normally enjoy. Instead of being tried under normal procedures of U.S. or international law, the plan was that they would be held indefinitely, perhaps to be tried by special military tribunals at some later date. (Thankfully, the U.S. Supreme Court last year forced a considerable revision of these plans.) The prisoners at Guantanamo were basically put into a legal black hole, as were those at Bagram and other facilities in Afghanistan.

Why they believed Newsweek

Another black hole later opened up at Abu Ghraib, in Iraq, even though the administration initially said that the Iraq war was being fought under Geneva rules.

Inside these legal black holes, some rather awful things happened. But before the deeds were the words: In that 2002 memo, Rumsfeld said that prisoners captured in Afghanistan, though they would not be given Geneva protections, should nevertheless be treated "humanely" and in a manner "consistent with" Geneva principles -- but only "to the extent appropriate and consistent with military necessity."

American (and Canadian) military law tells soldiers to treat prisoners according to the rules. Period. Yet the very top of the military chain of command was saying that the law could be bent, and prisoners could perhaps be pumped for information, by means that were not humane and, under normal circumstances, not legal. They were terrorists after all.

A series of letters from senior Bush administration lawyers, which came to be known as the torture memos, attempted to define just how far "military necessity" would allow the rules to be bent. The memos argued that some interrogation procedures that until now had been understood as torture were not, legally speaking, "torture," if they had been approved by the President and were designed to assist the war effort. And, the memos argued, these interrogation techniques weren't really illegal, even if international law, not to mention U.S. domestic and military law, appeared to say otherwise. Jay Bybee, former Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Legal Counsel, was the principal author of one memo, which defined torture so narrowly as to require an act to "be equivalent in intensity to the pain accompanying serious physical injury, such as organ failure, impairment of bodily function, or even death." He is now a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. His former boss, Alberto Gonzalez, is now the Attorney General, America's highest legal officer.

In December, 2002, Secretary Rumsfeld personally approved the use of some harsh interrogation techniques at Guantanamo, such as hooding, nakedness, deprivation of light and sound, threatening with dogs and stress positions, such as forcing prisoners to stand for up to four hours. On the authorization, Rumsfeld added a handwritten comment along with his signature: "I stand for 8-10 hours a day. Why is standing limited to 4 hours?"

The administration's orders -- its careless words -- which contradicted established law and practice, basically created an atmosphere of confusion and lawlessness within its own military and intelligence agencies.

Consider the following e-mail sent May 22, 2004, from the FBI's commander in Baghdad to colleagues in Washington. It is one of many such communications released to the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), through the Freedom of Information Act. This senior FBI officer, whose name has been kept secret, writes that since his arrival in Iraq, he has instructed agents "not to participate in interrogations by military personnel which might include techniques authorized by Executive Order but beyond the bounds of standard FBI practice."

He describes the "techniques" military interrogators in Iraq are using: "sleep deprivation, stress positions, loud music," the use of "military working dogs" and "sensory deprivation through the use of hoods." He writes that his agents have never participated in such interrogations, but "our personnel have been present at various facilities when interrogation techniques made lawful by the Executive Order, but outside standard FBI practice, were utilized."

His knowledge of what is going on puts him in an awkward position. His orders state that, "if an FBI employee knows or suspects non-FBI personnel has abused or is abusing or mistreating a detainee, the FBI employee must report the incident."

"This instruction," he writes, "begs the question of what constitutes abuse." He and his agents have knowledge of detainee abuse -- or at least of "abuse" according to the laws the FBI normally operates under. But according to what he has been told about orders issued by the President, what his agents have witnessed is no longer defined as "abuse," and may no longer be illegal.

What, he asks, is he supposed to do? It is not known what answer he received. With the administration standing law and language on their heads, his correspondents were likely as confused as he was.

Why they believed Newsweek

The FBI commander in Baghdad was hardly the only FBI member to have witnessed things in military detention facilities that shocked and disturbed him. Here's another released e-mail, sent Aug. 2, 2004, by an unnamed FBI agent posted to Guantanamo.

"On a couple of occasions, I entered interview rooms to find a detainee chained hand and foot in a fetal position to the floor, with no chair, food or water. Most times they had urinated or defecated on themselves and had been left there for 18-24 hours or more. On one occasion, the air conditioning had been turned down so far and the temperature was so cold in the room, that the barefooted detainee was shaking with cold ... I was told that interrogators from the day prior had ordered this treatment, and the detainee was not to be moved. On another occasion ... the detainee was almost unconscious on the floor with a pile of hair next to him. He had apparently been literally pulling his own hair out throughout the night."

The New York Times last week revealed details of the 2002 death of an Afgan taxi driver named Dilawar. He died under interrogation at the Bagram airbase in Afganistan, after having been beaten and tied by his wrist to the roof his cell for the better part of four days. The Pentagon's chief spokesman, Larry Di Rita, now says that what happened was of course illegal and an aberration.

But, according to the 2,000-page military report documenting the incident, at the time, "senior officers frequently toured the detention center, and several of them acknowledged seeing prisoners chained up for punishment or to deprive them of sleep." The American commander in Afghanistan, then-Lt. Gen. Daniel K. McNeill, insisted two months after the incident he had no evidence that abuse by soldiers had contributed to the death, even after a military autopsy classified the death as a homicide. The methods used at Bagram, he said, were "in accordance with what is generally accepted as interrogation techniques."

The Bush administration, in its zeal to catch terrorists, gave green and amber lights to detainee abuse. And to return to Newsweek's Koran story, we also know that interrogators abused prisoners in ways specifically designed to transgress religious and cultural taboos. Rumsfeld signed off on nudity and the "removal of facial hair" as interrogation techniques, and in September, 2003, Lt. General Ricardo Sanchez, the then-commander in Iraq, signed an order approving interrogations that would "exploit the Arab fear of dogs." A military investigation at Guantanamo found that there were two **female** interrogators who "touched and spoke to detainees in a sexually suggestive manner in order to incur stress based on the detainees religious beliefs." Eric Saar, an army sergeant and former translator at the base confirms in his new book, *Inside the Wire*, that on at least one occasion, a detainee was smeared with red ink by a **female** interrogator, and told it was menstrual blood. Given all that we know, it does not stretch credulity to imagine that American officials might have been prepared to flush a Koran down a toilet if they thought it would help an interrogation.

All of which leads me to return to Rumsfeld's adage: Be careful what you say; be careful what you do -- or before you know it, people will be telling tall tales about the Great Satan that is America, and they will be believed. With one hand, the Bush administration was furthering the cause of liberalism in the Middle East -- while with the other, it was passing ammunition to those who see it, and us, as the enemy.

Graphic

Black & White

Photo: Mannie Garcia, Reuters; U.S. Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld; Black & White

Photo: Marni Soupcoff.; Chart/Graph: Tradesports.com, National Post; LIQUID MARKETS: AMERICAN IDOL: On Feb. 23, the tradesports.com Web site began accepting speculative contracts pegged to the likelihood that aspiring crooner Carrie Underwood will win television's American Idol Season 4 singing competition. Each contract will pay US\$100 in the event of an Underwood victory, but will be worthless if Carrie does not take the Idol prize. The graph

Why they believed Newsweek

below tracks the price for these contracts during the last three months, with annotations supplied by the Post's Marni Soupcoff to explain some of the more notable market events.

Load-Date: May 25, 2005

End of Document

WORLD at 0200 GMT

Associated Press International

January 7, 2005 Friday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press All Rights Reserved

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 1826 words

Body

HIGHLIGHTS:

New - ASIA-TSUNAMI-COUNTING THE DEAD: Indonesia's tsunami death toll wavers, showing difficulties in obtaining final count.

New - PALESTINIANS DECIDE: Palestinians voting for Arafat's replacement hope for exemplary show of democracy.

New - PALESTINIANS-ABBAS' CHALLENGE: Abbas walks tightrope in embracing militants, calling for end to attacks on Israel.

Update - ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS: Palestinian gunmen fire on Israeli soldiers in West Bank, killing one.

New - US-IRAQ STRATEGY: As war toll grows, strains on Army get heavier and outlook looks grimmer.

New - CONGO-MASSACRE: UN says renegade Congolese troops massacred 30 civilians in east.

Update - ITALY-TRAIN CRASH: 13 killed in train collision.

New - US-OIL-FOR-FOOD INVESTIGATION: U.N. to release oil-for-food audits, but no bombshells expected.

TSUNAMI: Death toll rises to 147,000 with little hope for tens of thousands still missing

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia - Two weeks after a tsunami slammed into coastlines around the Indian Ocean, thousands of bodies were still being pulled out of the mud and world leaders visiting the region were shocked at the devastation. BC-AS-GEN--ASIA-TSUNAMI. Has moved; developing. By Lely T. Djuhari. AP Photos XED108, XDA101, BM112-113. AP Graphics TSUNAMI UPDATE; TSUNAMI DEATH TOLL; MISSING FOREIGNERS.

- BC-AS-GEN--ASIA-TSUNAMI-COUNTING THE DEAD. JAKARTA, Indonesia - The body count came crackling over an antiquated radio from a local official somewhere on Indonesia's Sumatra island, boosting the death toll from Asia's devastating tsunami by a startling 20,000 people. As it turned out, officials on the receiving end simply misheard the number through the static. Has moved. By Edward Harris.

- EU-GEN--BRITAIN-TSUNAMI-DEBT RELIEF. LONDON - The world's leading industrial nations propose debt repayments be frozen for countries devastated by the tsunami. Britain's Treasury chief says the G-7 nations will seek agreement from creditors at this month's meeting of the Paris Club. Has moved. By Ed Johnson.

WORLD at 0200 GMT

- BC-EU-GEN--EU-TSUNAMI-RELIEF TALKS. BRUSSELS, Belgium - The European Union calls for a rapid global reconstruction effort to follow up the millions of dollars in emergency relief. Has moved. By Constant Brand. AP Photos VM101-112.

- BC-AS-GEN--TSUNAMI-SECURITY. BANDA ACEH, Indonesia - The Indonesian military moves to quash rumors the United States will try to use its humanitarian mission there to gain a permanent military foothold. Has moved. By Chris Brummitt.

PALESTINIAN ELECTION: Palestinians voting for Arafat's replacement hope for exemplary show of democracy

HEBRON, West Bank - This weekend's election to replace Yasser Arafat has the potential to usher in the Arab world's first genuine democracy - a peaceful transfer of power that will augur well for the dream of a Palestinian state. BC-ME-GEN--PALESTINIANS DECIDE. Has moved. By Steven Gutkin. AP Photos. AP Graphics PALESTINIAN OVERVIEW, PALESTINIAN POLL.

WITH:

- BC-ME-GEN--PALESTINIANS-ABBAS' CHALLENGE. JERUSALEM - Mahmoud Abbas has tried to pull off a delicate balancing act in his campaign for Sunday's Palestinian elections, embracing militants who have been battling Israel for more than four years while expressing support for a stalled peace plan that requires him to crack down on them. Has moved. By Ravi Nessman. AP Photos JRL130, 126, 122.

- BC-ME-GEN--ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS. NABLUS, West Bank - Palestinian gunmen fired on a group of Israelis soldiers in the West Bank, killing one and wounding three, just a day after militant leaders in the area told Palestinian presidential candidate Mahmoud Abbas they were ready to abide by a cease-fire. Has moved. By Ali Daraghme. AP Photos.

ITALY-TRAINS COLLIDE: Head-on train collision in northern Italy kills 13, officials say

BOLOGNINA DI CREVALCORE, Italy - A passenger train collided with a freight train in northern Italy in heavy fog, killing at least 13 people and injuring dozens, rescue officials said. The head-on crash turned several cars into a wreck of buckled metal. BC-EU-GEN--ITALY-TRAIN CRASH. Has moved. By Paolo Ferrari. AP Photos BOL104, 111, 113. AP Graphic ITALY TRAIN CRASH. AP Graphic ITALY TRAIN CRASH 2.

SRI LANKA-TEEN SURVIVOR: AP Exclusive: Teen tells of surviving tsunami only to be raped by rescuer

GALLE, Sri Lanka - She survived the tsunami, only to suffer the brutality of her rescuer. On a pilgrimage to seek protection at a temple, the girl and her family had stopped for a picnic by the beach. That's when the tsunami struck. Flailing in the water, the girl heard a voice. "He told me to grab his hand, that he will save me." When they reached a bank, he pushed her into a bed of brambles - and raped her. BC-AS-GEN--SRI LANKA-TSUNAMI-RAPE. Has moved. By Shimali Senanayake.

INDONESIA: In Indonesia's neighborhoods of need, aid workers trying to keep up

SYAH KUALA, Indonesia - Driving through streets of misery, aid trucks pull into makeshift camps, drawing crowds of tsunami survivors who smile with gratitude - and then ask for more. BC-AS-GEN--TSUNAMI-DELIVERING AID. By Jocelyn Gecker. Has moved. AP Photos XEH101,105,108-111.

AFRICA IN CRISIS: Africans watch, wonder why their suffering doesn't stir same action as tsunami in Asia

KINSHASA, Congo - With thousands of children perishing each week from hunger and disease, the Congolese never expect much from the world's big spenders. But as Congo watches the global scramble to raise billions in relief for Asia's tsunami victims, many here wonder why Asian suffering stirs action and African suffering apathy - and if the world has grown numb to the never-ending toll of Africa's dead. BC-AF-GEN--AFRICA-THE OTHER CRISIS. Has moved. By Bryan Mealer. AP Photo BRM101.

- AF-GEN--CONGO-MASSACRE. KINSHASA, Congo - Renegade army soldiers in eastern Congo recently massacred at least 30 civilians, including women and children, to avenge the death of three of their troops, the U.N. mission in Congo said.

WORLD at 0200 GMT

- BC-UN-GEN--UN-CONGO-SEXUAL EXPLOITATION. UNITED NATIONS - U.N. peacekeepers in Congo sexually abused and exploited women and girls, some as young as 13, according to a report released by a U.N. watchdog. Has moved. By Leyla Linton.

SOMALIA: Thousands protest against plans to deploy African peacekeepers

MOGADISHU, Somalia - Thousands of Somalis march through Mogadishu, condemning the African Union's plans to send peacekeepers to help ensure the safe return of a new government currently based in neighboring Kenya. BC-AF-GEN--SOMALIA-PROTESTS. Has moved. By Mohamed Olad Hassan.

MANDELA-AIDS: Former president praised for candor in announcing that his son died of complications from AIDS

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa - Former President Nelson Mandela's disclosure that his son has died of AIDS complications wins widespread praise in a country where the pandemic estimated to kill 600 a day here is still shrouded in silence. BC-AF-GEN--SOUTH AFRICA-MANDELA. Has moved. By Alexandra Zavis. AP Photo JOH101-102.

UN-OIL FOR FOOD: U.N. to release oil-for-food audits, but no bombshells expected

WASHINGTON - The United Nations' long-secret internal audits on the oil-for-food program do not reveal any bombshells, investigators told congressional aides ahead of next week's release of the reports. BC-NA-GEN--US-OIL-FOR-FOOD INVESTIGATION. Has moved. By Ken Guggenheim.

IRAQ: U.S. general warns of possible 'spectacular' attack; Iraqi religious leaders differ on elections

BAGHDAD, Iraq - A U.S. general warned that insurgents may be planning "spectacular" attacks to scare voters in the three weeks before Iraq's landmark elections, and Shiite and Sunni religious leaders voiced sharply divergent views on whether the vote should be held at all. BC-ME-GEN--IRAQ. Has moved. By Dusan Stojanovic. AP Photo BAG102.

- BC-NA--GEN--US-IRAQ STRATEGY. WASHINGTON - The strain of fighting a counterinsurgency war in Iraq, on a scale not foreseen even a year ago and with no end in sight, is taking a startling toll on the American military. The U.S. death count is rising - at least 1,350 in all, rising by 70 or more each month. Has moved. By Robert Burns. AP Photo BAG102.

- BC-EU-GEN--FRANCE-IRAQ-REPORTER MISSING. PARIS - U.S. forces in Iraq said they were not holding a missing French reporter. One of her editors said she may have been kidnapped, and President Jacques Chirac suggested it was irresponsible to dispatch journalists to Iraq. BC-EU-GEN--FRANCE-IRAQ-REPORTER MISSING. Has moved. By Nathalie Schuck. AP Photos.

IRA-BANK ROBBERY: Northern Ireland's police chief accuses IRA of staging massive bank robbery

BELFAST, Northern Ireland - The Irish Republican Army committed last month's massive raid on a Belfast bank, the Northern Ireland police commander bluntly announces in a move that complicated the province's peacemaking efforts. The British and Irish governments accept the verdict; Sinn Fein demands proof. BC-EU-GEN--NIRELAND-BANK ROBBERY. Has moved. By Shawn Pogatchnik. AP Photos XBFT101, I03, I08.

UKRAINE-CHANGED MEDIA? Has media been transformed by political upheaval - or merely switched sides

KIEV, Ukraine - When protesters flooded the streets of Kiev last November, most Ukrainian TV channels barely reported it, toeing the now-discredited line that the establishment candidate had won the presidential vote. That result has been reversed by what is widely seen as a democratic upheaval, and TV has been transformed as well. But critics warn the media might have merely switched sides, not mindsets. BC-EU-GEN--UKRAINE-MEDIA CROSSROADS. Has moved. By Bagila Bukharbayeva.

- BC-EU-GEN--RUSSIA-UKRAINE. MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin, in his first public comment on the dramatic Ukrainian presidential election that the Kremlin-favored candidate lost, says he hopes the country will move from rhetoric to pragmatism. Has moved. By Jim Heintz.

NEW YORK - Uncertain investors push stocks lower in a meandering session as a key government jobs report fails to answer Wall Street's lingering questions about the economy and interest rates. The major indexes end the first week of 2005 with a loss. BC-NA-FIN-MKT--US-CLOSING STOCKS. Has moved. By Michael J. Martinez.

WORLD at 0200 GMT

ECONOMY: Hiring for 2004 hits five-year high; economists say good, not great

WASHINGTON - Employers hired workers in 2004 at the fastest pace in five years in the United States, with overall payrolls rising by 2.2 million. December's job growth was a bit lower than expected, with the unemployment rate holding at 5.4 percent. BC-NA-FIN-ECO--US-ECONOMY. Has moved. By Leigh Strobe. AP Graphic JOBLESS.

LOOKING AHEAD: On Sunday, Palestinians choose a successor to Yasser Arafat as head of Palestinian Authority. Also Sunday, representatives from Sudan's government and rebels are to meet in Nairobi, Kenya, to sign a comprehensive peace deal ending 21 years of civil war.

YOUR QUERIES: The editor in charge is Peter James Spielmann at the Americas Desk in New York. Contact your local AP bureau, the Americas Desk at +1-212-621-1650, or the Asia Desk in Bangkok at +66-2-632-6911.

Load-Date: January 8, 2005

End of Document

2005 year in review

The Star Phoenix (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan)

December 31, 2005 Saturday

Final Edition

Copyright 2005 The Star Phoenix, a division of Canwest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: WEEKEND EYTRA; Pg. E1

Length: 3571 words

Byline: Canadian Press

Body

JANUARY

2 -- Dairy cow from Alberta tested positive for BSE, says Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

4 -- Canada defeats Russia in gold medal game at world junior hockey championship, winning the title for the first time since 1997.

9 -- Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas wins election to succeed the late Yasser Arafat as president of Palestinian Authority.

10 -- Viktor Yushchenko is declared winner of Dec. 26 rerun of Ukraine's presidential election.

11 -- Nortel Networks says senior executives will pay back millions in bonuses; overhauls board of directors to correct past false financial statements.

12 -- European Parliament endorses European Union's first-ever constitution. Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing donates \$1.2 billion to set up Canada's second-largest charitable foundation.

14 -- Immigration Minister Judy Sgro resigns from cabinet amid reports that she promised asylum to a Toronto man after he worked on her re-election campaign. (The man retracts the allegations in May.) Frank McKenna is named Canada's ambassador to U.S.

15 -- U.S. army Spc. Charles Graner is sentenced to 10 years behind bars for mistreating Iraqis in first court martial stemming from Abu Ghraib prison scandal.

19 -- Indonesia reports an additional 50,000 people dead from Dec. 26 tsunami, raising the total Asian death toll beyond 200,000.

20 -- George W. Bush is sworn in to begin his second term as U.S. president, promising to pursue "the expansion of freedom in all the world."

25 -- More than 300 Hindus are crushed or burned to death in stampede and subsequent fire near temple in western India.

2005 year in review

28 -- Shareholders of Molson Inc. vote to approve merger with U.S.-based Adolph Coors Co. Newfoundland and Nova Scotia reach deal on offshore oil revenue with federal government worth \$2.6 billion.

29 -- A bus carrying the Wildcats, a women's hockey team from Windsor, Ont., slams into a parked tractor-trailer near Rochester, N.Y., killing four people and injuring 19 others.

30 -- Iraqis vote in country's first free election in a half-century. (United Iraqi Alliance, dominated by Shiites, wins slim majority.)

FEBRUARY

4 -- NHLer Dany Heatley of Atlanta Thrashers is sentenced to three years' probation in the death of teammate Dan Snyder in car accident.

7 -- British sailor Ellen MacArthur becomes fastest person to sail solo around the world, completing her journey at Ushant, France, in 71 days, 14 hours, 18 minutes and 22 seconds.

8 -- Former prime minister Jean Chretien testifies at the Gomery inquiry about Liberal sponsorship program. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas declare formal ceasefire after four-year cycle of violence.

10 -- Prime Minister Paul Martin testifies at Gomery inquiry, the first time sitting prime minister has appeared in public at an inquiry since 1873.

14 -- Former Lebanese prime minister Rafik Hariri is assassinated in car-bomb blast in Beirut.

16 -- NHL commissioner Gary Bettman announces cancellation of 2004-2005 hockey season on 154th day of player lockout. Kyoto global warming pact goes into force, imposing limits on emissions of carbon dioxide and other gases.

19 -- Hockey players in Sherwood Park, Alta., play non-stop for more than 240 hours to set record for world's longest hockey game.

20 -- Israeli cabinet orders Israeli settlers to quit Gaza Strip by July.

23 -- WHO experts warn that the world is on the verge of deadly pandemic stemming from avian flu.

24 -- Prime Minister Paul Martin announces that Canada will not participate in U.S. missile defence program.

27 -- Million Dollar Baby wins Oscars for best picture, best actress (Hilary Swank), best director (Clint Eastwood) and best supporting actor (Morgan Freeman). Jamie Foxx wins best actor award for Ray.

28 -- Suicide car bomb in Hillah, southeast of Baghdad, kills 115 people in deadliest single attack since U.S.-led invasion into Iraq. Lebanese Prime Minister Omar Karami announces his government's resignation.

MARCH

1 -- Holocaust denier Ernst Zundel is deported to Germany to face prosecution for spreading hate. Ontario becomes the first province to pass legislation banning pit bull dogs.

2 -- U.S. judge orders temporary ban on reopening the border to Canadian cattle because of concerns about madcow disease.

3 -- Four RCMP officers are shot dead on a farm near Mayerthorpe, Alta., during a stakeout. Homemaking diva Martha Stewart leaves prison after serving five-month sentence for lying about a stock sale. American adventurer Steve Fossett completes the first solo round-the-world flight without stopping or refuelling.

2005 year in review

11 -- Thousands of Jetsgo passengers and crew are left stranded after the discount airline seeks court protection from creditors.

14 -- More than 800,000 anti-Syrian demonstrators flood streets of Beirut in the biggest protest the country has ever seen.

15 -- Bernard Ebbers, Alberta-born former CEO of WorldCom, is convicted of engineering the accounting fraud that sank the telecom company. Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi announces Italy will start withdrawing its 3,000 troops from Iraq in September.

16 -- Ripudaman Singh Malik and Ajaib Singh Bagri are acquitted on charges of murder and conspiracy in deaths of 331 people in 1985 Air India bombings.

23 -- Prime Minister Paul Martin signs deal with U.S. President George W. Bush and Mexican President Vicente Fox to co-ordinate security, trade and public health issues.

29 -- Investigation into UN oil-for-food program finds no evidence that Secretary General Kofi Annan used his influence to give contract to his son's employer, but criticizes how he handled conflict-of-interest allegations against his son.

APRIL

2 -- Pope John Paul dies.

3 -- Juno Awards presented in Winnipeg, with newcomers K-os, Billy Talent and Feist, along with established stars such as Avril Lavigne, winning multiple awards.

6 -- Prince Rainier of Monaco, Europe's longest serving monarch, dies at 81, leaving the throne to Prince Albert.

8 -- About 300,000 worshippers and more than 100 world leaders flood into St. Peter's Square for funeral of Pope John Paul.

9 -- Prince Charles marries Camilla Parker Bowles. Canada loses the women's world hockey championship to the U.S.

10 -- Randy Ferbey's Canadian rink beats Scotland in men's world curling championship final. Tiger Woods wins his fourth Masters golf title.

11 -- A \$7-billion class-action suit is launched on behalf of 100,000 farmers that accuses Ottawa of negligently allowing mad-cow disease to devastate cattle industry.

12 -- A monument is unveiled in St. John's, Nfld., on spot where Terry Fox began his Marathon of Hope 25 years earlier. Kelly Ellard is found guilty of second-degree murder in her third trial for the beating death of a Victoria teenager in 1997.

18 -- Indian and Pakistani leaders vow to reach "final settlement" to decades-old dispute over Kashmir, concluding three days of talks with agreements to boost trade and cross-border travel.

19 -- Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger of Germany is elected Pope Benedict XVI. Conrad Black's private holding company, Ravelston, files for bankruptcy protection.

20 -- Silvio Berlusconi is forced to resign as prime minister of Italy, ending the country's longest-serving (almost four years) postwar government.

21 -- In televised address, Prime Minister Paul Martin apologizes for sponsorship scandal, promises election within 30 days of Judge John Gomery's report. 22 -- Japan's Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi expresses "deep remorse" for nation's actions in Second World War. Moroccan-born Zacarias Moussaoui pleads guilty to terror charges

2005 year in review

related to Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. 26 -- Syria pulls troops and intelligence agents from Lebanon, ending 29 years of military presence in the country. 27 -- Prime Minister Paul Martin strikes deal with NDP to add \$4.6 billion social spending to his budget. Airbus 380, world's largest passenger plane with capacity of up to 840 passengers, completes maiden test flight in France. 28 -- Vladimir Putin becomes the first Russian or Soviet leader to visit Israel.

MAY

5 -- In British election, Tony Blair's Labour party wins unprecedented third term but with sharply reduced majority. 8 -- Europe celebrates 60th anniversary of Nazi Germany's defeat in Second World War. New Canadian War Museum officially opens in Ottawa. Steve Nash of Phoenix Suns becomes the first Canadian to win NBA's most valuable player award. 15 -- Canada loses to Czech Republic final of men's world hockey championship. 17 -- Tory MP Belinda Stronach defects Liberals and joins federal cabinet as human resources minister. B.C. Liberals second straight majority government under Premier Gordon Campbell. Queen and Prince Philip arrive in Regina nine-day tour of Saskatchewan and

19 -- Federal Liberal government survives after Speaker Peter Milliken breaks a tie for the first time in Canadian history on a confidence vote. Federal Court of Appeal upholds a ruling preventing the recording industry from suing music file-sharers.

20 -- Six oil-sands workers are killed after their bus is broadsided by tractor-trailer north of Edmonton.

25 -- Robert Pickton is charged with 12 additional murders, raising the number of charges against the former Vancouver-area pig farmer to 27. Emergency is declared in southern Nova Scotia after heavy rains flood the area.

29 -- London Knights hockey team win the Memorial Cup for the first time in 40 years. France votes 55 per cent to reject the European Union constitution.

30 -- Canadian Red Cross pleads guilty to one charge arising from tainted-blood scandal and accepts responsibility for disaster that left thousands of people with HIV and hepatitis C.

31 -- Montreal ad man Paul Coffin pleads guilty to 15 fraud charges in connection with federal sponsorship scandal.

JUNE

4 -- Bernard Landry resigns as leader of Parti Quebecois after getting less than 80 per cent approval rating at party's annual policy convention.

8 -- Ontario passes legislation banning smoking in all indoor public places and workplaces effective June 2006.

9 -- Supreme Court of Canada strikes down Quebec law banning private insurance for services covered by medicare.

11 -- G8 countries agree to write off 100 per cent of debt owed by 18 of world's poorest nations, most of them in Africa.

13 -- Former popstar Michael Jackson is found not guilty of child molestation, conspiracy and other criminal counts. Cineplex Galaxy LP announces it will buy Famous Players movie theatre chain in \$500-million deal that gives them almost two-thirds of the Canadian market.

16 -- CRTC approves satellite radio services.

19 -- Anti-Syrian candidates win in final round of Lebanon's first free elections in three decades.

21 -- Edgar Ray Killen, a former Ku Klux Klansman, is convicted of manslaughter in 1964 slayings of three civilrights workers in Mississippi.

28 -- Same-sex marriage legislation passes in the Commons.

2005 year in review

JULY

- 2 -- All-star Live 8 concerts are held around the world, including one in Barrie, Ont., to push G8 leaders to increase aid to Africa.
- 4 -- Karla Homolka is released from prison after serving 12-year sentence for sex-slayings of two teenagers.
- 7 -- Bombs kill 56 people, including four suicide bombers, on London's transit system.
- 8 -- Paul Martin and his fellow G8 leaders in Gleneagles, Scotland, announce an extra \$25 billion in annual aid to Africa and new effort to combat climate change. Former First Nations leader David Ahenakew is convicted and fined for promoting hatred against Jews.
- 9 -- North Korea says it will abandon its year-long boycott of nuclear disarmament talks.
- 12 -- Alberta government announces health-care reforms under which patients will be able to buy extra services.
- 13 -- The 301-day NHL lockout ends with players agreeing to a salary cap. Conservative party clears MP Gurmant Grewal of wrongdoing for taping conversation with prime ministerial aides. Bernard Ebbers, former CEO of WorldCom, is sentenced to 25 years in prison for the largest corporate fraud in U.S. history.
- 18 -- New Harry Potter book breaks sales record held by previous Potter release. Live Canadian cattle crosses U.S. border for first time in 26 months after Seattle court dismisses arguments that imports could spread mad cow disease.
- 21 -- Canadian Islamic religious leaders denounce terrorism in signed declaration.
- 23 -- Car bombs kill as many as 88 people at Egyptian Red Sea resort.
- 24 -- U.S. cyclist Lance Armstrong wins his seventh consecutive Tour de France.
- 26 -- Discovery space shuttle rockets into orbit, two years after Columbia space shuttle disaster. First team of Canadian troops heads off for southern Afghanistan as part of reconstruction mission.
- 27 -- Former Montreal resident Ahmed Ressam is sentenced to 22 years in prison for plot to bomb L.A. airport.
- 28 -- **Irish Republican Army** announces it is renouncing violence as a political weapon and resuming disarmament.

AUGUST

- 1 -- Saudi Arabia's King Fahd dies after prolonged illness and is succeeded by his half-brother Abdullah.
- 2 -- Air France passenger jet carrying 309 people skids off runway and bursts into flames at Toronto's Pearson airport; no one is killed. CIBC agrees to pay \$2.4 billion to settle litigation against Wall Street financial firms involved with Enron Corp.
- 3 -- CN Rail train derails, spilling oil and toxic pole-treating chemical in Lake Wabamun, Alta. (Two days later another derailed CN rail car dumps chemicals into Cheakamus River north of Squamish, B.C.) South Korean scientists announce they have successfully cloned a dog. Fourteen U.S. marines are killed in western Iraq in roadside bombing.
- 9 -- Discovery glides safely back to Earth. Gas prices cross the \$1-a-litre mark as cost of crude oil escalates.
- 15 -- CBC locks out 5,500 workers.
- 23 -- Israel completes its evacuation of 25 Jewish settlements in Gaza Strip and northern West Bank.

2005 year in review

24 -- Prime Minister Paul Martin formally acknowledges wrongs inflicted on Ukrainian-Canadians who were interned and stripped of civil liberties during First World War.

29 -- Hurricane Katrina hits U.S. Gulf Coast, submerging an estimated 80 per cent of New Orleans and other parts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama; more than a million people are stranded and five million without power.

30 -- Crude oil prices soar in the wake of hurricane Katrina to over \$70 US a barrel.

31 -- New Orleans mayor orders entire city evacuated.

SEPTEMBER

6 -- Jetliner crashes in Medan, Indonesia, killing at least 149 people. California's state assembly becomes the first legislative body in U.S. to approve same-sex marriages.

7 -- President Hosni Mubarak wins fifth six-year term in Egypt's first contested presidential election.

12 -- Israel's 38-year hold on Gaza officially ends as the Israeli army withdraws.

14 -- Summit marking 60th anniversary of UN opens with appeal for collective action to prevent genocide and protect human rights. Insurgents declare all-out war on Iraq's Shia majority, launching suicide bomb attacks in Baghdad that kill at least 167 people.

18 -- NHL hockey returns after 15-month hiatus as first pre-season games are played. Parliamentary elections are held in Afghanistan for first time in four decades.

19 -- North Korea agrees to drop its nuclear weapons development program. Surging oil and gas prices push Canadian dollar to 85.57 cents US, highest level in more than 13 years.

20 -- David Radler, Conrad Black's former right-hand man, pleads guilty in Chicago court to mail fraud, agrees 29-month jail term for his testimony against others in alleged scheme to pilfer millions from Hollinger International Inc.

24 -- Hurricane Rita pummels coastal Texas and Louisiana. Thousands of opponents of Iraq war stage day of protest with marches through Washington and other U.S. cities. IMF approves deal forgive more than \$40 billion US in debt for world's poorest countries.

26 -- ***Irish Republican Army*** announces it has fully disarmed, which verified by international weapons inspectors. U.S. army Pte. Lynndie England is convicted by military jury on six counts in connection with prisoner abuse at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison. 27 -- Michaelle Jean is installed as the 27th Governor General of Canada, the first black woman to hold the job. 28 -- David Dingwall resigns as president of the Royal Canadian Mint amid controversy about his activities when he was a private lobbyist for companies seeking federal financing.

29 -- Supreme Court of Canada rules that B.C. can sue tobacco companies for the cost of treating smoking-related illnesses. After six years as Nova Scotia premier, John Hamm announces he will retire from politics. The first of four buses starts running in Charlottetown, the last provincial capital to get a transit system. John Roberts is sworn in as chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

30 -- Algerians vote yes to a peace plan, officially turning the page on Islamic insurgency that left an estimated 150,000 dead.

OCTOBER

1 -- At least 22 people are killed in suicide bombings at restaurants on island of Bali, Indonesia.

2 -- Tour boat capsizes on Lake George, in upstate New York, killing 21 seniors.

3 -- CBC and union reach tentative agreement to end lockout of 5,500 staff.

2005 year in review

- 6 -- Health officials say legionnaires' disease is behind a series of deaths at Toronto nursing home.
- 8 -- Earthquake kills an estimated 86,000 people in northern Pakistan and Indian territory of Kashmir.
- 9 -- B.C. public school teachers are found in contempt of court for illegal strike.
- 10 -- German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder resigns; a coalition under leadership of rival Angela Merkel forms government.
- 11 -- Canadian mining giants Inco and Falconbridge announce plan to merge in 12.5-billion deal creating world's largest nickel company.
- 16 -- China confirms its first human cases of bird flu, including its first confirmed death.
- 17 -- Former media mogul Conrad Black is charged with eight counts of fraud in U.S. in connection with his role as an executive of Hollinger International.
- 21 -- General Motors announces plan to cut 30,000 jobs in North America, closing nine assembly plants including two in Oshawa and St. Catharines, Ont., employing 3,900 people.
- 23 -- Federal government signs \$2.5-million deal to compensate Chinese-Canadians for head tax once imposed on Chinese immigrants. Former Ontario premier Bob Rae is appointed to head a limited public inquiry into the Air India bombing.
- 24 -- A \$5-billion deal for First Nations is announced at meeting of first ministers and aboriginal leaders.
- 26 -- Four western aid workers, including two Canadians, are kidnapped in Baghdad.
- 27 -- Edmonton Eskimos defeat Montreal Alouettes to win Grey Cup.
- 28 -- Minority Liberal federal government is defeated on non-confidence motion.
- 29 -- Prime Minister Paul Martin calls general election for Jan. 23.

DECEMBER

- 1 -- South Africa's highest court approves same-sex marriages.
- 6 -- Iranian military transport plane crashes into Tehran apartment building, killing at least 124 people. U.S. lowers duties on Canadian softwood lumber by
- 19 -- Saddam Hussein and seven codefendants go on trial on charges of crimes against humanity. Desire Munyaneza, a Rwandan man fighting to stay in Canada, becomes the first to be charged under Canada's Crimes Against Humanity and War Crimes Act for alleged activities during 1994 Rwandan genocide.
- 20 -- Saturday Night magazine says it will suspend publication. Hurricane Wilma lashes Caribbean.
- 22 -- B.C. teachers end illegal strike.
- 24 -- U.S. civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks dies. Final results indicate Iraq's constitution was adopted by majority of voters in Oct. 15 referendum.
- 25 -- Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty orders evacuation of more than half the 1,900 residents of northern reserve of Kashechewan, plagued with contaminated drinking water.
- 26 -- Seventeen Alberta oil field workers share \$54-million lottery win, biggest jackpot in Canadian history.
- 27 -- Deaths of two teenagers in suburban immigrant community of Paris spark escalating riots.

2005 year in review

28 -- U.S. financier Jerry Zucker launches \$1.1-billion bid to take over Hudson's Bay Co.

31 -- Barrick Gold Corp. bids \$9.2 billion for Vancouver-based Placer Dome in deal that would create the world's largest gold miner.

NOVEMBER

1 -- Justice John Gomery releases first report of federal sponsorship scandal inquiry, mainly blames former bureaucrats, puts Prime Minister Paul Martin in the clear.

4 -- Bitter strike at one of Canada's largest slaughterhouses, Lakeside Packers in Brooks, Alta., ends in first contract.

7 -- Omar Khadr, Canadian teen held at Guantanamo Bay prison, is charged with terrorism-related crimes including murdering a U.S. soldier.

8 -- France declares state of emergency after violence rages for 12th night in country's worst civil unrest in decades.

9 -- Suicide bombers strike three hotels in Amman, Jordan, killing at least 59 people. U.S. House leaders abandon plans to push for oil drilling in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

15 -- Andre Boisclair wins Parti Quebecois leadership on first ballot.

26 -- Jane Glenn Creba, 15, was fatally shot in downtown Toronto while shopping on Boxing Day, the innocent victim of a clash between rival gangs.

28 -- The whiff of scandal was pumped into the federal election campaign with confirmation that the RCMP had begun a criminal investigation into the possibility of a leak from the Liberal government prior to an announcement on taxation of income trusts. Opposition parties called for Finance Minister Ralph Goodale to resign, but Prime Minister Paul Martin stood

Graphic

Colour Photo: Tim Sloan, AFP, Getty Images; U.S. President George W. Bush and Laura Bush along with former presidents George Bush (centre) and Bill Clinton and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice pay their respects to Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Basilica April 6;

Colour Photo: Judge John Gomery called Prime Minister Paul Martin to testify Feb. 10 at hearings into the sponsorship scandal, the first time a sitting prime minister had appeared in public at an inquiry since 1873;

Colour Photo: Viktor Yushchenko was declared president Jan. 10 in a rerun of the election in Ukraine;

Colour Photo: Frank McKenna became Canada's Ambassador to the United States;

Colour Photo: RCMP Cpl. Joan Kuyp, RCMP Const. Joe Sangster, RCMP Const. Bethany Hoskin and RCMP Const. Jason Lapointe (from left) were the headdress-bearers during a national memorial service in Edmonton March 10, 2005 for four RCMP officers killed in Mayerthorpe, Alta., in the line of duty;

Colour Photo: Britain's Prince Charles and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, leave St George's Chapel in Windsor, England, following the church blessing of their civil wedding ceremony April 9;

2005 year in review

Colour Photo: A B.C. court determined Kelly Ellard must serve seven years in prison before she can seek parole from her life sentence for killing Reena Virk;

Colour Photo: Bernard Ebbers former CEO of WorldCom was sentenced to 25 years in prison for orchestrating an \$11-billion accounting fraud at the toppled telecom;

Colour Photo: Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip staged a walkabout May 19 outside Saskatoon's synchrotron;

Colour Photo: Pope Benedict XVI greets the crowd from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican April 19 after being named the 265th pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church;

Colour Photo: Prime Minister Paul Martin smiles alongside Belinda Stronach at a news conference May 17 announcing her defection to the Liberals and appointment as human resources minister;

Colour Photo: Algerian Ahmed Ressam, convicted of plotting to blow up the Los Angeles airport on the eve of the millennium, was sentenced July 27 to 22 years in prison;

Colour Photo: Parti Quebecois Leader Bernard Landry announces his resignation as party president June 4;

Photo: Newly sworn-in Governor General Michaëlle Jean takes part in a toast during a dinner given in her honor in Ottawa Sept. 27;

Photo: In this television image, Karla Homolka, the notorious ex-wife of convicted serial rapist and killer Paul Bernardo, is interviewed in Montreal July 4 after her release from prison after serving 12 years for manslaughter in the sex slayings of two Ontario teenagers;

Photo: David Radler, (above), former friend and right-hand man of onetime media baron Conrad Black pleads guilty Sept. 20 to mail fraud, and agrees to a 29-month jail term in exchange for his testimony against others in an alleged scheme to pilfer millions from Hollinger International Inc. Black would plead not guilty in December to federal fraud charges in connection with the alleged looting of more \$80 million from the newspaper empire he once controlled;

Photo: Conrad Black.;

Colour Photo: NHLPA Executive Director Bob Goodenow announces the players union has ratified the collective bargaining agreement July 21, ending the 301-day NHL lockout;

Photo: A Chinook helicopter drops sandbags to repair a breach in the Industrial Canal levee Sept. 25 in New Orleans Floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina fill the streets near downtown New Orleans Aug. 30;

Colour Photo: Pakistani Kashmiri survivors search for firewood among the debris of ruined homes in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-administered Kashmir, after a massive earthquake Oct. 8 killed more than 73,000 people and left three million others homeless.;

Colour Photo: Jewish settlers cling onto the entrance gate of the Jewish settlement of Neve Dekalim as they attempt to block Israeli security officers from entering. Settlers locked the gates to their communities, formed human chains and burned tires to block troops from delivering eviction notices, as Israel began its pullout from the Gaza Strip;

Colour Photo: Civil rights pioneer Rosa Parks, whose refusal to give up her bus seat to a white man sparked the civil rights movement, died Oct. 24 at the age of 92;

Colour Photo: Perry Mayne (centre) and Darrell Thompson lead 15 co-workers into a press conference Oct. 28 after collecting their \$54 million Lotto 649 prize in St. Albert, Alta. Each person put \$20 into a pool to buy tickets. They each collected \$3,193,807;

Colour Photo: General Motors workers found out in November the company would cut 30,000 jobs in North America, closing nine assembly plants including two in Oshawa and St. Catharines, Ont., employing 3,900 people;

2005 year in review

Colour Photo: Former popstar Michael Jackson is found not guilty of child molestation, conspiracy and other criminal counts.;

Colour Photo: Finance Minister Ralph Goodale is under fire

Load-Date: December 31, 2005

End of Document

4 From Britain Carried Out Terror Blasts, Police Say

The New York Times

July 13, 2005 Wednesday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

Section: Section A; Column 6; Foreign Desk; Pg. 1; BOMBINGS IN LONDON: LONDON BOMBINGS

Length: 1803 words

Byline: By ALAN COWELL and DON VAN NATTA Jr.; Reporting for this article was contributed by Jonathan Allen from Leeds, Heather Timmons from Luton, Stephen Grey from London and Elaine Sciolino from Paris.

Dateline: LONDON, July 12

Body

The British police said Tuesday that a team of four British-born men had carried out Thursday's deadly terrorist attacks in London, including at least one possible suicide bombing, which would be the first in Britain.

The police said that the body of one of the men had been found in the wreckage of the London Underground and that property belonging to the other three was found at the location of the other blasts. The police stopped short of declaring that the attacks were suicide bombings.

The breakthrough came as the police searched six houses in the northern city of Leeds and found explosives in one home and in an abandoned car parked at the train station in Luton, just north of London. The police also arrested one man in West Yorkshire, whom they did not identify.

In Leeds, residents said several young men -- whose families initially moved to Britain from Pakistan -- had traveled to London late last week and had not been seen since.

The police have identified the four men, who they said were all in their late teens and early 20's, but did not release their names. The four were recorded by closed-circuit television cameras arriving at King's Cross station in London carrying backpacks at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, just 20 minutes before three of the bombs ripped through subway trains. A fourth bomb exploded at 9:47 a.m. on the No.30 bus in central London. The police say 52 people died in the four attacks.

At a news conference in London, Peter Clarke, the head of Scotland Yard's antiterrorist police, announced that items belonging to the four men had been found at the scene of the explosions, London's worst attack since World War II.

"We are trying to establish their movements in the run-up to last week's attack and specifically to establish whether they all died in the explosions," Mr. Clarke said.

If the attackers are found to be suicide bombers, the events of July 7 will almost certainly be seen as a striking turning point in the nature of the threat facing Western Europeans, particularly given the close synchronization of the explosions -- itself unusual in Europe.

4 From Britain Carried Out Terror Blasts, Police Say

Tuesday was the first time the police, under pressure to assuage fears that the bombers might carry out further attacks, had given such a detailed account of their investigation. They announced their findings after a day of fast-moving developments around the northern city of Leeds, in West Yorkshire, and in Luton.

In Leeds and nearby Dewsbury, the police began a series of raids on six homes around 6.30 a.m., calling in the army to help carry out a controlled explosion using a robotic device to blow their way into one building.

The neighborhoods were made up of humble red-brick row houses and cramped semidetached homes with satellite dishes bolted to the walls. Hundreds of residents were evacuated, apparently because of the fear of explosions in the houses that were searched, and the police said "significant amounts" of explosives had been found.

In Luton, the police set off several controlled explosions after cordoning off the railroad station and a parking lot where they had found what was described as a suspicious car. Police officials said later that they believed the car had contained explosives.

A senior European counterterrorism investigator, who is working closely with his counterparts in Britain, said Scotland Yard now believed that at least three of the bombers had died in the attacks. But the official cautioned that they had not yet conclusively proven it. A fourth bomber is unaccounted for, the official added.

Early Tuesday morning, the police searched the West Yorkshire house of one of the missing men, 22-year-old Shehzad Tanweer. His friends said he had been listed as missing since Thursday.

The police said at a news conference that the parents of one of the bombers, presumably Mr. Tanweer, had called in to the police shortly after 10 a.m. Thursday to report him missing -- minutes after the final explosion, on one of London's red double-decker buses, 180 miles to the south.

Neighbors, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because they did not wish to draw attention to themselves during a time of tension, said Mr. Tanweer had worked at his family's fast-food store selling fish and chips. "When he was 15 or 16, he got all religious, and started praying five times a day," a woman said.

The neighbors said Mr. Tanweer had attended two local schools and had been known as a soccer and cricket player. "He was more British than anything else," said one of two women who said they were neighbors.

Counterterrorism officials said the phone call about his whereabouts from his worried parents was an important tip that led Scotland Yard to finding video images of the four bombers and led the police to conduct the six searches in the Leeds area on Tuesday.

Since the attacks, the police investigation has appeared to be slow-moving, and possibly even stumbling, with only snippets of information publicly available. The police were forced to revise their initial public announcement that 27 minutes separated the first bombing from the third bomb's explosion in the London Underground, saying they were actually separated by 45 seconds.

Up until Tuesday, the police had seemed to discount any suggestion that the attackers might be suicide bombers -- an idea that would almost certainly deepen apprehensions among Britons used to perceiving such attacks as a phenomenon of the Middle East or Iraq.

In Madrid in March 2004, when 191 people died in attacks like those in London on the rush-hour transit system, the attackers detonated bombs remotely. Previous attacks by Basque separatists in Spain or the Irish Republican Army in London often included a coded warning in advance.

In Casablanca in May 2003, 14 Moroccan men carried out highly coordinated suicide bombing attacks at five sites, killing 41 people, including 13 of the bombers. One intended suicide bomber lost his nerve, and some investigators on Tuesday night wondered if the man who blew himself up on the London bus might have also fled the planned operation.

4 From Britain Carried Out Terror Blasts, Police Say

Several witnesses said the man on the No.30 bus seemed agitated as he dug into his backpack moments before the bomb exploded, roughly 57 minutes after the other three bombs exploded in the London subway system.

Mr. Clarke, a deputy assistant police commissioner at Scotland Yard, gave the most detailed account of how the four suspected bombers traveled together to London and gathered first at King's Cross station, where they were photographed together on closed-circuit television cameras. That was apparently before they set off on their separate missions.

Mr. Clarke said the investigation was moving at great speed and said the police had further forensic tests to complete in the London Underground and at homes searched Tuesday in Leeds.

One area of investigation is whether the four bombers had any help from highly trained outsiders.

Mr. Clarke said the raids in the Leeds area had been directed at the home addresses of three of the four men suspected of carrying out the bombings.

"We know that all four of these men arrived in London by train on the morning of July 7," he said. "We have identified CCTV footage showing the four men at King's Cross station shortly before 8.30 a.m. on that morning of July 7."

Investigators said they had reviewed more than 2,500 CCTV tapes since the bombings, as well as several hundred witness statements, and had fielded more than 1,000 tips from the public.

The video from King's Cross puts the men at the station only 20 minutes before the closely synchronized explosions tore through subway trains between King's Cross and Russell Square, on the deep-tunnel Piccadilly Line, and on the shallower Circle Line, between the Liverpool Street and Aldgate stations, and at Edgware Road. The bus was bombed in Tavistock Square, not far from the Russell Square station.

Mr. Clarke said the men's property was also found at the sites.

"We have since found personal documents bearing the names of three of those four men close to the seats of three of the explosions," he said, referring to the subway bombings. He said property from the fourth man "was found at the Aldgate and Edgware Road bombs." Those two locations are in different parts of central London.

This would not be the first instance of Britons involved in suicidal terrorism plots. Richard C. Reid, the so-called shoe-bomber, tried to bomb a flight from Paris to Miami in December 2001. Two Britons with explosives strapped to their bodies attacked a nightclub in Tel Aviv in April 2003.

Initially, several British officials told their European counterparts that they believed it was likely the sleeper cell of bombers had originated inside Britain. This theory was based on the fact that investigators have long known there are several hundred sympathizers of Al Qaeda. Investigators also knew that none of the known extremists who are currently under surveillance had appeared to have played a role in the attacks.

The authorities have said the bombs were made of less than 10 pounds of high-grade military-style explosives. Because of the quality of the explosives, Scotland Yard is now trying to determine if the bombers had assistance, either in assembling the bombs or in obtaining the material to build them, officials said. One possibility is that the help came from outside Britain, investigators said Tuesday night.

The car found at Luton may have been used by the four men before they boarded a train to London. It was also possible that the three bombers from West Yorkshire linked up with the fourth man at Luton, an industrial working-class town that has been home to a tight-knit Muslim community since the 1960's.

The police said they had taken possession of a second car linked to the investigation in Leighton Buzzard, about 50 miles north of London.

4 From Britain Carried Out Terror Blasts, Police Say

The British police plan to question Zeeshan Haider, 25, a British national arrested in May near Peshawar, in restive North-West Frontier Province, where he is being held by the Pakistani authorities, according to counterterrorism officials.

Two separate groups claiming affiliation with Al Qaeda have taken responsibility for the attacks, causing concerns among the British authorities that Muslims will become the target of a backlash.

The second group to claim responsibility, the Abu Hafs al-Masri Brigades, posted a message on May 29 on an Islamist Internet site that asked sleeper cells in Europe to proceed with planned attacks. "We ask all waiting mujahedeen, wherever they are, to carry out the planned attack," the message said.

One motive for any attacks, the message said, was the alleged desecration of the Koran at the American military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where more than 500 detainees are being held.

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photos: Police forensic officers sifted through the remains of the bus that was bombed on Tavistock Square. (Photo by Jess Hurd/Polaris)(pg. A10)

The police raided this home and several others yesterday in Leeds, England, tracing items found in the bombings in London. They said they were focusing on the homes of three of four suspected bombers. (Photo by Paul Barker/Agence France-Presse)(pg. A1)Chart: "Developments in the Investigation"Police in London said yesterday that the investigation into last week's bombings was "going at great speed." Here is a chronology of yesterday's main events.6:30 a.m. Antiterror police carry out searches in the Leeds area. Leeds is home to a large Muslim population.9 a.m. The operation is announced by Sir Ian Blair, the Scotland Yard commissioner.11:30 a.m. 500 to 600 people are evacuated from homes and shops, and six roads are cordoned off in the Burley area of Leeds.2:45 p.m. The police seal off a train station and parking lot in Luton, a town north of London, and later carry out controlled explosions on a car with suspected links to the attacks.5:10 p.m. In a Scotland Yard press conference, the police say they have evidence linking four men -- three from the Leeds area -- to the bombings. The police say forensic evidence suggests that one of the West Yorkshire men died in the subway bombing at Aldgate. Peter Clarke, head of Scotland Yard's antiterrorist police, says the four men arrived in London by train on the morning of the attacks and personal documents bearing the names of three of the four were found at the sites of three of the bombings. Mr. Clarke also says a man has been arrested in West Yorkshire and brought to London for questioning.(pg. A10)Maps of England highlighting Leeds, London, and Luton.(pg. A10)

Load-Date: July 13, 2005

THIS TIME, LONDON:
Terrorists bring fear, death to England

St. Petersburg Times (Florida)

July 8, 2005 Friday 0 South Pinellas Edition

Copyright 2005 Times Publishing Company

Section: NATIONAL; Pg. 1A; Newspaper

Length: 2093 words

Series: LONDON TERROR ATTACKS

Dateline: LONDON

Body

Terror struck in the heart of London on Thursday as explosions ripped through three subway trains and blasted the roof off a crowded red double-decker bus. At least 38 people were killed and more than 700 wounded - dozens of them critically - in the deadliest attack on the city since the blitz in World War II.

Three blasts on the Underground occurred within about a half-hour of each other beginning at 8:51 a.m. local time, shutting down the city's public transport system that moves 8.4-million people a day. The bus blast, near the British Museum, ripped off the upper deck at 9:47 a.m., a half-hour after the last Underground bomb.

Britain Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said the bombings, which came a day after London won the bid to host the 2012 Olympics, have the "hallmarks of an al-Qaida-related attack."

Compiled from Times Wires

It was the attack that Britain had long feared, after the Sept. 11, 2001, strikes in New York and Washington and Britain's subsequent alliance with U.S. forces in Afghanistan and Iraq. Thursday's explosions also recalled the March 11, 2004, terrorist bombs that killed 191 people on four commuter trains in Madrid.

The attacks - deadlier than the 1998 Omagh bombing in Northern Ireland that claimed 29 lives - coincided with the first full day of deliberations at the Group of Eight summit meeting at the Gleneagles golf estate in Scotland.

London police said they could confirm at least 38 people had been killed: 35 dead in the subway blasts, two in the bus attack and another who died later in a hospital, according to the BBC. Three U.S. law enforcement officials, meanwhile, told the Associated Press that at least 40 were killed. French Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy later said the death toll had risen to 50, citing a conversation with his British counterpart, but that could not immediately be confirmed.

A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy in London said there were no initial reports of American casualties.

Police said conventional explosives were used. They said it was unclear whether the devices were left on the trains or were suicide attacks. However, the New York Times reported that investigators said the three subway bombs appeared to have been detonated by timers, not suicide bombers. The fourth bomb, which exploded on a bus, may have detonated prematurely as a bomber was carrying it to an intended target, the newspaper reported.

THIS TIME, LONDON; Terrorists bring fear, death to England

Although police stopped short of identifying any individuals or groups in the attacks, British Prime Minister Tony Blair made clear that he suspected people who claim to act "in the name of Islam."

A group describing itself as affiliated with al-Qaida took responsibility for the attack through a statement on an Arabic-language Web site, but British police said they were unable to confirm the authenticity of the claim. The group called itself the Secret Organization of al-Qaida in Europe and said the attacks were to avenge British involvement in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Blair, who was hosting the G-8 and has been riding a wave of successes capped by the Olympic decision, cut short his stay in Scotland, leaving the seven other G-8 leaders - including President Bush - as he flew back to head emergency ministerial meetings in London.

"It is reasonably clear that there have been a series of terrorist attacks in London," Blair said before he left Gleneagles, speaking after several hours in which the authorities had spoken only of a power surge on the subway lines and shied from blaming the attacks on terrorism.

"Just as it is reasonably clear that this is a terrorist attack or a series of terrorist attacks, it is clear that it is designed and aimed to coincide with the opening of the G-8," Blair said. He said it was "particularly barbaric" that the attacks coincided with a gathering designed to combat African poverty and global warming.

"The terrorists will not succeed," Blair said. "Today's bombings will not weaken in any way our resolve to uphold the most deeply held principles of our societies and to defeat those who would impose their fanaticism and extremism on all of us. We shall prevail and they shall not."

The first blast caught a subway train traveling toward Liverpool Street station, on the eastern fringe of London's financial district. Seven died, police said. Some people caught in the blast emerged from the Aldgate Station, near Jack the Ripper's old haunts in Whitechapel.

The second bombing came five minutes later, on a second train deep underground between the King's Cross and Russell Square stations. Police said 21 died. King's Cross station, in one of the seediest parts of London, is the film setting for Platform 9 3/4 in the Harry Potter films. Russell Square station serves Bloomsbury, the early 20th century literary hotbed where Virginia Woolf and luminaries lived.

At 9:17 a.m., there was an explosion involving two or perhaps three trains around Edgware Road station. Seven people were killed, police said. Edgware Road is the heart of a thriving Arab community, and convenient to Hyde Park, scene of last weekend's Live 8 concert.

The bus explosion took place near Russell Square, an area of many modestly priced hotels popular with tourists. Also nearby is the home where Charles Dickens lived from 1837 to 1839.

Doctors streamed out of the nearby British Medical Association's offices when the bus blew up outside.

"The front of BMA house was completely splattered with blood and not much of the bus was left," Dr. Laurence Buckman said.

The explosions shut down the subway and bus system, though buses started running again for the evening rush hour.

The attacks left the city center paralyzed. Police in yellow slickers cordoned off streets. Rescue workers and paramedics went deep below ground to look for the dead and wounded.

Trapped passengers in the Underground railway threw themselves on the floor, some sobbing. As subway cars filled with smoke, people used their umbrellas to try to break the windows so they could get air. Passengers emerged from the Underground covered with blood and soot.

THIS TIME, LONDON; Terrorists bring fear, death to England

On the street, in a light rain, buses ferried the wounded, and medics used a hotel as a hospital. Included among the injuries were amputations, fractures and burns, officials said.

"I didn't hear anything, just a flash of light, people screaming, no thoughts of what it was. I just had to get out of the train," said subway passenger Chris Randall, 28, who was hospitalized with cuts and burns to his face, legs and hands.

"It was chaos," said Gary Lewis, 32, evacuated from a subway train at King's Cross station. "The one haunting image was someone whose face was totally black (with soot) and pouring with blood."

Alan King, 49, had just departed from the King's Cross Station, off to his energy consulting job. He heard the bus explode moments after his train shut down and passengers began quietly filing onto underground platforms and up to the cobblestone streets.

"I had just come around the corner and - boom," King said. "People were upset and a few women were crying, but within a few hours, everyone seemed rather blase. We're calm because we're used to it."

He mentioned the era of Irish Republican Army bombings that made days such as Thursday "a fact of life in London." King said the cell phone network in the city was "complete chaos" as he tried to figure out how he would get to his home 24 miles north.

Immediately after the attacks, authorities in the United States and Europe increased security precautions on mass transit systems. President Bush, meanwhile, drew a comparison between the aims of the G-8 meeting and the bombers.

"The contrast couldn't be clearer between the intentions and the hearts of those who care deeply about human rights and human liberty, and those who kill, those who've got such evil in their hearts that they will take the lives of innocent folks," Bush said. "The war on terror goes on."

Blair promised "the most intense police and security service action to make sure that we bring those responsible to justice." He praised "the stoicism and resilience of the people of London."

Both were in evidence across the city, as volunteers helped the walking wounded from blast sites and commuters lent their phones so strangers could call home.

"As Brits, we'll carry on - it doesn't scare us at all," said tour guide Michael Cahill, 37. "Look, loads of people are walking down the streets. It's Great Britain - not called 'Great' for nothing."

Information from the Los Angeles Times, New York Times, Washington Post, BBC and Associated Press was used in this report.

GROUP'S SITE CLAIMS CREDIT

A little-known group calling itself the Secret Organization of al-Qaida in Europe claims responsibility for the attacks, saying the blasts were in retaliation for Britain's involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. Officials aren't sure if they believe the claim, or if a wider al-Qaida is involved.

THREAT LEVEL AT ORANGE

In response, the U.S. Homeland Security Department raises its terror alert for mass transit to the second-highest level, putting subways, buses and commuter trains on alert.

G-8 SUMMIT INTERRUPTED

THIS TIME, LONDON; Terrorists bring fear, death to England

A summit of world leaders is meeting in Scotland to discuss poverty and the environment. But events nearby forced terrorism onto the agenda, if only briefly. "The leaders will stand firm against this evil," said President Vicente Fox of Mexico.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For information about U.S. citizens who may have been affected by the attacks in London, call the Office of Overseas Citizens Services at the State Department at (888) 407-4747 (during business hours) or (202) 647-5225 (after hours). The Web site of the U.S. Embassy in London is <http://www.usembassy.org.uk>

LONDON'S 'TUBE' TRAINS

London's Underground, known as "the Tube," is the world's oldest subway; a look at a typical train:

Tube trains

Only run underground; more room for standing passengers

9.5 ft. tall

8.6 ft. wide

630-volt electric rails at center, side

Rails: 4.7 ft. apart

Surface / subsurface trains

Used in central city and out to suburbs, Heathrow Airport

Car: 9.7 ft. wide

12.1 ft. tall

Typical car

Tube-type train used on Piccadilly Line; built during mid-1970s

Driver sits in front

Passengers: 38 sitting, 95-133 standing

57 ft. long

Six-car train

Carries 1,026 passengers at speeds up to 62 mph

354 ft. long, weighs 291 tons loaded

Powered cars (each has four 45,000 watt electric motors) and unpowered cars

Sources: Transport for London, Reuters, Tubeprune, Kiepe Elektrik

THIS TIME, LONDON; Terrorists bring fear, death to England

COMPARING THREE ATTACKS

NEW YORK, WASHINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA: SEPT. 11, 2001

WHAT HAPPENED: The attacks were a series of coordinated attacks carried out by 19 men affiliated with Al Qaeda. They hijacked four commercial airliners and crashed one into each of the two tallest towers of the World Trade Center in New York, shortly after which both towers collapsed. The first tower was hit at 8:46 a.m. The third aircraft crashed into the the Pentagon, just outside Washington, D.C. The fourth plane crashed into a field near Shanksville, Penn.

CASUALTIES: In total, 2,986 killed; more than 6,000 injured.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE: Shortly after the attacks, the United States government declared al-Qaida and its leader Osama bin Laden the prime suspects.

MADRID: MARCH 11, 2004

WHAT HAPPENED AND WHEN: Ten bombs ripped through four commuter trains beginning at 7:37 a.m., during the morning rush hour.

CASUALTIES: 191 people killed; 1,800 injured.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE: A suspected al-Qaida leader, Youssef Belhadj, allegedly inspired the attacks. Belhadj and the 21 others jailed over the bombings face preliminary charges of terrorism or mass murder. A trial is not expected until late this year at the earliest. Judicial officials say key suspects remain at large and have the potential to strike.

LONDON: JULY 7, 2005

WHAT HAPPENED AND WHEN: The explosions hit three subway stations and a double-decker bus in rapid succession beginning at 8:51 a.m. (3:51 a.m. EDT) and ended about 40 minutes later when a blast ripped the top off a bus.

CASUALTIES: At least 38 people were killed; more than 700 wounded.

WHO'S RESPONSIBLE: A group calling itself the Secret Organization of al-Qaida in Europe posted a claim of responsibility, saying the blasts were in retaliation for Britain's involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sources: AP, Times files

This photo was taken on a cell phone minutes after a bus exploded near the British Museum. The photographer, a 38-year-old Manchester architect in London for a meeting, said he ran to help the victims, took five quick shots, then helped them again. "I still see the images in my head while speaking," he said.

Graphic

PHOTO, IVAN PEREDRUK / Gamma; PHOTO, Getty Images; PHOTO, Associated Press, (3); DRAWING, Knight Ridder Tribune; This photo, which documents the mayhem in London Thursday, was taken on a cell phone minutes after a bus exploded near the British Museum.; distraught commuter is comforted near the Euston station in London after explosions were reported on the; subway system.; A plane crashes into the World Trade Center in New York City.; Firefighters attempt to rescue victims of a commuter train bombing in Madrid.; The remains of a

THIS TIME, LONDON; Terrorists bring fear, death to England

double-decker bus that was bombed in London.; Drawings identify and; describe various "tube" trains that run in London.

Load-Date: July 8, 2005

End of Document

*Lensman;
in eye of storm*

Gold Coast Bulletin (Australia)

May 14, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FOCUS; Pg. 31

Length: 2210 words

Byline: Ryan Ellem

Body

Alan Parker saw London's darkest moments from the 1960s to 1980, all through a lens. Tip-toeing through body parts one day, staking out a siege the next, Ryan Ellem found out Parker, who now lives on the Gold Coast, savoured every morsel of adrenalin

Alan Parker and the tool of his trade

ONE Sunday morning, the Scotland Yard duty office sent Alan Parker and a minder to inner London to cover a large rally of the National Front Movement, Britain's Nazi-linked extremists.

The NFM's leader, 'Jordan', was rumoured to be taking stage to unleash a controversial tirade against the government.

Scotland Yard wanted Parker to video the event, so they might gain enough evidence to charge him with sedition.

Parker was handed an NFM pamphlet on the street, rolled it up, and stuck it in his shirt pocket to give the impression he was sympathetic to the cause.

He then continued filming the army of 130kg skinheads lumbering down the street to the meeting place like boulders .

A bouncer blocked many from entering the building, but he saw Parker and his minder with their pamphlets and camera, and, assuming they were there to film for the NFM, waved them in before locking the door.

* Continued Page 32

* From Page 31

"One of the bouncers told me to get up on this rickety old chair in order to get a better view to film things, and I didn't dismiss him one bit," said Parker.

"Jordan got up on the stage and started his big spiel. I went through three 20 minute VHS tapes.

"The crowd would cheer, and I'd turn around and film every row while they were all yelling. It was all good identification stuff.

Lensman; in eye of storm

"I tell you, Jordan went as close to sedition as you could."

Some anti-Nazi protesters were found in the throng and were pulled aside and mercilessly beaten before being thrown out.

Parker and his minder, a police officer, flicked glances at each other nervously, wondering if they would be found out.

The crowd poured back on to the street and when they got far enough from the mob, Parker's minder whispered a sentence that, although incoherently littered with profanities, expressed his surprise at how they managed to leave the meeting with their lives.

Scotland Yard is the home of the Metropolitan Police Service, which is now the largest employer in London with 30,000 police officers.

It is one of the best police forces in the world.

As a police photographer Parker was required to gather photographic evidence, whether it was from a murder, robbery, acts of terrorism, or anything else that would end up before the courts.

Protests were a regular event in London in the 1970s and 1980s. The idealistic rebelled against, firstly, a Labour Government that was troubled by crises in its former colonies of Rhodesia and South Africa and then the conservative tenure of Margaret Thatcher, who crushed the unionist movement and aimed to cut back the welfare state.

Parker would get along to at least one or two rallies a week.

At the 1976 Notting Hill Carnival Parker photographed one of the many pick-pockets at work.

According to newspaper reports, the normally peace-loving festival turned hostile when police tried to arrest one robber. A band of youths came to his aid and the situation escalated in alarming fashion.

"This 14-year-old kid come up to me and said, 'If you don't want that (expletive deleted) camera wrapped around your throat, get out of here'. He wasn't angry at me, he was just telling me it was going to get ugly.

"They went berserk that day and the police ended up storming it."

Police were reportedly attacked with stones and other missiles. More than 100 officers were hospitalised.

It was Parker's job to gather footage, or shots, of the ring-leaders in street protests.

"The ring-leaders aren't ever the ones at the front of the crowd. They hang back and normally have a few who run messages to them."

Parker finished school when he was 14.

He always had an interest in photography, but in the post World War II era, opportunities were slim.

He went off to art school, and upon graduating, went and worked in a studio. He was called up for military duty and deployed with the British Air Force in Egypt, taking aerial photographs over Iran, Iraq, Russia, Cyprus and North Africa. After his service, he returned to England as a medical photographer at Great Ormond Street Hospital, taking surgery images.

He worked at the hospital for three years before spotting an advertisement for a police photographer one day in late 1957.

Parker was only the second professionally trained photographer to be employed at Scotland Yard.

Lensman; in eye of storm

Previously, taking photos had been the job of six police officers who had learned their trade by rule of thumb, rather than by subscribing to theory.

"We had the piss taken out of us a bit at first, because we'd brought our college training into the job.

"But the standard definitely went up when we started there. The older photographers weren't very keen to adopt new techniques."

Parker thoroughly enjoyed his 35 years at Scotland Yard.

Crime photographers were assigned sections within the 1000 square mile area of London.

* Continued Page 33

* From page 32

"Sometimes you could be out all day, covering 100 miles, doing four or five jobs.

"All up, I attended more than 2000 murders, which is more than one a week."

He covered several of serial killer Dennis Nielsen's 15 murders in London, from 1978 to 1983.

The man dubbed Britain's answer to Jeffrey Dahmer used to pick up men at bars, and take them back to his apartment.

His kills were so frequent and flippant, he may have actually committed more, but reportedly forgot many of his victims.

Nielsen eventually became complacent in the disposal of his bodies, and, running out of room in the wardrobe, began flushing body parts down the toilet.

His sewerage became clogged and he was soon found out.

Hardly anything upsets Parker, but he didn't become immune to the graphic nature of the work. He believes an ability to stomach it was something his generation learned during the war.

By the time he left Scotland Yard there were more than 60 photographers on the books.

"I think it's a job you can either do, or you can't. Perhaps it's not a job ideal for girls. But we did have five girls working with us and while they started out on the smaller jobs, after a few years they were doing pretty much everything we did."

Parker surprisingly shrugs his shoulders at one of the most gruesome scenes he photographed.

A man was driving down a London back street one evening when he accidentally drove into a telegraph pole.

Officers were startled to find a torso in the boot.

Parker attended the man's house in the city's north that evening with detectives, who asked Parker to sit in the kitchen while they dug up the back yard.

"I was just sitting there, and I don't know if it was ESP or something, but I looked over at the stove and all the pots sitting there, and felt I just had to have a look.

"I picked the lid off one of the pots, and there was this man's head looking up at me.

"His eyes were like a fish's eyes after they've been dead for a while. It was in a liquid which I suppose stopped it smelling a bit.

Lensman; in eye of storm

"I then looked in the oven and there was a section of thigh from hip to knee, well cooked, sitting on an oval plate.

"I put my head out the back door and called out, 'You might want to come in and have a look at this'."

Strangely, the wayward driver was only charged with murder.

"At that time, in the 1980s, if it got out that there was cannibalism going on in the suburbs, things really would have hit the fan. "Surprisingly the case just went through the courts quickly, and hardly anything was heard about it."

Parker is commonly asked how he could manage to spend more than three decades confronting murder and mayhem, day in, day out, without the job affecting him.

He says he never lost sleep over the guts and gore, but he developed a hate for the **Irish Republican Army** - whom he credits as being responsible for 99 per cent of London's terrorist activities - and he absolutely detests pedophiles.

"The IRA, and whatever factions beneath Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness you wanted to call them, were just wicked.

"A mate of mine got killed in Oxford Street trying to detonate a bomb. It was a bit shocking to go down and photograph the guy you had been talking to only 30 minutes before. His head was blown off, but you just had to get in and do the job.

"People ask me if I'm ever put off by crime work, but I actually saw more in my photos back in the office, than I did when I was at the scene. When you're there, you just clock it and keep going.

"But you could easily kill the pedophiles with your own hands."

He could face the dead, but was sometimes shook-up by the reactions of witnesses and victims.

Rape line-ups were something he especially disliked.

"In a serious job, we would film it from several angles. "All the suspects would be lined up and the **female** witnesses would walk along and look at them one at a time. It was terrible watching the expressions on the **women** when they walked in and were overcome by all the bad memories that came flashing back to them.

"I remember we had John Duffy up there, who raped and killed four or five **women** after they left railway stations around London.

"There would be one or two **women** that would walk along and come to him and it was like they walked into a glass wall and it

had shattered.

"It's quite traumatic and when you're filming it, it most definitely affects you."

* Continued Page 34

* From Page 33

Parker and his wife left their families in England three years ago for life on the Gold Coast.

For six years before they made the move they travelled to the Coast, where Parker's brother was living, to escape the chilly English winter.

The subject of Parker's photography has changed immeasurably. He now socialises with a group of amateur photographers at Mudgeeraba and has returned to his boyhood love of bird photography.

Lensman; in eye of storm

Parker came in contact with Weekend Bulletin after it published one of his extremely rare photographs from the ill-fated Iranian Embassy siege in London in 1980.

On May 30, Parker staked out the embassy with other Scotland Yard personnel and terrorist squad members after a six-man group calling themselves the Democratic Revolutionary Front for the Liberation of Arabistan set themselves up inside with 26 hostages.

It was his photographer's job to record any faces that appeared in the windows of the Knightsbridge building for identification purposes.

Initially, the group sought autonomy for an oil-rich region in southern Iran known as Khuzestan.

As the siege developed, they also demanded the release of 91 of their comrades held in Ayatollah Khomeini's jails.

The situation deteriorated after the request for a bus to escort them to Heathrow Airport was not delivered promptly.

On the siege's sixth day, the terrorists killed the embassy's press secretary and threw his body out the front door.

The Special Air Service (SAS) troops that had been put on alert by British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the opening hours of the siege were sent in. They entered the rear of an adjacent building and positioned themselves on the roof of the embassy.

Parker was in an apartment next to the embassy when the sting happened. "I heard this call 'housebreaker one' come over the (police) radio, and thought, 'what the hell's going on?' I looked up and on the roof were these men looking like martian invaders and I thought, 'they must be sending in the SAS'.

"They hooked up all their abseiling ropes on the roof that they were going to descend from.

"Three of them went down, but one of them, a guy they called the Fijian, got caught up. "The other two went in, threw stun

grenades through the window, and opened fire."

The grenades started a fire and the flames were licking out from the window, burning the Fijian.

"He was just yelling out, 'cut the rope, cut the bloody rope'."

Five of the six terrorists were shot dead. Nineteen of the 26 original hostages survived.

When the commotion died down, Parker went back to the office.

Unusually, about 20 photographers were still hanging around after hours, wanting to see what Parker had on film.

"They'd all been watching the action on TV and wanted to see my photos. They turned out to be good action shots.

"We went to a variety of jobs and you treated each one with the same amount of effort, but terrorist photos were the top of the tree."

Parker had taken the best photos of the drama unfolding, but the photos never saw the light of day until many years later, when they had been given to the SAS and then leaked to a publisher.

If Parker had been a newspaper photographer, he would have received accolades worldwide - and Scotland Yard knew it.

"There was a bit happening (in the office) that evening and the Deputy Commissioner suddenly appeared.

Lensman; in eye of storm

"He said, 'They're pretty good photos you got there. You could possibly be one of the most famous and richest photographers in London right now, but you won't be either - these are going nowhere, except to the Terrorist Squad'."

'I looked up, and on the roof were these men looking like martian invaders, and I thought, they must be sending in the SAS'

'They went berserk that day, and the police ended up storming it'

'I think it's a job you can either do, or you can't. Perhaps it's not a job ideal for girls'

Load-Date: May 15, 2005

End of Document

Sinn Fein fails to clear murky waters surrounding McCartney killing

The Irish Times

July 4, 2005

Copyright 2005 The Irish Times

Section: Features; Pg. 13

Length: 2528 words

Body

Agenda: Constructive ambiguity has served Sinn Fein and the IRA well in the peace process. Now, as the British and Irish governments seek an unambiguous end to all IRA activity, the republican movement continues to face both ways on a key matter that will not go away - the killing of Robert McCartney. Peter Murtagh reports from Belfast

The reaction of Sinn Fein and the IRA to the killing of Robert McCartney fell into three broad categories.

First there was the cover-up and intimidation. This was orchestrated by Gerard Davison, a senior figure in the so-called Belfast Brigade of the ***Irish Republican Army***, the military wing of Sinn Fein, who is well known to Gerry Adams and other senior members of the Sinn Fein leadership.

20050704110648

Davison, who is known to his associates as "Jock", and who has a record as an IRA member, was involved in the fight in Magennis's bar that preceded the assault outside the pub in which Mr McCartney died. At one stage during the melee, Davison is reputed to have glanced at some of his IRA associates and to have drawn his finger across his throat, a signal as to what he wanted done to Mr McCartney and his friend Brendan Devine.

In the immediate aftermath of the fight and killing, two car-loads of IRA people came to the bar. They, together with members of Sinn Fein, were directed by Davison in cleaning the bar to remove any forensic evidence that might have been useful to the police.

They were mainly, but not entirely, successful.

Over succeeding days, several people who witnessed events inside and outside the pub were visited by IRA members, some of whose identities are known to The Irish Times, and told to shut up. Nonetheless, the McCartney sisters and Mr McCartney's partner Bridgeen Hagans maintained public pressure on republicans and continue to do so.

On February 25th, the IRA issued a statement in which it said that it and the "Belfast Command" had "court-martialled" and dismissed three "volunteers, two of whom were high-ranking volunteers".

Davison was one of the high-ranking "volunteers" but his dismissal did not, apparently, make him persona non grata with all republicans. A few days after his "expulsion" Davison outed himself in an interview with Daily Ireland, the Belfast newspaper strongly supportive of Sinn Fein.

Sinn Fein fails to clear murky waters surrounding McCartney killing

In an interview which even Daily Ireland described as self-serving, Davison admitted he was in the bar but denied any involvement in the attacks on Mr McCartney. (Other sources say that Davison smashed a bottle over Brendan Devine's head, during which he cut his own hand - an injury transmogrified by Davison into a knife attack on him which caused him to leave the bar for hospital treatment before Mr McCartney's death.)

After his "expulsion" Davison was seen in the Short Strand getting high-profile public support from Bobby Storey, a close associate of Adams. Storey pointedly walked the area side-by-side with Davison.

Storey is a long time-member of the IRA and was named this year in both the House of Commons and the European Parliament as the brains behind the Northern Bank raid. He is a member of the IRA's so-called General Headquarters Staff and was characterised as having overall responsibility within the IRA for intelligence matters.

Despite his alleged expulsion from the IRA, Davison also remained evidently acceptable to Sinn Fein candidates in the May Westminster and local elections: he was seen canvassing on behalf of several of them.

Davison, who has no job or visible means of support, but is reputed to own property in central Belfast and the Co Down seaside village of Killough, is now believed locally to be in the United States.

The second response to Mr McCartney's death was to go on the offensive by attacking the police.

The incident in Magennis's happened on Sunday, January 30th, and Mr McCartney died in hospital early on Monday the 31st. Magennis's is in central Belfast, very close to the Royal Courts of Justice, about half-way between two inner city republican strongholds, the Markets and the Short Strand.

The two communities are close in that some people living in one previously lived in the other. There is a degree of inter-marrying between people from the two areas.

So following the dramatic and bloody death of Mr McCartney, it was not long before there was widespread knowledge that republicans were involved, either directly as participants or indirectly as witnesses.

On January 31st, however, Alex Maskey, the Sinn Fein councillor for Laganbank, blamed Belfast's knife culture for what had happened and went on to attack the police. "This case is a tragedy, particularly for the dead man's family and friends," said Mr Maskey, who is also a Sinn Fein Northern Ireland Assembly member and former Lord Mayor of Belfast. "Local people are shocked and saddened at this incident."

And then he had a go at the Police Service of Northern Ireland who went to the Markets area seeking evidence but were forced to withdraw after being attacked by stone-throwing youths (who some local sources suggest were put up to it by republican activists).

"It appears," said Mr Maskey, "the PSNI is using last night's stabbing incident as an excuse to disrupt life within this community and the scale and approach of their operation is unacceptable."

Any suggestion that local leading Sinn Fein members did not know that some of their closest local party colleagues were in Magennis's bar seems improbable.

One of the men most deeply implicated in the whole affair was, until recently, a senior party officer in a Sinn Fein branch in Maskey's political back yard. That person cannot be named here for legal reasons. Another Sinn Fein member in the bar, Deirdre Hargey, was designated as Maskey's running mate in the then pending local elections. In the furore that followed, Hargey was removed from the Sinn Fein ticket.

Yet another Sinn Fein member in the bar was Sean Hayes, a former Belfast City councillor and Assembly election candidate. Mr Hayes also "outed" himself in Daily Ireland.

"I was in the bar the night Robert McCartney died," said Mr Hayes. "After the whole incident was over, the PSNI came in and took everyone's names. They didn't ask anyone to leave the bar or attempt to turn it into a scene of a crime."

Sinn Fein fails to clear murky waters surrounding McCartney killing

This was maybe because it did not look like a crime scene given the Sinn Fein/IRA clean-up to remove broken glass, blood, fingerprints and anything else that might have aided the police catch the culprits.

But the third, and most sustained, form of reaction since a February 14th statement by Gerry Adams has been to empathise publicly with the McCartney family's quest for the truth and urge anyone with information to come forward, or as Gerry Adams has put it "provide full and frank statements".

But what evidence is there to support Sinn Fein's contention that the party is sincere in wishing to support the McCartney family - which must, inevitably, mean supporting the processing of some of its members, and members of the IRA, through the courts of Northern Ireland?

Both Sinn Fein and the IRA say they have taken action against members who have not done as required - ie "provide full and frank statements" to the police via the office of the Police Ombudsman. Sinn Fein claims to have suspended a number of members while the IRA has said it dismissed three "volunteers" and, later, told the McCartney family it was willing to "shoot the people directly involved in the killing of Robert McCartney".

On the basis of available evidence, that would not have included Jock Davison.

On February 24th, the McCartney family gave Gerry Adams the names of several Sinn Fein people they said were in the bar. The precise number of names given at that time is difficult to determine: the family say it was six, to which they say Adams added one more making seven - all of whom he said were "suspended" from the party.

In a statement on March 3rd, Adams said "seven of those named implying named by the family are members of Sinn Fein". (Since then, the family has created a list of 20 SinnFein members they say they believe were in the bar.)

Adams' March 3rd statement continued: "Those named by the family are suspended from membership and from any involvement in Sinn Fein activity pending the outcome of the legal process . . . All of these people have been personally instructed to provide full and frank statements".

By April 24th, however, Adams had a different number of suspensions.

In a statement stating that "Sinn Fein is continuing to do all that we can to help the McCartney family", Adams noted how he had "called on everyone who was in the vicinity of Magennis's bar to provide full and frank statements", and he added the following:

"Because Sinn Fein takes this matter so seriously, we suspended the 11 members of the party who were in the bar that night and the one who later arrived on the scene."

In a statement to The Irish Times in response to a number of detailed questions, Sinn Fein said that of the 12 suspended, "four resigned and two were expelled" for refusing to adhere to Adams's instruction. And the statement then added: "None of these individuals were among the seven party members whose names were given to us by the McCartney family last February."

Thus, on March 3rd, Gerry Adams says that seven people named by the family were suspended; family members say they named six people. By April 24th, Adams put the number of suspensions at 12.

In its statement to The Irish Times, Sinn Fein says that none of the 12 came to the attention of the party via the McCartney family. All of which raises the question, what happened to the people named to Sinn Fein by the McCartneys?

Unlike other political parties disciplining errant members, Sinn Fein refuses to name the people it says it suspended, or those reinstated or anyone else who remains suspended, resigned or expelled. They claim this is because legal proceedings are pending.

Sinn Fein fails to clear murky waters surrounding McCartney killing

"We do not intend to name any individuals publicly nor will we do anything that would jeopardise legal proceedings," said Sinn Fein's statement to The Irish Times, adding: "Our lawyers have advised us not to release the names of any of these names publicly."

Two of those suspended have in any event identified themselves - the former councillor Sean Hayes and Alex Maskey's dumped running mate, Deirdre Hargey.

Asked by The Irish Times why, in reinstating five members, Adams had not adhered to his commitment of March 3rd that people suspended would remain suspended "pending the outcome of legal proceedings", Sinn Fein did not respond.

As to the substantive matter of "full and frank statements" to the Ombudsman, the picture seems to be other than the party is projecting.

According to sources outside Sinn Fein, 12, possibly 13, statements have been given to investigators attached to the Police Ombudsman's office by the solicitor acting for Sinn Fein. However, they are not much use to the police investigation.

Several are not signed and, most tellingly, the statements are so limited in content that they are of little evidential value. In several instances, they contain little more than confirmation that the maker of the "statement" was in the pub but saw nothing. The explanations offered vary but include assertions that the maker was in the toilet or was at the bar, or was looking the other way and hence saw nothing.

Such assertions lack credibility. The picture of what happened inside the pub, from second-hand accounts to The Irish Times and other media, including RTE's Prime Time recent re-enactment, is one of a space crowded with people in which extreme violence occurred, involving breaking glass, blood and overturned furniture. Ombudsman and PSNI investigators find it difficult to accept that "statements" offered to date tell anything like the full story that the person making them could tell were they really co-operating fully.

To date, only one person, a ***female*** member of Sinn Fein, has submitted to a follow-up interview with the Ombudsman's office. This was held in March at the request of the PSNI. What happened is perhaps instructive to the level of co-operation, or lack of, that has followed.

The woman, whose identity is known to The Irish Times, was questioned in great detail. The questions sought to establish and verify facts such as who was in the bar and the sequence of events prior to Mr McCartney, Mr Devine and a third men with them, Ed Gowdy, leaving the pub.

The list of questions provided by the PSNI was very lengthy and probed what precisely was going on in the bar, who was standing or sitting where, and sought to establish a verifiable sequence of events leading to Mr McCartney's death in an adjacent alleyway, Market Street

But following this probing interview, the shutters came down. Suddenly, the Ombudsman's office found that other members of Sinn Fein did not want to come forward. It seems that either the people who made initial vague statements had no intention of co-operating further. Or, when the depth and extent of follow-up questioning became apparent, they reverted to their original position, which was, in effect, not to co-operate fully while seeming to do the opposite.

"The party president Gerry Adams has repeatedly called on everyone with information to make it available," says Sinn Fein's statement to The Irish Times. "We have worked hard on the ground to create the climate in which this can happen."

The McCartney campaign for truth has been articulated mainly by two sisters, Catherine and Paula. Paula McCartney sits in the living-room of her modest Short Strand home on a hot, sunny afternoon; Catherine is beside her, and her other sister, Claire, is there too.

Sinn Fein fails to clear murky waters surrounding McCartney killing

Noisy, dusty traffic moves up and down the Albert Bridge Road outside. Children scamper in and out of the room. The three sisters say they cannot understand why Sinn Fein has reinstated suspended members.

"From their point of view", says Paula, "there's no media spotlight now and two people have been charged. So why did they lift the suspensions on the five?"

They have asked to meet the Sinn Fein leadership (Adams and another high-ranking party member Gerry Kelly have met the sisters a number of times) to discuss the reinstatements.

"We want clarity on the suspensions and we want answers to the 18 questions we gave them by email in April and by hand on May 1st," says Catherine.

She says also they were told there would be an internal Sinn Fein investigation and that the results would be made public.

In its statement to The Irish Times Sinn Fein said a meeting with the family would be arranged to discuss the reinstatements. As regards the 18 questions, they were answered on April 24th, said the party, and also made public.

Two men with strong links to the republican movement have been charged in connection with Mr McCartney's death. Terry Davison and Jim McCormack are being held on remand in Maghaberry Prison. According to Gerry Adams, true republicans acting in the name of their creed cannot, by definition, be criminal. Sinn Fein now categorises the killing of Mr McCartney as a crime.

Terry Davison and Jim McCormack are being held in a wing of the prison reserved for republicans. That, says Sinn Fein, is nothing to do with them.

Load-Date: July 7, 2005

How seven brave women stood up against the IRA's men of violence

Sunday Mail (Queensland, Australia)

March 6, 2005 Sunday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: FEATURES; Pg. 52

Length: 2481 words

Byline: Ruth Dudley Edwards

Body

WHEN the IRA is defeated and the story of that defeat comes to be written, seven brave women from a Belfast ghetto should be given a starring role.

Catherine, Claire, Donna, Gemma and Paula McCartney, their Aunt Margaret and their brother Robert's fiancée Bridgeen, the mother of his two small sons, are the heroines who broke Republican ranks. And they did so by telling the world the truth about the murderous thugs whose reign of terror over their community came to a climax with the butchering last month of 33-year-old Robert McCartney.

Driven by a grief so acute they're careless what happens to them, these women have ripped aside officialdom's curtain and shown the barbarity British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his Irish counterpart Bertie Ahern -- and so many others -- have shamefully tolerated in the name of peace.

And despite the best efforts of Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams, these women refuse to shut up. For the first time, the IRA army council is faced with the reality of People Power -- and it is buckling.

Like most people in the 3000-strong, tight-knit community in Belfast's Short Strand, Robert McCartney voted Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, for until recently the perception was that the *Irish Republican Army* was the defender against Loyalist paramilitaries and British security forces.

Yet McCartney, like many of his neighbours, was also concerned at the behaviour of some of those who claimed to be their protectors. There were stories of the dreadful sadism of some IRA top men who knew they were beyond any law.

In the Short Strand and ghettos like it, you do what you are told by the paramilitary thugocracy: complain, and you're denounced as a pro-British enemy of the people, and beaten, shot, exiled or -- if you're lucky -- just ostracised.

Bert McCartney did not frighten easily, but he ended up dead and his friend dreadfully injured nonetheless. Normally, the ghastly murder would have been written off as a pub brawl, but this time the IRA had to reckon with the women.

On radio and television they denounced the killers as psychopaths, demanded the IRA remove its threat to witnesses and insisted that Republicans give evidence to the police. Sick of thuggery and inspired by the women's courage, their community rallied to them in public protests.

How seven brave women stood up against the IRA's men of violence

The timing was good. Adams and his colleagues were already under severe pressure because it had been universally agreed that the IRA was responsible for the \$A60 million bank robbery in Belfast and awkward questions were being asked about why they refused to renounce criminality.

Yet it was the testimony of the McCartney women that really turned people's stomachs. In that climate, Irish Minister for Justice Michael McDowell -- a rare sceptic about the bona fides of Sinn Fein/IRA, who was usually instructed to ignore Republican misdeeds for the sake of keeping the peace process going -- was able to initiate a massive series of police raids in many parts of Ireland. Raids that revealed not just that Republicans were robbing, racketeering and laundering stolen money, but that they were running a global criminal empire worth hundreds of millions of dollars, whose main objective was to subvert the Irish Republic.

Part of their riches was being spent on spying on democratic politicians and infiltrating business, the law, the financial services and much else. Adams, Martin McGuinness and other leaders of the Sinn Fein/IRA criminal conspiracy became more ratty by the day as their empire began to unravel.

And though they continued to deny having had anything to do with the bank robbery, they were reeling from the demands of the McCartney family. In desperation, for by now the McCartney family was attracting global media attention, the IRA announced that it had sacked three of its members.

The women's response was to lead a public rally at which they demanded that all witness intimidation cease and all the attackers be brought to justice. One of the placards at the rally read: "Evil will triumph if good people do nothing", the motto of those families who are taking a civil case against the Real IRA faction and five individuals who were accused of the murder of their loved ones at Omagh in 1998.

Relentless pressure from the Omagh families led to the virtual destruction of the Real IRA, and now the IRA itself is under threat from the McCartneys.

The Irish peace process turned into an appeasement process in 1998 when the British and Irish governments decided to let terrorists out of prison without any concessions from their paramilitary organisations. From then onwards it was clear that Tony Blair and his government would turn a blind eye to paramilitary violence and criminality as long as there were no attacks on British targets, and Ahern would do likewise as long as he could pretend the paramilitaries were staying north of the border.

The disgraceful result was that Loyalist and Republican hoods were allowed so much freedom of action to build up their criminal empires and terrorise their communities that they came to believe they could get away with anything. Ahern chose to ignore the evidence that the IRA was moving into the Republic and infiltrating the establishment. The IRA army council's Brian Keenan -- who masterminded mainland bombing campaigns -- was a house guest of one of Ahern's closest associates, Phil Flynn, chairman of the Irish arm of the Bank of Scotland. It is inconceivable that Ahern did not know this, yet he did nothing.

BUT where the leadership has failed, the people have acted. Though loyalists have only been regarded as thugs and murderers, the IRA is now viewed in a similar vein and no longer as guerillas or freedom fighters: political ideals have given way to arrogance, violence and greed.

Adams and McGuinness -- spouting peace -- preside over what is now known in Ireland as the Rafia. And now, at last, the whole wicked IRA enterprise has been exposed by seven brave women for what it truly is -- and is under threat from the very people whom it used to claim to protect.

Before Robert McCartney bumped into his old friend Brendan Devine on the afternoon of Sunday, January 30, his only plans for the day were to attend the birthday party of a friend later in the evening. But instead, the affable father-of-two arranged to meet Brendan for a drink before the party -- a decision which was to cost him his life.

It was at 9.45pm that Robert, 33, and Brendan, 31, walked into Magennis's Bar near Belfast's High Court, a pub popular with lawyers during the week, but mostly used by men from the Nationalist markets area of the city at weekends.

How seven brave women stood up against the IRA's men of violence

Robert, born and bred in the Catholic Short Strand area, would have known virtually every person in the pub when he walked in -- including up to 20 IRA men who had just returned from the Bloody Sunday commemoration in Derry.

In turn, the pub regulars knew Robert as a law-abiding citizen who was devoted to his two children, Coneald, 4, and Brandon, 2, and who was looking forward to his wedding later this year to his partner Bridgeen O'Hagans.

He worked as a fork-lift truck driver at an animal feed company and sometimes worked part-time as a doorman to save for the wedding. Although he was a Sinn Fein voter, he had no paramilitary connections.

What Robert may not have known was that there was bad blood going back several years between Brendan, who ran a cafe in north Belfast, and some of the IRA men drinking at the bar.

Exactly what preceded the brutal attack on the two men is fiercely contested -- Robert's family insist the IRA men turned on Brendan because of the grudge they held against him, while the IRA Provos have claimed that Robert or Brendan made a crude sexual gesture at some women in the bar -- an allegation dismissed by Robert's family as a cynical smear.

One report suggested that Brendan had offered to buy the woman and her friends a drink to apologise, to which the most senior IRA man replied: "Do you know who I am?"

The row breaks out. Robert tries to calm the Provos down, but to no avail. Several of the IRA men go into the bar's kitchen, and emerge with knives.

The most senior of the IRA men, understood to be the "officer commanding" of the local IRA "Belfast Brigade", looks to his lieutenant and draws his index finger across his throat.

His right-hand man, said to have a history of extreme violence, wastes no time in grabbing Brendan from behind, smashing a bottle over his head and slitting his throat. Brendan manages to twist his body and the knife misses his vital veins and arteries. Seventy-two people in the pub witness the attack.

Robert tries to get his friend outside to safety, but the two men are followed out of the pub and into May St by the IRA men. Brendan urges his friend to run, but Robert will not leave him. The IRA gang, carrying metal bars and at least one gun, chase the two men around the corner into Cromac St and beat them to the ground.

'The gang is not finished. One after another they jump with both feet on Robert's head, causing him to lose an eye'

One of them plunges a knife into Robert's chest, severing an artery to his heart. Brendan is attacked again with a knife, and his torso is cut in a line from his breast to his navel.

Still the gang is not finished. One after another they jump with both feet on Robert's head, causing him to lose an eye. Police believe some of the younger IRA members were being "blooded" in their first murder. In previous killings by paramilitary gangs, each man present has been made to take an active part in the killing in order to ensure their loyalty.

The gang members leave their victims for dead and go back into the bar to begin a cold-blooded clean-up operation.

The doors are locked and all 72 witnesses, many of whom had known Robert since childhood, are ordered to do nothing - not to ring for an ambulance, not to talk to anyone about what they had seen and, of course, never to talk to the police about it. They hardly need to be told what the consequences will be if they do. One man tells them: "Nobody saw anything. This is IRA business."

The gang find the bar's internal and external security-TV equipment and destroy it, together with any recordings of the murder, then search the surrounding streets for security cameras and destroy them as well.

How seven brave women stood up against the IRA's men of violence

They then wash and wipe down the floor and every surface of the bar that they might have touched and clean the footpath to wash away their bloody footprints.

The IRA members leave the bar and return to their homes to destroy their blood-soaked clothes and shoes. Meanwhile, Robert and Brendan lie bleeding on the pavement, both still alive.

Police in a patrol car spot the men lying 20 metres from the pub and call for ambulances. Other officers are called to the scene and evacuate the pub, taking the names of witnesses and sealing off the crime scene.

Robert dies in hospital, his sisters by his side as he succumbs to his injuries.

His mother Catherine, on holiday in Spain, is told of his death by phone. Amazingly, Brendan survives.

Friends of the family who were in the pub contact the McCartneys to offer their sympathies. Most claim to have been in the toilet at the crucial moment, leading to it being christened "The Tardis" by cynical observers after Doctor Who's time machine.

As the police began their investigation on January 31, it seemed that the well-practised IRA machinery of intimidating and terrorising the public into holding their tongues would once again thwart the inquiry.

Later that day, as the police conducted searches of suspects' homes, they were attacked by stone-throwing youths, who had been ordered by the IRA to cause disruption; and Alex Maskey, former Sinn Fein Mayor of Belfast, launched into a familiar accusation of police heavy-handedness in the way the searches were carried out.

But on February 4, Northern Ireland witnessed something which had not been seen since the start of the troubles: an open and public show of revulsion at the IRA by the very Republican sympathisers who had always previously protected them.

Robert McCartney's five sisters organised a candlelit street vigil to show their defiance, and 600 of their Nationalist neighbours turned out to support them.

In the past, anyone failing to abide by the unwritten code of silence could have expected a ruthless punishment in return.

This time, however, it became clear that the McCartney sisters had tapped into what was already a growing sense of disgust among long-time Republican supporters at the thuggish activities of the IRA since it supposedly laid down its weapons.

Until then, Republican sympathisers had refused to speak out against punishment beatings, robberies (including the Northern Bank raid) and even sex attacks, but by taking their campaign on to the streets, the sisters gave thousands of others the courage to stand up and say: "Enough is enough".

Anti-IRA graffiti began to appear on walls in the republican strongholds, such as "Provisional IRA scum out", and local shopkeepers put up Police Service of Northern Ireland posters appealing for information -- another significant act of defiance. Sinn Fein and the IRA were clearly rattled, fearing that their support in traditional strongholds was about to melt away.

Robert's funeral on February 8 was attended by more than 1000 mourners -- equivalent to one third of the Catholic population of Short Strand, who are separated by a 3m-high "peace wall" from the 60,000 Protestants who surround them.

Emboldened by local support, Robert's sister Paula openly accused the IRA of shielding her brother's killers and intimidating witnesses. As a result, Sinn Fein's policing spokesman, Gerry Kelly, met the McCartneys, and Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams called on people with information to pass it on to a solicitor.

Adams, however, misjudged the mood by calling Robert's death "murder or manslaughter".

How seven brave women stood up against the IRA's men of violence

He was accused of trying to downplay the seriousness of the crime, further angering his traditional supporters.

Even an IRA statement that "no one should hinder or impede the McCartney family in their search for truth and justice" failed to quell the mood of the people.

So on February 25, following a private meeting between the McCartneys and Gerry Adams, the IRA took the unprecedented step of announcing it had expelled three members, two of them in high-ranking positions, over their alleged involvement in the murder.

The McCartneys politely welcomed the IRA expulsions, but made it clear that they would not rest until everyone responsible had been brought to justice in a court of law. Their request that people cooperate with the police has started to yield limited results -- ten suspects are now being questioned by police but so far have stayed silent under police interrogation.

"This man did not deserve to die," a police spokesman said.

"He was exactly what he seems -- a law-abiding family man, yet he was butchered."

Load-Date: March 5, 2005

The week

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

February 26, 2005 Saturday

First Edition

Copyright 2005 John Fairfax Publications Pty Ltd All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS AND FEATURES; News Review; Pg. 42

Length: 2722 words

Byline: Edited by Ben Cubby

Body

EDITORIALS

Herald Tribune

Choice for Iraq

On Tuesday, the bloc of Shiite parties that won the most seats in Iraq's election chose Ibrahim al-Jaafari, the leader of one of the two main Shiite Islamic parties, as its candidate for prime minister. That now makes him the leading contender. But his support base remains dangerously narrow, extending not much further than the 140 national assembly seats, out of 275, held by the Shiite bloc. Others remain in the race, including Iyad Allawi, the interim prime minister since June. On paper, neither man looks like an ideal choice to lead Iraq through the troubled times ahead. Perhaps a better alternative will surface. Paris, February 24.

The Korea Times

Kim Jong-il's wordplay

The North Korean leader, Kim Jong-il, may well be the wildest head of state in the world. His playing with the six-party dialogue shows astuteness in using the geopolitical situation of the peninsula to the best interests of his communist regime. He knows when to keep low and when to spring forth in his gambling with the multilateral nuclear negotiations. Kim again demonstrated his expertise in stringing the international community along when he told the Chinese special envoy, Wang Jiarui, on Monday that the North would return to the negotiating table when "conditions are met". As analysed by Seoul and Washington, there is virtually no change in the North's position. Seoul, February 23.

Daily News

Tsunami rebuilding endorsed

A recent UN Environment Program report outlining guidelines for post-tsunami reconstruction in coastal areas could be regarded as a strong vindication of the environmental safeguards the Government of Sri Lanka intends taking in tackling the crisis. Two of these are the 100- and 200-metre buffer zones for the southern and north-east coasts.

The week

Countries hit by the tidal waves should erect "natural buffer zones" along their coasts, the UNEP report is quoted as saying. Colombo, February 24

Los Angeles Times

Beyond Putin's soul

Hopefully President Bush has improved his soul-reading skills. During his first year as president he proclaimed that he'd acquired a sense of Vladimir Putin's soul and found him to be trustworthy. When Bush looks into Putin's eyes today during their meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia, he should try to divine whether Putin is now capable of putting Russia back on the path towards greater freedom and becoming a mature democracy. Los Angeles, February 24

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT ... HUNTER S. THOMPSON

"We were somewhere around Barstow on the edge of the desert when the drugs began to take hold." So begins *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, the classic novel by Hunter S. Thompson, whose suicide this week prompted a raft of colourful obituaries on one of the 20th century's most original writers.

Commentators, perhaps understandably, focused on the many baroque aspects of Thompson's life. His obsession with drugs and guns was widely aired, along with the fact that his home was guarded by alert peacocks. Readers learned that he first met George Bush when the future president was asleep in the bath of a Texas Hotel.

Some worried that the imagery drowned out the quality of his writing. "People weren't attracted to his writing because it honoured the bizarre," Ralph de la Cruz said in Florida's *Sun-Sentinel*. "But rather, because it exposed the absurd. It confronted hypocrisy and expressed our outrage at the double standards that were all around us."

Thompson wrote several books including *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*, *Fear and Loathing: On the Campaign Trail '72* and *Hell's Angels*. He pioneered "Gonzo" journalism - a frenzied, stream-of-consciousness style that made the writer's impressions the main focus of the story.

"There is no everyman, no sane anchor to hold onto, just ever-burgeoning madness, bulging out of the prose and out of Ralph Steadman's superbly grotesque illustrations," wrote Jon Ronson in *The Guardian*.

Yet commentators focused on Thompson as a symbol of a different time. He was cast as an icon of the decadent past.

He had become a parody, wrote Michael Slackman in *The New York Times*. "MrThompson found that the image he built during his adult life, that of the heavy-drinking, drug-using, gun-toting, sharp-tongued social critic with aviator glasses and a cigarette between his lips, had become a cartoon character - literally. Uncle Duke, a character in *Doonesbury*, the Garry Trudeau comic strip, was modelled after MrThompson, and the real MrThompson wasn't too thrilled."

In *Radar*, the youth-focused section of the *Herald*, the columnist Jack Marx kindled chatroom debate with a deflating spin on the myth: "I've never really understood the attraction of 'Gonzo' journalism - there's really only so much you can write about a little purple guy with a big beak ... I'd be more enthused - though only marginally - by a style of journalism that encompassed the careers of not just one but all of the Muppets, providing a balanced overview of the lives and times of Kermit, Sam The Eagle, Pepe The King Prawn - the whole damn crowd."

Thompson, as *The Boston Phoenix* pointed out, "viewed himself with the same jaundiced eye he cast on small-town sheriffs and national political candidates", so Marx's critique was probably one of the few he would have been glad to read.

Ben Cubby

TONY ABBOTT: ADOPTION

The week

David Wroe

The Age, February 22

Tony Abbott, pictured, has pleaded that the son he gave up for adoption 27 years ago not be used as a "political football" in the abortion debate. The Health Minister was recently reunited with his son, Daniel O'Connor, who, in an amazing coincidence, was working in the Parliament House press gallery as an ABC sound recordist. Mr Abbott, a strict Catholic, started a debate about abortion last year, describing the number of abortions as a "national tragedy". Yesterday he insisted he would not use his personal experience as part of a campaign.

Anne Summers

The Sydney Morning Herald,

February 25

Has Tony Abbott's media manipulation of the story of his reunion with the son he gave up for adoption 27 years ago irrevocably altered the terms of the debate on abortion? Judging by the comments I have been hearing all week, a lot of people think so. And many of them are angry and dispirited by what they see as the cynical exploitation for political gain of matters that ought best to have remained private.

Janet Albrechtsen

The Australian, February 23

Emotional reunions make for uplifting stories. And so this week is abuzz with news of how Tony Abbott met his son, Daniel O'Connor, given up for adoption 27 years ago. But part of this happy story is the untold part. Not the successful reunion but the successful adoption. In the media rush to report this poignant story about two relinquishing parents meeting their adopted child two other people deserve mention. For they are what makes adoption a success. Standing in the shadows, they are the adoptive parents.

Tory Maguire

The Courier-Mail, February 23

It was a little joke that broke the ice in an otherwise nervous first meeting between the biological and adoptive fathers ... "Look Tony," said Mr O'Connor's adoptive father on meeting Tony Abbott, "I just need to tell you this from the outset, that any good characteristics you find in Daniel are a result of his upbringing and any not-so-good ones are totally genetic." The adoptive parents ... spoke for the first time last night about the emotion of helping their son find his natural parents and the surprising results of that search.

SINN FEIN: ROBBERY

Report

The Irish Times, February 24

British politicians, senior police officers and others seen as possible targets of the Provisional IRA are being warned to increase their personal security, the British Government has confirmed. The warnings of potential IRA attack were issued after the threat level in Britain was reassessed and upgraded in the wake of the security and political "turbulence", a British Government spokesman told The Irish Times. The risk level was raised following the Northern Bank robbery, the murder of Robert McCartney and the alleged involvement of the IRA in multimillion-pound money laundering. The spokesman stressed, however, that he was not intimating the IRA was planning to break its ceasefire.

Report

The week

The Independent, February 24

The good news from Belfast is that no full-scale return to conflict is expected; the bad news is that, in most other ways, the Northern Ireland peace process is in bits. Weeks of turmoil and sensational developments and disclosures have rendered what was regarded as a basically sound process, often fraught but generally resilient, into something dangerously close to a quivering wreck. The years of progress in which the prevailing culture of Belfast politics mutated, step by laborious step, from confrontation to negotiation have come to a sudden, shuddering halt. A robbery and a killing have cast the process in a new light. This was not in the script: the process was supposed to be about coaxing the IRA and Sinn Fein into conventional politics, not about them corrupting the system.

Opinion

Irish Examiner, February 24

In a succession of hammer blows, the invisible links between Sinn Fein and the IRA have been exposed for all to see. Despite their repeated denials, the leaders of Sinn Fein are alleged to have been involved in the EUR36 million Northern Bank robbery. It is now known Sinn Fein activists were involved in a professional money laundering operation in the republic, the scale of which is still being uncovered.

Report

Los Angeles Times, February 23

Britain will impose financial penalties worth hundreds of thousands of dollars on Sinn Fein, the **Irish Republican Army**-linked party, for the IRA's alleged robbery of a Belfast bank and other crimes in Northern Ireland, the Government said. The Northern Ireland Secretary, Paul Murphy, said Sinn Fein's four elected members of the House of Commons would lose their right to claim expenses, a benefit worth more than US\$750,000 annually.

QUOTES

Fifteen minutes of fame and I wasn't even there.

Daniel O'Connor, in England, reflects on the fuss made about his parentage.

A lot of people think: if I'm a Manly resident and I pay my rates, I should come before a Warringah resident in the queue.

Manly councillor Mark Norek requests that locals be given priority in the area's overloaded child-care centre waiting lists.

I know there are groups at the top of the charts that are hailed as the saviours of rock'n'roll and all that, but they are amateurs. They don't know where the music comes from. I wouldn't even think about playing music if I was born in these times.

Bob Dylan on today's musicians.

My 40s didn't bother me, except they were rubbish to live through. So when I got to 50 I just thought, "Hold on, I'm thin, I've got my hair. I'm well off. I survived." So I embraced being 50 and gave a huge party .

Bob Geldof on the march of time.

They're desperately trying to build this woman up as the new Di. Every cough, fart and splutter.

Peter Carrette, who runs a Sydney photographic agency that will cover the royal visit, on the media view of Princess Mary of Denmark.

The week

Yes, we're married. I mean, come on, everyone knows. It's not a secret.

Jennifer Lopez admits for the first time that she is married to Marc Anthony.

I don't want to feel good, I want to do good. Our primary focus is not making other Australians feel better, it's about making things better.

The Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Amanda Vanstone, defends the Government's decision to abolish ATSIC.

I've done nothing to be ashamed of. I'll donate money to whoever I want to.

Brenton Pavier, the Mayor of Wyong Shire, rejecting allegations of favouritism and rorting over his \$15,000 donation to the Liberal Party.

THE NATION

QUEENSLAND

When the going gets violent

A spate of violence in Brisbane's CBD was due to irresponsible behaviour by nightclubs and hotels, binge drinking and a lack of public transport, the state's top policeman said. Commissioner Bob Atkinson said he welcomed public debate about the issue but added that a zero-tolerance policy was not the answer.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Aborigines sick of blame

Port Augusta's indigenous community will send a delegation to meet the State Government to discuss heightened racial tension in the city. Controversy has surrounded recent police operations targeting minor offenders and plans to send troublemakers back to traditional lands in the state's north-west. A delegation spokesman, Malcolm McKenzie, said Aboriginal people were sick of getting blamed for all crime in Port Augusta.

ACT

A relic mystery

Police are investigating whether the theft of ancient Roman artefacts from the Australian National University last year was the work of black-market collectors or of someone who wanted to return them to their homeland. But they have not ruled out a student prank. The theft of a bronze portrait head, a vase and ancient gold jewellery, pictured, was discovered when cleaners spotted signs of a break-in.

VICTORIA

Buy your degrees here

The number of Victorians paying for university degrees has soared. More than half the students starting law at Melbourne University this year will pay full fees. There has been a 38 per cent jump in local students paying full fees. They will fill 48 per cent of first-year places in optometry and 37 per cent in dentistry this year.

NSW

Disease marched out

Health authorities are cautiously optimistic that Wollongong's legionnaire's disease crisis is coming to an end. Ten people have been confirmed as having the disease, following exposure to three air-conditioning towers in central Wollongong, but no new cases have been reported this week. All suspect buildings have been cleaned.

The week

NORTHERN TERRITORY

An unofficial car yard

The Northern Territory Government is considering stopping private vehicle sales along the Stuart Highway. Dozens of cars, boats and trailers are on display along a short stretch of road near Darwin. Motorists are complaining that the unofficial car yard is a hazard, as drivers pull off and onto one of the Territory's busiest stretches of road. The Government said it may landscape the area to discourage the trade.

TASMANIA

Hew and make the greenies cry

The controversial logging group Gunns has opted for Bell Bay, just south of Hobart, as the preferred site for its new billion-dollar pulp mill. The company has confirmed that it will be using chlorine dioxide in its timber bleaching process, which has angered green groups and some residents. The Tasmanian Government says the mill will have to comply with strict environmental guidelines.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Union moves in

The Australian Workers Union is increasing its influence and presence in the West Australian gold mining industry, signing up contractors from a construction firm and sending a union representative to Kalgoorlie. The union has been absent from the city for several years after it was driven out by the introduction of individual workplace contracts, which include a ban on union membership.

THE FALLOUT

Scary beer: A "threatening" beer advertisement depicting a double-barrelled shotgun pointing out of the page has been banned by Britain's advertising watchdog. The ad featured a shotgun positioned at the reader from between two pub stools, and read: "Excuse me, I believe that's my seat." The company argued that male bitter-drinkers would recognise the humour.

Man bites dog: A blind man who allegedly bit his guide dog was arrested by Scottish police. An witness said the 34-year-old dragged the bitch across the road before biting her head and kicking her. The eight-year-old labrador-retriever-cross was taken into protective care by police and handed to the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. Infamous brand name: The half-brother of Osama bin Laden has won the right to use the family name as a trademark. But businessman Yeslam bin Ladin said he had no immediate plans to bring out any goods under the name. Swiss authorities agreed to allow the registration after an earlier ruling was revoked in August 2001.

Sweet medicine: Chocolate should be prescribed at British hospitals because of its benefits for women. Studies show it helps cut symptoms of pre-menstrual tension and depression, releases endorphins and has magnesium, which cuts mood swings. It could substitute for drugs like Prozac, a chocolatier says. The Department of Health says more studies are needed.

Graphic

PHOTO: Yu two ... the pediatrician Dr John Yu examines a ceramic bust of himself - the latest commission for the National Portrait Gallery in Canberra - yesterday with its creator, the Chinese-Australian artist Ah Xian. Dr Yu, named Australian of the Year in 1996 and now chancellor of the University of NSW, is an expert on decorative arts. Photo: Penny Bradfield

The week

Load-Date: July 17, 2007

End of Document

WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

States News Service

September 26, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 States News Service

Length: 6129 words

Byline: States News Service

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

The following information was released by the State Department:

White House press secretary Scott McClellan briefed the press September 26.

Following is the transcript of the White House briefing:

THE WHITE HOUSE Office of the Press Secretary September 26, 2005

PRESS BRIEFING BY SCOTT McCLELLAN

TOPIC -- Hurricane updates -- Energy -- Automatic trigger concept -- Protest -- Terrorism -- Iran -- **Irish Republican Army**

THE WHITE HOUSE Office of the Press Secretary September 26, 2005

PRESS BRIEFING BY SCOTT McCLELLAN

James S. Brady Briefing Room

1:30 P.M. EDT

MR. MCCLELLAN: Good afternoon, everyone. I just want to give a quick update on Hurricane Rita and then the recovery for Hurricane Katrina, as well.

As you are aware, the President issued major disaster declarations this weekend for Texas and Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita, at the request of the governors. Priorities remain on saving lives and sustaining lives in support of the state and local response efforts; providing communications capabilities; continuing the damage assessments -- there are ongoing damage assessments in Texas and Louisiana. Other priorities include restoring critical infrastructure, assisting with the return of evacuees and continuing to establish distribution recovery centers. Getting power back on is a high priority, that's one of the issues that came up in the President's briefing earlier today at the Department of Energy; you heard his remarks about that. There are some -- 707,000 was the latest number we had at that briefing, residents in Texas without power, and 539,000 in Louisiana. Altogether, with Arkansas and Mississippi, you have about 1.3 million, as of earlier today, that were without power.

Texas has a -- on the evacuation efforts, has a seven-day planned phased return. With both Texas and Louisiana, we continue to urge residents to listen to the governors and their authorities about when is the best time to return, and not to return before they say so. On Katrina, we have provided more than \$2 billion in immediate cash assistance to more than 1.4 million households.

WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

And, finally, the President will be returning to the region tomorrow, as he mentioned earlier today. We don't have the details of that trip yet, we're working on finalizing up some of those plans, but we'll get them to you as soon as we can.

And with that, I am glad to go to your questions. Kelly.

QUESTION: Earlier today, the President said, and encouraged Americans to not use gasoline unnecessarily, to not take trips that were not absolutely necessary. Would the President curtail his own travel to the region, since he can be in touch by --

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, I think it's important for the President of the United States to travel to the region and get firsthand accounts of the operations and to provide comfort and support to those who are -- have been affected by this -- by these hurricanes, as well as those who are providing the critical support, the critical relief to get these people back up on their feet and to save lives and sustain lives. That's an important responsibility of the President of the United States, and he had a good trip over this weekend and was able to get a firsthand account of a lot of operations that were underway, as well as to talk to officials about some of the lessons we've learned over the past few weeks and do some fact finding on his own. But it's an important responsibility for the President.

And in terms of the conservation efforts, the President did call on people to conserve where they can. He will be issuing a presidential directive later today to federal departments and agencies, encouraging those agencies to take appropriate steps to conserve where they can, to conserve natural gas and gasoline and diesel fuel at their facilities to the maximum extent that they can.

And he mentioned a couple -- he mentioned one way that federal agencies can help is to curtail non-essential travel and other activities that use gasoline or diesel fuel. They can take steps to conserve natural gas or electricity during periods of peak consumption. And the President will be issuing this directive to the agencies later today, and he also encourages the American people to do the same. We have a short-term, or temporary disruption of supply. And all of us can take steps to help to make sure that the people in the region are getting the resources that they need.

Jennifer, go ahead.

Q: Is the situation with the gas supply really so bad that he needs to tell all Americans not to drive very much? I mean, that seems rather drastic.

MR. McCLELLAN: I don't think that's exactly what he said. He said to take steps where you can to conserve energy. He talked about it, and I think he put it in context when he talked about how we have a temporary shortage that we need to address and the American people can help in that regard.

Q: If I can just follow up on what Kelly was asking. What the President did for the vast majority of the weekend was get briefings, many of them via videoconference, that he could have easily done here at the White House. Why is that not something -- why is that not the kind of -- just the kind of travel that could be curtailed?

MR. McCLELLAN: For the very reasons that I talked about this weekend, and that the President talked about. It's important for the President to get a firsthand look at the operations that were underway. It's important for the President to see how those operations are being carried out from the federal government's standpoint; how the coordination is going. The President made it clear that we are going to do what we can to learn the lessons of Hurricane Katrina, and do everything we can to prevent something like the response that we saw at all levels of government from happening again. That's why he talked about the role of the military today, and how that's one lesson learned from a major catastrophe like Hurricane Katrina. And there are a number of lessons learned.

I think that you all -- some of you were there on the trip and able to see the discussions that took place. It was very important for the President to be there and be able to get a firsthand account of how those operations are being carried out and to hear firsthand some of the lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina, as well.

Q: And what's he doing tomorrow that makes it necessary travel?

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, we'll be updating you on the schedule later today, but the President has typically gone to the affected regions when you've had major hurricanes to assess -- to look at some of the damage, himself, as well as visit with victims or those affected, and to provide support or encouragement, to lift the spirits of all those who

WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

have been working round-the-clock to help people in need. There are more than 70,000 federal officials that are working with state and local officials and first responders to provide important relief to people in need. And I know the President's visit yesterday to the joint field office in Baton Rouge was very much appreciated. You saw the enthusiasm from all those who have been working 24/7 to help the people of the region rebuild their lives and recover.

Q: Earlier today you said the President was thinking of suggesting trigger power for the military to take over in the most severe catastrophe. My question is, would he bypass our constitutional civilian rule over the military to get that kind of authority?

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, there are some laws that are already in place. You have the Insurrection Act, which was originally passed I think back in 1861. The President had authorities before that to quell rebellions or restore law and order if needed. But that was primarily -- the purpose of that act was really aimed at what I just said, quelling rebellions or restoring law and order. What we saw with Hurricane Katrina was a category five hurricane coming up the Gulf Coast. I think it hit as a category four. But this was a major, catastrophic event, and that's what the President is talking about, a situation like Hurricane Katrina. Is there a trigger needed, an automatic trigger for something like a hurricane five --

Q: Wouldn't that be dangerous? After all, there is a --

MR. McCLELLAN: -- for something like a --

Q: -- precedent, isn't there?

MR. McCLELLAN: Let me -- that's why I'm trying to go through this to talk to you about his views and his thinking on this because it is one of the important lessons learned of Hurricane Katrina. And the President is talking about what do we do in the event of a major, catastrophic event when we need to quickly deploy large amounts of resources and assets to help stabilize the situation. That's what he's talking about.

The military is the one organization that has the capability to quickly deploy large amounts of resources and assets to help stabilize a situation in the event of a major catastrophe.

Q: But why bypass civilian control? You have instant communications, you can call the President.

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, we saw some of the problems from Hurricane Katrina. And this is one of the lessons --

Q: Why? What --

MR. McCLELLAN: -- this is one of the lessons learned when you have a situation where state and local first responders are doing everything they can to help. But they're also victims. And to a large extent, they are overwhelmed. And so the question becomes, in a situation like that, how do you immediately or quickly establish some stability to help get people the help they need.

Q: But can't you assume, then, that the President would know immediately if there was a severe catastrophe in the country?

MR. McCLELLAN: I'm sorry, what?

Q: I said, wouldn't we assume that the President would know immediately that there was something terribly catastrophic?

MR. McCLELLAN: And that's why we need to look at this issue, because right now, the way things are set up, you have the Department of Homeland Security, which is from the federal government standpoint where you have a number of agencies under its umbrella that help assist the first responders. But it's primarily a state and local responsibility -- the initial response efforts, with the full support of the federal government.

And we saw with Hurricane Rita that there was very good coordination going on at all levels of government. And the response -- or the reports that the President was receiving that the response efforts were going well to get people the help that they needed and to save lives.

With Hurricane Katrina, you had a unprecedented natural disaster, one of a size and magnitude like we haven't seen before. It covered a very large area. And the President wants to make sure that we learn the lessons from

WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

Hurricane Katrina, and that means at all levels of government. And one of the lessons is, in a situation like this, do you need an organization like the military to come in and quickly stabilize the situation. They're the one organization that can do that, and that's what he wants Congress to consider.

Q: They couldn't even reach the President during Katrina.

MR. McCLELLAN: That's false. That is absolutely false.

Q: Well, then, isn't that the lesson --

MR. McCLELLAN: In fact, if you go back and look, the President was very engaged during that time period, including on the day -- the morning before the storm hit, when he was participating in a videoconference with federal and state and local officials, and the different -- in the region.

Q: Scott, beyond the President's travel tomorrow, what is the President going to do to conserve his own gas use and energy use here by White House staff?

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, the directive will go out to the entire federal government, and it will be going out later today. And I highlighted some ways that people can take steps to conserve energy. So that's what we'll be looking to do here at the White House, as well.

Q: Will you consider fewer cars in the motorcade? We've asked you previously how much gas the motorcade uses and you guys won't tell us. So I'm curious, can you tell us how much gas the motorcade --

MR. McCLELLAN: We will take steps here at the White House, as well. And I'll keep you posted, once the directive goes out.

Q: Will you tell us how much gas the motorcade uses?

MR. McCLELLAN: I'm sorry?

Q: How much gas the motorcade uses?

MR. McCLELLAN: Let me take your question. I'll look into it.

Q: Is the President paying any attention to this protest outside, that's happened over the last few days?

MR. McCLELLAN: I haven't spoken to him about it. He was tending to business last -- oh, you're talking about over the last few days?

Q: Yes.

MR. McCLELLAN: Yes, he's very much aware of the people here who have come to Washington, D.C., some to express support for the steps that we're taking, and a number of others that expressed a different view. It's the right of the American people to peacefully express their views, and that's what you're seeing here in Washington, D.C.

Q: Is he worried that Americans have lost confidence in his ability to conduct the war?

MR. McCLELLAN: Look, here in Washington, D.C., this weekend -- I mean, the President talked about some of this the other day in remarks at the Pentagon. He recognizes that there are differences of opinion on Iraq and our role in the broader Middle East. Some people want us to withdraw from Iraq and withdraw from the Middle East. They are well-intentioned. But the President strongly believes that withdrawing from Iraq and the Middle East would make us less safe and make the world more dangerous.

He talked the other day in his remarks about the nature of the enemy that we're up against. The enemy that we're up against has no regard for innocent human life. They have a very clear strategy for wanting to dominate that part of the world. And the Middle East became a breeding ground for terrorism over the last few decades. The terrorists thought that the United States would not respond, that the United States -- they saw in instance after instance where the President talked about the other day, they saw our response to the hostage crisis in Iran; they saw the bombings -- our response to the bombings of the Marine barracks in Lebanon; the first attack in the World Trade Center back in '93; the killing of American soldiers in Somalia.

WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

The President recognized on September 11th that we were engaged in a global war on terrorism, and that meant that we needed to go on the offense and take the fight to the enemy -- and that's exactly what he's done -- and that we needed to work to change the status quo in the Middle East. The status quo is no longer acceptable.

That's why we're working to spread freedom and democracy. The President believes very strongly that freedom is a universal right. And to defeat the enemy we need to continue to take the fight to the terrorists and bring them to justice. And we need to continue to support the advance of freedom and democracy, because free societies are peaceful societies. That's why we're engaged in the Middle East, and withdrawing our troops from Afghanistan and Iraq would be precisely the wrong thing to do.

Q: Can I follow up?

MR. McCLELLAN: Go ahead, David.

Q: Scott, I want to take you back for a moment to the President's comments on how and when he would use the military. As you said you have some existing authority. You have the Insurrection Act. You've got other acts that have taken place since then. And one of the arguments we've heard a fair bit is that there are many things that the military could have done, short of taking a law enforcement role from early on in Katrina. So what exactly is the President looking for? Couldn't he have invoked greater authority for the military before, or in the early days of Katrina under existing law?

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, again, if you look at existing law, I talked about the purpose of existing law. The purpose of existing law really was aimed at quelling rebellions or to restore law and order. And I think in the instances that it has been used -- if you look back over history, it has really been used to enforce civil rights of African Americans. Back in '57, President Eisenhower brought in federal troops and the Arkansas National Guard to desegregate the schools in Little Rock. In 1963, Kennedy forced the -- implemented it to force desegregation at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. Now, in '92, President Bush -- former President Bush used it to federalize National Guard troops to quell riots in Los Angeles. But I think the purpose --

Q: Isn't this closer to the 1906 example where you had -- when you had troops sent to the earthquake --

MR. McCLELLAN: The purpose that we're talking about here is a major catastrophic event like a category five hurricane, like a disease outbreak of avian flu, for instance -- that's something the President is very focused on -- or a large-scale terrorist attack. And so the President thinks Congress needs to look at this issue and consider the best way to address it. And should we establish some sort of automatic trigger that says the federal government is in charge of stabilizing this situation in the aftermath of a catastrophic-type event. And the one organization, in the President's view, that can do that is the Department of Defense, because they have the logistics and the communications and the resources and assets needed to do so.

Q: You offered your comparisons to civil rights cases. Could you go back to another natural disaster? Obviously, the federal troops acting immediately in the San Francisco earthquake, that did not seem to require presidential action.

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, these are all issues that we need to look at, and that's why he thinks there needs to be a robust discussion with Congress and do we need to establish some sort of trigger that would automatically say the federal government, and specifically, the military, is the one that will be in charge of stabilizing the situation.

Q: Scott, tell me what you mean by automatic --

MR. McCLELLAN: And then the Department of Homeland Security would come back into play once the situation is stabilized, as he said earlier today.

Q: What does "automatic" mean here? Does that mean category five versus category four? Does it mean the President, himself --

MR. McCLELLAN: As you are aware, there are instances -- a governor can request us to take certain steps, or the President has the authority to take steps he deems necessary. But this would be, as I described it, more of an automatic trigger, and it's something the President discussed over the weekend with some of his commanders at Northern Command, where it wouldn't be necessary to get a request from the governor or take other action.

WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

Go ahead.

Q: Can I follow up on the demonstrations? Why were there arrests -- right now, of the demonstrators? And, also, has the President communicated with any of the demonstrators, especially those who support his cause?

MR. McCLELLAN: Connie, I don't know about what's going on out there right now. We've been focused a number of important immediate priorities. We've been at the Department of Energy, over there participating in briefings on Hurricane Rita and the response efforts. So those are questions you need to direct elsewhere.

Q: Is he communicating with those -- especially those who support his cause? Has he said anything --

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, I think the American people recognize the importance of what we are working to accomplish in the broader Middle East. Iraq is a key part of establishing a foundation for lasting peace and security. What we're working to do is lay a foundation of peace for our children and grandchildren. And the President has made it very clear that his number one priority is the safety and security of the American people. And we are engaged in a global war. It is a war that is -- that continues. The President said after September 11th, that some would tend to forget. He will not. We are going to stay on the offensive until we win this war, and we're going to work to spread freedom and democracy to address the --

Q: How many are you going to kill, in the meantime?

MR. McCLELLAN: We are saving lives. We have liberated some 50 million people in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I'm sorry, go ahead.

Q: Our colleagues are saying that Cindy Sheehan was arrested. Does the President approve of her arrest --

MR. McCLELLAN: I hadn't heard that until just now.

Q: Scott, a follow-up on David's question. Colleagues at the Pentagon say that they have not talked to anybody at a senior level in the military who thinks that this idea of an automatic trigger is a good idea.

MR. McCLELLAN: The President talked to senior levels of the military, and they had a good discussion about it.

Q: Good discussion. Was there concern raised about this idea of having a trigger without, sort of, an official presidential directive or --

MR. McCLELLAN: Yes. In fact, that's part of the discussion as I briefed you all over the weekend. He spoke with Admiral Keating and other officials at Northern Command. He was able to get some input from commanders there. He's talked to Secretary Rumsfeld about this, he's talked with state officials -- some state officials about this, and I think they all understand the importance of moving forward and considering how we go about addressing this issue.

Q: So you said, yes -- yes, that there was concern expressed?

MR. McCLELLAN: I'm sorry? Well, there are a lot of issues to address, Dana. There are legal issues involved. You have to look at what the current law is. But we saw some unique and enormous challenges that Katrina presented us with. And that's why the President believes it's important to have a very robust discussion about this and for Congress to consider what steps need to be taken.

Q: But would he do this -- if there is a robust discussion and there is something decided on that, would -- put the U.S. military in control of what's going on domestically and the military --

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, again, as he said today, it's to help stabilize the situation.

Q: Would the President go over their heads if he thought it was absolutely necessary to put this in place --

MR. McCLELLAN: What we're doing right now is moving forward on a discussion about this, and we'll work with Congress as they consider this. As you are aware, there are two committees that are moving forward on hearings to look at what went wrong and what went right with Hurricane Katrina and to apply lessons learned. And this is an issue that they should look at as they're discussing these issues.

We are also doing a comprehensive review within the federal government. The President directed every Cabinet Secretary to participate fully in the review that is underway, being led by the Homeland Security Council. And so we're looking at lessons learned. That's the purpose of the comprehensive review that we're undertaking. And these

WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

are issues that I'm sure that will come up in the context of that, as well. But it's something he continues to discuss with his military leaders and commanders. And it's something we'll be discussing with members of Congress.

Go ahead.

Q: Scott, is the President suggesting that he thinks it would make sense to draft another energy bill containing new incentives for companies to build or expand refinery capacity?

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, he believes it's important to continue acting to address the issue of high energy prices. He spoke about this earlier today. We have taken a number of steps. One of the most important steps we took was to sign the first national energy strategy in a generation. That was an important piece of legislation that will increase domestic supply, that will expand conservation and energy efficiency and that will help expand some of our critical energy infrastructure. And one of the issues he brought up today was the need to expand refining capacity.

Q: Will the White House be taking new proposals to the Hill to address that?

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, we'll keep you posted on the steps that we're taking. But there's additional action that can be taken by members of Congress. One piece of legislation that they can act on is expanding domestic exploration and production in an environmentally sensitive way in ANWR. We're talking about a small footprint within ANWR where they can expand our domestic production.

And other steps that they need -- that we are looking at are the rules and regulations relating to our refineries. There are refineries that the President has visited with that would like to expand. He visited the refinery down at Pascagoula, Mississippi, and was able to get a firsthand look at the operations there and the steps that they were taking in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

And there are U.S. refineries -- officials at U.S. refineries that are saying to the President, we would like to be able to expand our refinery capacity, but under the existing rules and regulations, we cannot. And this is -- that's one of the important needs we need to address. And the President has outlined a number of other initiatives that Congress can act on, as well.

Q: The President talked about having a robust discussion, and the phrase seems to have the connotation of debate. And I'm wondering, when he was talking to the military leaders over the weekend if he heard any kind of reservation about the military becoming the lead role and, if you don't want to say there was a dissension, at least a diversity of opinion on the subject with the military commanders he spoke with.

MR. McCLELLAN: I don't want to try to speak for everyone within the military, but this is starting the discussion on this important issue. And you heard General Clark, I think, talked about in the briefing the other day at the Joint Task Force Rita in Texas, that the military has the ability to bring in overwhelming resources and quickly get those assets in there.

He had a very good discussion with Admiral Keating and others at the Northern Command in Colorado Springs, Colorado. And that's why -- there are a lot of issues that need to be looked at in this context, and that's why he was discussing these issues with some of the officers and the commanders at Northern Command. And I'm sure you can direct questions to them, if they want to comment any further.

Q: Scott, everybody says we need more of a refining capacity, but nobody can give you a number. And the President must know how much refining capacity -- what's the magic number?

MR. McCLELLAN: I didn't bring a magic number out with me. I'll see if there's any additional information to provide on that.

Go ahead, Richard.

Q: Scott, if you have one of these restructurings, would it require creation of an office in the Pentagon to just respond to major disasters, so that you have a unit that would be ready and willing to --

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, the Northern Command was set up after the attacks of September 11th. It was set up for the purpose of defending the homeland. And that includes helping to defend the homeland when it comes to catastrophic events. They have played an important role in Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, and it's Northern Command that was responsible for overseeing the operations of the United States military in those two hurricanes.

WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

General Honore heads Joint Task Force Katrina; General Clark heads the Joint Task Force Rita. And General Honore has been the point person for the military, and he reports to Admiral Keating at Northern Command. So you already have the structure in place. And that's what the President was talking about some over the weekend and again some today. You have the Northern Command in place that has a large amount of resources and assets at their disposal; it has the logistical and communications capability needed to quickly deploy those resources and assets into a situation and bring about some stability. And that's what the President is talking about, that you already have that structure in place.

Q: Scott, I have a two-part: The New York Post reports that at a meeting sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus, New York's Democratic Congressman Charles Rangel declared: "George Bush is our Bull Connor." And my question: Since The Post says Rangel should be ashamed of himself, I'm wondering if the White House agreed?

MR. McCLELLAN: I haven't seen those comments.

Q: At the same Black Caucus meeting, Harry Belafonte said, our foreign policy has made a wreck of this planet. To which Senator Hillary Clinton said, what Harry said is so important. And my question: Does the White House --

MR. McCLELLAN: Les, I haven't seen these comments. We've been focused -- we've been focused on --

Q: It was last Thursday --

MR. McCLELLAN: -- the hurricanes.

Q: Have you missed it? Don't you read The New York Post?

MR. McCLELLAN: There are a lot of priorities we have that we're focused on right now, and I just haven't seen those comments, so I don't want to weigh in until I've had an opportunity to see the comments.

Go ahead.

Q: Scott, when the President said -- said this morning that he had talked to refiners, what have the refiners offered the President as an explanation of why they aren't doing more capacity?

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, like I said, as a general matter, talking about some of the rules and regulations that are in place that are overly burdensome that prevent them from being able to even expand at their own sites. We also want to be able to build new refineries in the United States. It's a real problem when it comes to supply, that we don't have the capacity to -- when we have the oil to refine it into gasoline. And the demand is high for a number of reasons that the President has outlined, not only here, but across the globe, in places like China and India.

Q: I guess what I'm getting at is have they brought forth some sort of laundry list that he has taken and given to Secretary Bodman, for example, to say do something --

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, the Department of Energy and the National Economic Council under Al Hubbard -- Secretary Bodman and the Department of Energy and Al Hubbard, here, within the White House, are looking at these issues, and are looking at steps that we can take to help expand that refinery capacity from the federal level because we want to look at these rules and regulations and look at steps that we can take to help encourage the expansion of the refinery capacity.

Q: Think something will come out of that?

MR. McCLELLAN: I'm sorry?

Q: Think something will come out of that?

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, it's something we're very much focused on. The President has talked about it at length previously, not just today; but it's something we've been working on for some time now. And, certainly, we have to look at the energy strategy we've put in place and steps that can be taken in that, as well.

Go ahead, Goyal.

MR. McCLELLAN: Scott, President of Iran called the Prime Minister of India on IAEA. The Prime Minister of India told the Iranian President that Iran should pull their act together as far as the transfer of nuclear technology or the

WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

spread of nuclear weapons. And India in Vienna, Austria working with the European Union and the United States as far as Iran -- the spread of nuclear technology is concerned, case went to the U.N. Security Council. My question is, what does President think about India's stand now with the United States and with the European Union and a clear message to Iranian --

MR. McCLELLAN: We appreciate the support. The world is saying to Iran that it is time to come clean. The world has put Iran on notice with this resolution. It is unacceptable the way Iran is behaving. And if it does not come into compliance, then the matter is going to be referred to the United Nations Security Council. The resolution clearly spelled that out.

Iran for two decades has hid their nuclear activities from the international community and failed to comply with their international obligations. They need to abide by their international obligations, and they need to abide by their agreements with the Europeans. We continue to support the diplomatic efforts of the Europeans to resolve this matter. But you saw at the International Atomic Energy Agency that there is a growing majority of nations that recognize Iran's noncompliance must be addressed. And if they continue to fail to comply with their international obligations, then the matter is going to the United Nations Security Council. That was clearly stated in the resolution that was passed.

The resolution reflects the international community's deep concern about Iran's pattern of deception and concealment. And we will not tolerate it.

Q: I have another question also. Just for the President, as a friend, I don't think I would criticize my friend, President Bush, politically, like General Musharraf did that time in (inaudible) before he came to the United Nations. What he said was really that women in Pakistan are treated better than in the U.S. And every 90 seconds, woman is raped in the U.S. And look at what's happening in Louisiana.

MR. McCLELLAN: Yes, I think this issue came up at the State Department yesterday. And the United States is a leader when it comes to speaking out about violence against women, and taking steps to prevent it. And that is a message we state very clearly across the world. And in terms of the specific comments, I think that the government of Pakistan has addressed that matter and disputed some of the characterizations that were made.

Our National Security Advisor is traveling in the region and visiting with Afghan and Pakistani officials and talking about ways we can continue to work together on important priorities.

Go ahead, Greg.

Q: Scott, the President -- is the President's call for fuel conservation a temporary one? Or is he asking Americans to permanently change their behavior and their energy usage?

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, there are steps that -- in the energy bill that we passed, to, as I said, expand conservation, and there are steps that -- or initiatives that the President has outlined that are important steps that we can take to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy. This has been a high priority for the President from day one, and he has spelled out a number of steps that we can take when it comes to addressing the root causes of high energy prices. We need to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

We can take steps to do so by expanding domestic exploration and production, but by also encouraging energy efficiency and conservation. That's why the President has put forward proposals such as his tax credit for hybrid, clean diesel vehicles. We've moved forward on new rules when it comes to the corporate average fuel economy to increase fuel economy for light trucks and SUVs. We've moved forward on renewable fuel standards to expand the use of ethanol and biodiesel. And the President has an initiative to move forward on hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles. He dedicated a significant amount of resources to that initiative. And we are going to continue to act to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy. And conservation is an important part of that. And also looking to alternative sources of energy.

Go ahead.

Q: In Belfast today it was announced that the IRA is putting arms beyond use verifiably. The White House made a statement -- welcoming it. Do you have anything more to add? And will you continue -- will President Bush continue to employ Mitchell Reiss as a special envoy to the area?

WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

MR. McCLELLAN: A couple of things. One, we welcome today's statement by the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning that the Provisional ***Irish Republican Army*** has comprehensively and verifiably disarmed. It marks an historic day for Northern Ireland, and is very encouraging for all those who support the peace process, the rule of law, and a Northern Ireland free from sectarian violence. It also marks an opportunity for all parties to renew efforts to reach a sustainable political settlement in Northern Ireland.

So the decommissioning by the IRA is a critical first step in fulfilling the terms of their July 28th statement to pursue its goals through exclusively peaceful and democratic means. And it must be followed by actions demonstrating the Republican movement's unequivocal commitment to the rule of law and to the renunciation of all paramilitary and criminal activities. We remain steadfast in our support for the peace process and the work of the British and Irish governments to achieve lasting peace and reconciliation for the people of Northern Ireland under the principles of the Good Friday Agreement.

Q: Will you continue to employ Mitchell Reiss as a special envoy?

MR. McCLELLAN: I don't have any update on that at this point, but we'll continue to work closely with the British and Irish governments as we move forward. And he's been -- played an important role.

Thank you.

Load-Date: September 27, 2005

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES BACKGROUND NOTE ON IRELAND

US Fed News

December 1, 2005 Thursday 4:40 AM EST

Copyright 2005 HT Media Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Length: 4328 words

Byline: US Fed News

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research Electronic Affairs Publication Office issued the following Background Note:

PROFILE

OFFICIAL NAME:

Ireland

Geography

Area: 70,282 sq. km. (27,136 sq. mi.); slightly larger than West Virginia.

Cities: Capital-Dublin (pop. 495,101). Other cities-Cork (123,338), Galway (65,774), Limerick (54,058), Waterford, (44,564).

Terrain: Arable 10%, meadows and pastures 77%, rough grazing in use 11%, inland water 2%.

Climate: Temperate maritime.

People

Nationality: Noun-Irishman, Irishwoman. Adjective-Irish.

Population: 3,917,203.

Population growth rate: 0.93%.

Ethnic groups: Irish, with English minority.

Religions: Roman Catholic 88.4%; Church of Ireland 3.0%; other 8.7%.

Languages: English, Irish (Gaelic).

Education: Compulsory up to age 16. Enrollment rates-5-14 year olds, 100%; 15 year olds, 97%; 16 year olds, 91%. Literacy-98%-99%.

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES BACKGROUND NOTE ON IRELAND

Health: Infant mortality rate-5.3/1,000. Life expectancy at birth-male 73.0 yrs., female 77.5 yrs.

Work force: Services-56%; industry-29%; agriculture-10%; government-5%.

Government

Type: Parliamentary republic.

Independence: December 6, 1921.

Constitution: December 29, 1937.

Branches: Executive-president, chief of state; prime minister (Taoiseach-pronounced "TEE-shuck"), head of government. Legislative-bicameral national Parliament (Oireachtas-pronounced "o-ROCK-tas"): House of Representatives (Dail-pronounced "DOIL") and Senate (Seanad-pronounced "SHAN-ad"). Judicial-Supreme Court.

Administrative subdivisions: 26 counties, 34 local authorities.

Major political parties: Fianna Fail, Fine Gael, Labor, Progressive Democrats, Green Party, Sinn Fein.

Suffrage: Universal over 18.

Economy

GDP at market prices (2003 est.): \$149.4 billion.

Annual growth rate (2003 est.): 1.4%.

Per capita income (2003 est.): \$38,308.

Natural resources: Zinc, lead, natural gas, barite, copper, gypsum, limestone, dolomite, peat.

Agriculture (5% of GDP): Products-cattle, meat, and dairy products; potatoes; barley; sugarbeets; hay; silage; wheat.

Industry (46% of GDP): Types-food processing, beverages, engineering, computer equipment, textiles and clothing, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, construction.

Trade (2002): Exports-\$86.2 billion (excluding services): machinery, transport equipment, chemicals, food, live animals, manufactured materials, beverages. Imports-\$51.2 billion (excluding services): grains, petroleum products, machinery, transport equipment, chemicals, textile yarns. Major suppliers-EU 64% (U.K. 36%, Germany 6%, France 4%), U.S. 16%, Japan 5%, China 4%.

PEOPLE AND HISTORY

The Irish people are mainly of Celtic origin, with the country's only significant sized minority having descended from the Anglo-Normans. English is the common language, but Irish (Gaelic) is also an official language and is taught in schools.

Anglo-Irish writers such as Swift, Sheridan, Goldsmith, Burke, Wilde, Joyce, Yeats, Shaw, and Beckett have made a major contribution to world literature over the past 300 years.

The earliest inhabitants-people of a mid-Stone Age culture-arrived about 6000 BC. About 4,000 years later, tribes from southern Europe arrived and established a high Neolithic culture, leaving behind gold ornaments and huge stone monuments. The Bronze Age people, who arrived during the next 1,000 years, produced elaborate gold and bronze ornaments and weapons.

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES BACKGROUND NOTE ON IRELAND

The Iron Age arrived abruptly in the fourth century BC with the invasion of the Celts, a tall, energetic people who had spread across Europe and Great Britain in the preceding centuries. The Celts, or Gaels, and their more numerous predecessors divided into five kingdoms in which, despite constant strife, a rich culture flourished.

The coming of Christianity from across the Irish Sea brought major changes and civilizing influences. Tradition maintains that St. Patrick arrived on the island in AD 432 and, in the years that followed, worked to convert the Irish to Christianity.

The pagan druid tradition collapsed before the spread of the new faith, and Irish scholars excelled in the study of Latin learning and Christian theology in the monasteries that flourished. Missionaries went forth from Ireland to England and the continent, spreading news of the flowering of learning, and scholars from other nations came to Irish monasteries. The excellence and isolation of these monasteries helped preserve Latin and Greek learning during the Dark Ages. The arts of manuscript illumination, metalworking, and sculpture flourished and produced such treasures as the Book of Kells, ornate jewelry, and the many carved stone crosses that dot the island.

Two hundred years of Viking invasion and settlement was later followed by a Norman conquest in the 12th century. The Norman conquest resulted in the assimilation of the Norman settlers into Irish society. The early 17th century saw the arrival of Scottish and English Protestants, sent as colonists to the north of Ireland and the Pale around Dublin.

In 1800 the Irish Parliament passed the Act of Union with Great Britain, and Ireland was an official part of the United Kingdom until 1921. Religious freedom, outlawed in the 18th century, was restored in 1829, but this victory for the Irish Catholic majority was overshadowed by a severe economic depression and the great famine from 1846-48 when the potato crop failed. Millions died, and the millions that emigrated spawned the first mass wave of Irish emigration to the United States. A decade later, in 1858, the Irish Republican Brotherhood (IRB-also known as the Fenians) was founded as a secret society dedicated to armed rebellion against the British. An aboveground political counterpart, the Home Rule Movement, was created in 1874, advocating constitutional change for independence.

Galvanized by the leadership of Charles Stewart Parnell, the party was able to force British governments after 1885 to introduce several home rule bills. The turn of the century witnessed a surge of interest in Irish nationalism, including the founding of Sinn Fein ("Ourselves Alone") as an open political movement.

Nationalism was and is a potent populist force in Irish politics. A home rule bill passed in 1914, but its implementation was suspended until war in Europe ended. Believing the mantra: "England's problem is Ireland's opportunity," and tapping into a mood of Gaelic revivalism, Padraic Pearse and James Connolly led the unsuccessful Easter Rising of 1916. Pearse and the other 1916 leaders declared an independent Irish republic, but a lack of popular support doomed the rebellion, which lasted a week and destroyed large portions of Dublin. The decision by the British military government to execute the leaders of the rebellion, coupled with the British Government's threat of conscripting the Irish to fight in the Great War, alienated public opinion and produced massive support for Sinn Fein in the 1918 general election. Under the leadership of Eamon de Valera, the elected Sinn Fein deputies constituted themselves as the first Dail. Tensions only increased: British attempts to smash Sinn Fein ignited the Anglo-Irish War of 1919-1921.

The end of the war brought the Anglo-Irish treaty of 1921, which established the Irish Free State of 26 counties within the British Commonwealth and recognized the partition of the island into Ireland and Northern Ireland, though supposedly as a temporary measure. The six predominantly Protestant counties of northeast Ulster-Northern Ireland-remained a part of the United Kingdom with limited self-government. A significant Irish minority repudiated the treaty settlement because of the continuance of subordinate ties to the British monarch and the partition of the island. This opposition led to further hostilities-a civil war (1922-23), which was won by the pro-treaty forces.

In 1932, Eamon de Valera, the political leader of the forces initially opposed to the treaty, became Prime Minister, and a new Irish constitution was enacted in 1937. The last British military bases were soon withdrawn, and the ports were returned to Irish control. Ireland was neutral in World War II. The government formally declared Ireland a

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES BACKGROUND NOTE ON IRELAND

republic in 1948; however, it does not normally use the term "Republic of Ireland," which tacitly acknowledges the partition, but refers to the country simply as "Ireland."

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Ireland is a sovereign, independent, democratic state with a parliamentary system of government. The president, who serves as chief of state in a largely ceremonial role, is elected for a 7-year term and can be re-elected only once. In carrying out certain constitutional powers and functions, the president is aided by the Council of State, an advisory body. On the Taoiseach's (prime minister's) advice, the president also dissolves the Oireachtas (Parliament).

The prime minister is elected by the Dail (lower house of Parliament) as the leader of the political party, or coalition of parties, which wins the most seats in the national elections, held approximately every 5 years (unless called earlier). Executive power is vested in a cabinet whose ministers are nominated by the Taoiseach and approved by the Dail.

The bicameral Oireachtas (Parliament) consists of the Seanad Eireann (Senate) and the Dail Eireann (House of Representatives). The Seanad is composed of 60 members-11 nominated by the prime minister, 6 elected by the national universities, and 43 elected from panels of candidates established on a vocational basis. The Seanad has the power to delay legislative proposals and is allowed 90 days to consider and amend bills sent to it by the Dail, which wields greater power in Parliament. The Dail has 166 members popularly elected to a maximum term of 5 years under a complex system of proportional representation. A member of the Dail is known as a Teachta Dala, or TD.

Judges are appointed by the president on nomination by the government and can be removed from office only for misbehavior or incapacity and then only by resolution of both houses of Parliament. The ultimate court of appeal is the Supreme Court, consisting of the chief justice and five other justices. The Supreme Court also can decide upon the constitutionality of legislative acts if the president asks for an opinion.

Local government is by elected county councils and-in the cities of Dublin, Cork, Limerick, and Waterford-by county borough corporations. In practice, however, authority remains with the central government.

Irish politics remain dominated by the two political parties that grew out of Ireland's bitter 1922-23 civil war. Fianna Fail was formed by those who opposed the 1921 treaty that partitioned the island. Although treaty opponents lost the civil war, Fianna Fail soon became Ireland's largest political party. Fine Gael, representative of the pro-treaty forces, remains the country's second-largest party. The Progressive Democrats, Labour, Sinn Fein, and the Greens are the other significant parties. In the 2002 general elections, "Independent" TDs began to emerge as a political force, with 14 "Independent" TDs elected to the Dail.

The May 2002 national elections returned Fianna Fail and its coalition partner, the Progressive Democrats, to power. Prime Minister Ahern was re-elected Taoiseach and Mary Harney was reappointed as Tanaiste (Deputy Prime Minister).

Local and European elections were held in June 2004, along with a referendum on citizenship. Ireland currently grants citizenship through birth on Irish soil, making Irish citizenship laws among the most liberal in the European Union (EU). Concerns about security and social welfare abuse prompted the government to seek to bring citizenship laws into line with the more restrictive policies prevalent in the rest of Europe, and the measure passed by a wide majority.

Northern Ireland

Consolidating the peace process in Northern Ireland and encouraging the full implementation of the 1998 Good Friday Agreement (GFA) remain U.S. priorities in Ireland.

The conflict in Northern Ireland stems from a history of British rule, historical animosity between Catholics and Protestants, and the various armed and political attempts to unite Northern Ireland with the rest of the island.

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES BACKGROUND NOTE ON IRELAND

"Nationalist" and "republican" groups seek a united Ireland, while "unionists" and "loyalists" want Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom. After decades of violence by both republican and unionist paramilitaries, most notably the **Irish Republican Army** (IRA), the British and Irish governments negotiated an IRA ceasefire in 1994, which was followed by the landmark U.S.-brokered Good Friday Agreement (GFA) in 1998.

The GFA established a power-sharing legislative assembly to serve as the autonomous local government of Northern Ireland. The 108-member Northern Ireland Assembly is led by a first minister and deputy first minister, one from each of the two communities, and a 10-minister executive. The GFA also provided for changes in both the British and Irish constitutions. Ireland ceded territorial claim to Northern Ireland, and the U.K. agreed that Northern Ireland could become part of Ireland if a majority (north and south) so voted in the future. Finally, the GFA provides the blueprint for "normalization," to include the eventual removal of British forces, devolution of police and justice functions, and guarantees of human rights and equal opportunity for all individuals. The agreement was approved in a referendum by 71% of Northern Ireland voters and 95% of Irish voters.

The major political parties in Northern Ireland are the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP), Sinn Fein, the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), and the Social Democratic and Labor Party (SDLP). The UUP and SDLP are centrist unionist and republican parties, respectively, while Sinn Fein is strongly republican and the DUP is strongly unionist. From the time the Assembly was created in 1998 until 2003, the UUP and SDLP were the governing parties.

In October 2002, the British Government suspended (for the fourth time) the Assembly, following a breakdown in trust between unionists and republicans. The British and Irish Governments began discussions with the parties to try to resolve longstanding unresolved differences between the communities, and to secure a commitment from Sinn Fein that republicans would divest themselves of all paramilitary activities and capabilities.

Efforts to restore the political process in time to stage new elections to the Assembly in May 2003 broke down when the two governments concluded they did not have sufficient assurances from the republicans. However, the governments proceeded to publish a joint declaration, mapping out the timetable to full implementation of the GFA. The governments also created an International Monitoring Commission to serve as a forum to hear complaints of alleged breaches of GFA commitments by the political parties and/or by British authorities. The four-member commission includes a representative from the United States. It issued its first report in April 2004, in which it criticized republican and loyalist paramilitary groups for illegal activities.

The British and Irish Governments attempted in October 2003, and again in the fall of 2004, to conclude a deal with the parties to restore government, but failed to reach agreement. However, elections to the suspended Assembly went forward in November 2003; these elections turned the more moderate UUP and SDLP out of power and installed the strongly unionist DUP and strongly republican Sinn Fein. The Assembly remains suspended, as the DUP refuses to enter into dialogue or government with Sinn Fein until the IRA conclusively ends all paramilitary activities and decommissions its weapons. The British and Irish Governments are engaged in ongoing efforts with the parties to restore the political process and restore devolved government. In July 2005, the IRA unilaterally announced that it would end its "armed struggle" and rely upon solely peaceful and democratic means to achieve its goal. The British, Irish, and U.S. Governments lauded this announcement. The Independent International Commission on Decommissioning (IICD) confirmed in September 2005 that the IRA had effectively put its weapons "beyond use," hailed as an historic step by the British, Irish, and U.S. Governments. Unionist political leaders have taken a more skeptical approach. They have questioned the reliability of the IICD's determination and will require a suitable waiting period before they will consider entering government with Sinn Fein.

The United States supports the efforts of the British and Irish Governments to restore the democratic process in Northern Ireland and to fully implement the GFA. The U.S. remains engaged in dialogue with all parties, in coordination with our Embassies in Dublin and London, our Consulate in Belfast, and the office of the President's Special Envoy for Northern Ireland.

The United States also continues to provide funding (\$18.5 million in 2005) for projects administered under the International Fund for Ireland, created in 1986 to generate economic opportunity and cross-community engagement in the border areas, both north and south.

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES BACKGROUND NOTE ON IRELAND

Principal Government Officials

President - Mary McAleese

Taoiseach (Prime Minister) - Bertie Ahern

Tanaiste (Deputy Prime Minister) and Minister of Health and Children - Mary Harney

Ambassador to the United States - Noel Fahey

The Irish Embassy in the United States is at 2234 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008 (tel. 202-462-3939/40/41/42). Irish Consulates are located in New York, Chicago, Boston, and San Francisco.

ECONOMY

Ireland boasts a vibrant, globalized economy, with GDP per capita second only to Luxembourg's in the EU. The "Celtic Tiger" period of the mid-late 1990s saw several years of double-digit GDP growth, driven by a progressive industrial policy that boosted large-scale foreign direct investment and exports. In recent years, Ireland has experienced more moderate growth, coupled with price levels above the EU average. The 2003 world economic slowdown affected Ireland as real GDP growth slowed to 3.7% and the government budget fell into deficit. The economy strengthened in 2004, however, with a small government surplus and real GDP growth of just above 5%.

In 2004, U.S. exports to Ireland were valued at \$8.2 billion, less than a third of the value of Irish exports to the U.S. (\$27.4 billion). The range of U.S. products includes electrical components, computers and peripherals, drugs and pharmaceuticals, electrical equipment, and livestock feed. Irish exports to the United States represent approximately 20% of all Irish exports. The U.S. is Ireland's second-largest export destination-second only to the U.K. Exports to the United States include alcoholic beverages, chemicals and related products, electronic data processing equipment, electrical machinery, textiles and clothing, and glassware. In 2004, Irish exports to the United States rose by 6% compared to 2003, while Irish imports from the United States rose by roughly 1%.

In 2004, the United States contributed \$18.5 million to the International Fund for Ireland, a program that supports cross-border initiatives, cross-community reconciliation, and economic development.

U.S. investment has been particularly important to the growth and modernization of Irish industry over the past 25 years, providing new technology, export capabilities, and employment opportunities. Ireland, with 1% of the European Union's (EU's) population, attracted 8% of all U.S. investment in Europe in 2003. In 2004, there was \$10.5 billion worth of new U.S. investment in Ireland, more than twice the U.S. investment flow to China. Currently, there are more than 570 U.S. subsidiaries, employing approximately 90,000 people and spanning activities from manufacturing of high-tech electronics, computer products, medical supplies, and pharmaceuticals to retailing, banking and finance, and other services.

Many U.S. businesses find Ireland an attractive location to manufacture for the EU market, since it is inside the EU customs area. Government policies are generally formulated to facilitate trade and inward direct investment. The availability of a young, educated, mobile, English-speaking work force has also been an important factor, though wage increases over the past five years have significantly exceeded the EU average. Ireland offers good long-term growth prospects for U.S. companies under an innovative financial incentive program, including capital grants and low corporation income tax rates.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

Ireland is a member of numerous international organizations, including the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the European Union.

U.S.-IRISH RELATIONS

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES BACKGROUND NOTE ON IRELAND

U.S. relations with Ireland have long been based on common ancestral ties and on similar values and political views. These relations, however, have now broadened and matured, given the substantial U.S. corporate involvement in the Irish economy. The United States seeks to maintain and strengthen the traditionally cordial relations between the people of the United States and Ireland.

Economic and trade relations are an important element of the bilateral relationship. U.S. investment has been a major factor in the growth of the Irish economy, and Irish membership in the European Union means that discussion of EU trade and economic policies, as well as other aspects of EU policy, are a key element in exchanges between the two countries.

Emigration, long a vital element in the U.S.-Irish relationship, declined significantly with Ireland's economic boom in the 1990s. For the first time in its modern history, immigration to Ireland, especially of non-Europeans, is a growing phenomenon with political, economic, and social consequences. However, Irish citizens do continue the common practice of taking temporary residence overseas for work or study, mainly in the U.S., U.K., and elsewhere in Europe, before returning to establish careers in Ireland.

Principal U.S. Officials

Ambassador - James Kenny

Deputy Chief of Mission - Jonathan Benton

Management Officer - Michael Scanlon

Commercial Attaché - Dale Tasharski

Consular Officer - Daniel Toma

Defense Attaché - Col. John O'Sullivan, USA

Economic Officer - Joe Young

Political Officer - Mary Daly

Public Affairs Officer - Michael McClellan

The U.S. Embassy in Ireland is located at 42 Elgin Road, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4 (tel. 668-7122; fax 668-9946).

TRAVEL AND BUSINESS INFORMATION

The U.S. Department of State's Consular Information Program provides Consular Information Sheets, Travel Warnings, and Public Announcements. Consular Information Sheets exist for all countries and include information on entry requirements, currency regulations, health conditions, areas of instability, crime and security, political disturbances, and the addresses of the U.S. posts in the country. Travel Warnings are issued when the State Department recommends that Americans avoid travel to a certain country. Public Announcements are issued as a means to disseminate information quickly about terrorist threats and other relatively short-term conditions overseas that pose significant risks to the security of American travelers. Free copies of this information are available by calling the Bureau of Consular Affairs at 202-647-5225 or via the fax-on-demand system: 202-647-3000. Consular Information Sheets and Travel Warnings also are available on the Consular Affairs Internet home page: <http://travel.state.gov>. Consular Affairs Tips for Travelers publication series, which contain information on obtaining passports and planning a safe trip abroad, are on the Internet and hard copies can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, telephone: 202-512-1800; fax 202-512-2250.

Emergency information concerning Americans traveling abroad may be obtained from the Office of Overseas Citizens Services at (202) 647-5225. For after-hours emergencies, Sundays and holidays, call 202-647-4000.

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES BACKGROUND NOTE ON IRELAND

The National Passport Information Center (NPIC) is the U.S. Department of State's single, centralized public contact center for U.S. passport information. Telephone: 1-877-4USA-PPT (1-877-487-2778). Customer service representatives and operators for TDD/TTY are available Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, excluding federal holidays.

Travelers can check the latest health information with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. A hotline at 877-FYI-TRIP (877-394-8747) and a web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/index.htm> give the most recent health advisories, immunization recommendations or requirements, and advice on food and drinking water safety for regions and countries. A booklet entitled Health Information for International Travel (HHS publication number CDC-95-8280) is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, tel. (202) 512-1800.

Information on travel conditions, visa requirements, currency and customs regulations, legal holidays, and other items of interest to travelers also may be obtained before your departure from a country's embassy and/or consulates in the U.S. (for this country, see "Principal Government Officials" listing in this publication).

U.S. citizens who are long-term visitors or traveling in dangerous areas are encouraged to register their travel via the State Department's travel registration web site at <https://travelregistration.state.gov> or at the Consular section of the U.S. embassy upon arrival in a country by filling out a short form and sending in a copy of their passports. This may help family members contact you in case of an emergency.

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: December 20, 2005

End of Document

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES BACKGROUND NOTE ON UNITED KINGDOM

US Fed News

May 2, 2005 Monday 5:20 AM EST

Copyright 2005 HT Media Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Length: 4781 words

Byline: US States News

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

The U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research Electronic Affairs Publication Office issued the following Background Note:

PROFILE

OFFICIAL NAME: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Geography

Area: 243,000 sq. km. (93,000 sq. mi.); slightly smaller than Oregon.

Cities: Capital-London (metropolitan pop. about 7.2 million). Other cities-Birmingham, Glasgow, Leeds, Sheffield, Liverpool, Bradford, Manchester, Edinburgh, Bristol, Belfast.

Terrain: 30% arable, 50% meadow and pasture, 12% waste or urban, 7% forested, 1% inland water.

Land use: 25% arable, 46% meadows and pastures, 10% forests and woodland, 19% other.

Climate: Generally mild and temperate; weather is subject to frequent changes but to few extremes of temperature.

People

Nationality: Noun-Briton(s). Adjective-British.

Population (2004 est.): 60.27 million.

Annual population growth rate (2004 est.): 0.29%.

Major ethnic groups: British, Irish, West Indian, South Asian.

Major religions: Church of England (Anglican), Roman Catholic, Church of Scotland (Presbyterian), Muslim.

Major languages: English, Welsh, Irish Gaelic, Scottish Gaelic.

Education: Years compulsory-12. Attendance-nearly 100%. Literacy-99%.

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES BACKGROUND NOTE ON UNITED KINGDOM

Health: Infant mortality rate (2004 est.)-5.22/1,000. Life expectancy (2004 est.)-males 75.84 yrs.; **females** 80.83 yrs.; total 78.27 years

Work force (2003, 29.8 million): Services-80.4%; industry-18.7%; agriculture-0.9%.

Government

Type: Constitutional monarchy.

Constitution: Unwritten; partly statutes, partly common law and practice.

Branches: Executive-monarch (head of state), prime minister (head of government), cabinet. Legislative-bicameral Parliament: House of Commons, House of Lords; Scottish Parliament, Welsh Assembly, and Northern Ireland Assembly. Judicial-magistrates' courts, county courts, high courts, appellate courts, House of Lords.

Subdivisions: Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland (municipalities, counties, and parliamentary constituencies).

Political parties: Great Britain-Conservative, Labour, Liberal Democrats; also, in Scotland-Scottish National Party. Wales-Plaid Cymru (Party of Wales). Northern Ireland-Ulster Unionist Party, Social Democratic and Labour Party, Democratic Unionist Party, Sinn Fein, Alliance Party, and other smaller parties.

Suffrage: British subjects and citizens of other Commonwealth countries and the Irish Republic resident in the U.K., at 18.

Economy

GDP (at current market prices, 2003 est.): \$1.664 trillion.

Annual growth rate (2003 est.): 2.1%.

Per capita GDP (2003 est.): \$27,700.

Natural resources: Coal, oil, natural gas, tin, limestone, iron ore, salt, clay, chalk, gypsum, lead, silica.

Agriculture (1.1% of GDP): Products-cereals, oilseed, potatoes, vegetables, cattle, sheep, poultry, fish.

Industry: Types-steel, heavy engineering and metal manufacturing, textiles, motor vehicles and aircraft, construction (5.2% of GDP), electronics, chemicals.

Trade (2003 est.): Exports of goods and services-\$304.5 billion: manufactured goods, fuels, chemicals; food, beverages, tobacco. Major markets-U.S., European Union. Imports of goods and services-\$363.6 billion: manufactured goods, machinery, fuels, foodstuffs. Major suppliers-U.S., European Union, Japan.

PEOPLE

The United Kingdom's population in 2004 surpassed 60 million-the third-largest in the European Union and the 21st-largest in the world. Its overall population density is one of the highest in the world. Almost one-third of the population lives in England's prosperous and fertile southeast and is predominantly urban and suburban-with about 7.2 million in the capital of London, which remains the largest city in Europe. The United Kingdom's high literacy rate (99%) is attributable to universal public education introduced for the primary level in 1870 and secondary level in 1900. Education is mandatory from ages 5 through 16. About one-fifth of British students go on to post-secondary education. The Church of England and the Church of Scotland are the official churches in their respective parts of the country, but most religions found in the world are represented in the United Kingdom.

A group of islands close to continental Europe, the British Isles have been subject to many invasions and migrations, especially from Scandinavia and the continent, including Roman occupation for several centuries. Contemporary Britons are descended mainly from the varied ethnic stocks that settled there before the 11th

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES BACKGROUND NOTE ON UNITED KINGDOM

century. The pre-Celtic, Celtic, Roman, Anglo-Saxon, and Norse influences were blended in Britain under the Normans, Scandinavian Vikings who had lived in Northern France. Although Celtic languages persist in Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland, the predominant language is English, which is primarily a blend of Anglo-Saxon and Norman French.

HISTORY

The Roman invasion of Britain in 55 BC and most of Britain's subsequent incorporation into the Roman Empire stimulated development and brought more active contacts with the rest of Europe. As Rome's strength declined, the country again was exposed to invasion-including the pivotal incursions of the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes in the fifth and sixth centuries AD-up to the Norman conquest in 1066. Norman rule effectively ensured Britain's safety from further intrusions; certain institutions, which remain characteristic of Britain, could develop. Among these are a political, administrative, cultural, and economic center in London; a separate but established church; a system of common law; distinctive and distinguished university education; and representative government.

Union

Both Wales and Scotland were independent kingdoms that resisted English rule. The English conquest of Wales succeeded in 1282 under Edward I, and the Statute of Rhuddlan established English rule 2 years later. To appease the Welsh, Edward's son (later Edward II), who had been born in Wales, was made Prince of Wales in 1301. The tradition of bestowing this title on the eldest son of the British Monarch continues today. An act of 1536 completed the political and administrative union of England and Wales.

While maintaining separate parliaments, England and Scotland were ruled under one crown beginning in 1603, when James VI of Scotland succeeded his cousin Elizabeth I as James I of England. In the ensuing 100 years, strong religious and political differences divided the kingdoms. Finally, in 1707, England and Scotland were unified as Great Britain, sharing a single Parliament at Westminster.

Ireland's invasion by the Anglo-Normans in 1170 led to centuries of strife. Successive English kings sought to conquer Ireland. In the early 17th century, large-scale settlement of the north from Scotland and England began. After its defeat, Ireland was subjected, with varying degrees of success, to control and regulation by Britain.

The legislative union of Great Britain and Ireland was completed on January 1, 1801, under the name of the United Kingdom. However, armed struggle for independence continued sporadically into the 20th century. The Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 established the Irish Free State, which subsequently left the Commonwealth and became a republic after World War II. Six northern, predominantly Protestant, Irish counties have remained part of the United Kingdom.

British Expansion and Empire

Begun initially to support William the Conqueror's (c. 1029-1087) holdings in France, Britain's policy of active involvement in continental European affairs endured for several hundred years. By the end of the 14th century, foreign trade, originally based on wool exports to Europe, had emerged as a cornerstone of national policy.

The foundations of sea power were gradually laid to protect English trade and open up new routes. Defeat of the Spanish Armada in 1588 firmly established England as a major sea power. Thereafter, its interests outside Europe grew steadily. Attracted by the spice trade, English mercantile interests spread first to the Far East. In search of an alternate route to the Spice Islands, John Cabot reached the North American continent in 1498. Sir Walter Raleigh organized the first, short-lived colony in Virginia in 1584, and permanent English settlement began in 1607 at Jamestown, Virginia. During the next two centuries, Britain extended its influence abroad and consolidated its political development at home.

Great Britain's industrial revolution greatly strengthened its ability to oppose Napoleonic France. By the end of the Napoleonic Wars in 1815, the United Kingdom was the foremost European power, and its navy ruled the seas. Peace in Europe allowed the British to focus their interests on more remote parts of the world, and, during this

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES BACKGROUND NOTE ON UNITED KINGDOM

period, the British Empire reached its zenith. British colonial expansion reached its height largely during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837-1901). Queen Victoria's reign witnessed the spread of British technology, commerce, language, and government throughout the British Empire, which, at its greatest extent, encompassed roughly one-fifth to one-quarter of the world's area and population. British colonies contributed to the United Kingdom's extraordinary economic growth and strengthened its voice in world affairs. Even as the United Kingdom extended its imperial reach overseas, it continued to develop and broaden its democratic institutions at home.

20th Century

By the time of Queen Victoria's death in 1901, other nations, including the United States and Germany, had developed their own industries; the United Kingdom's comparative economic advantage had lessened, and the ambitions of its rivals had grown. The losses and destruction of World War I, the depression of the 1930s, and decades of relatively slow growth eroded the United Kingdom's preeminent international position of the previous century.

Britain's control over its empire loosened during the interwar period. Ireland, with the exception of six northern counties, gained independence from the United Kingdom in 1921. Nationalism became stronger in other parts of the empire, particularly in India and Egypt.

In 1926, the United Kingdom, completing a process begun a century earlier, granted Australia, Canada, and New Zealand complete autonomy within the empire. They became charter members of the British Commonwealth of Nations (now known as the Commonwealth), an informal but closely-knit association that succeeded the empire. Beginning with the independence of India and Pakistan in 1947, the remainder of the British Empire was almost completely dismantled. Today, most of Britain's former colonies belong to the Commonwealth, almost all of them as independent members. There are, however, 13 former British colonies-including Bermuda, Gibraltar, the Falkland Islands, and others-which have elected to continue their political links with London and are known as United Kingdom Overseas Territories.

Although often marked by economic and political nationalism, the Commonwealth offers the United Kingdom a voice in matters concerning many developing countries. In addition, the Commonwealth helps preserve many institutions deriving from British experience and models, such as parliamentary democracy, in those countries.

GOVERNMENT

The United Kingdom does not have a written constitution. The equivalent body of law is based on statute, common law, and "traditional rights." Changes may come about formally through new acts of Parliament, informally through the acceptance of new practices and usage, or by judicial precedents. Although Parliament has the theoretical power to make or repeal any law, in actual practice the weight of 700 years of tradition restrains arbitrary actions.

Executive power rests nominally with the monarch but actually is exercised by a committee of ministers (cabinet) traditionally selected from among the members of the House of Commons and, to a lesser extent, the House of Lords. The prime minister is normally the leader of the largest party in the Commons, and the government is dependent on its support.

Parliament represents the entire country and can legislate for the whole or for any constituent part or combination of parts. The maximum parliamentary term is 5 years, but the prime minister may ask the monarch to dissolve Parliament and call a general election at any time. The focus of legislative power is the 646-member House of Commons, which has sole jurisdiction over finance. The House of Lords, although shorn of most of its powers, can still review, amend, or delay temporarily any bills except those relating to the budget. The House of Lords has more time than the House of Commons to pursue one of its more important functions-debating public issues. In 1999, the government removed the automatic right of hereditary peers to hold seats in the House of Lords. The current house consists of appointed life peers who hold their seats for life and 92 hereditary peers who will hold their seats only until final reforms have been agreed upon and implemented. The judiciary is independent of the legislative and executive branches but cannot review the constitutionality of legislation.

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES BACKGROUND NOTE ON UNITED KINGDOM

The separate identities of each of the United Kingdom's constituent parts are also reflected in their respective governmental structures. Up until the recent devolution of power to Scotland and Wales, a cabinet minister (the Secretary of State for Wales) handled Welsh affairs at the national level with the advice of a broadly representative council for Wales. Scotland maintains, as it did before union with England, different systems of law (Roman-French), education, local government, judiciary, and national church (the Church of Scotland instead of the Church of England). In addition, separate departments grouped under a Secretary of State for Scotland, who also is a cabinet member, handled most domestic matters. In late 1997, however, following approval of referenda by Scottish and Welsh voters (though only narrowly in Wales), the British Government introduced legislation to establish a Scottish Parliament and a Welsh Assembly. The first elections for the two bodies were held May 6, 1999. The Welsh Assembly opened on May 26, and the Scottish Parliament opened on July 1, 1999. The devolved legislatures have largely taken over most of the functions previously performed by the Scottish and Welsh offices.

Northern Ireland had its own Parliament and prime minister from 1921 to 1973, when the British Government imposed direct rule in order to deal with the deteriorating political and security situation. From 1973, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, based in London, was responsible for the region, including efforts to resolve the issues that lay behind the "the troubles."

By the mid-1990s, gestures toward peace encouraged by successive British governments and by President Clinton began to open the door for restored local government in Northern Ireland. An **Irish Republican Army** (IRA) cease-fire and nearly 2 years of multiparty negotiations, led by former U.S. Senator George Mitchell, resulted in the Good Friday Agreement of April 10, 1998, which was subsequently approved by majorities in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. Key elements of the agreement include devolved government, a commitment of the parties to work toward "total disarmament of all paramilitary organizations," police reform, and enhanced mechanisms to guarantee human rights and equal opportunity. The Good Friday Agreement also called for formal cooperation between the Northern Ireland institutions and the Government of the Republic of Ireland, and it established the British-Irish Council, which includes representatives of the British and Irish Governments as well as the devolved Governments of Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales. Devolved government was reestablished in Northern Ireland in December 1999.

The Good Friday Agreement provides for a 108-member elected Assembly, overseen by a 12-minister Executive Committee (cabinet) in which unionists and nationalists share leadership responsibility. Northern Ireland elects 18 representatives to the Westminster Parliament in London. However, the five Sinn Fein Members of Parliament (MPs), who won seats in the last election, have refused to claim their seats.

Progress has been made on each of the key elements of the Good Friday Agreement. Most notably, a new police force has been instituted; the IRA has undertaken two acts of decommissioning of its weapons, and some measures to normalize the security situation in Northern Ireland have been taken. Disagreements over the implementation of elements of the agreement and allegations about the IRA's continued engagement in paramilitary activity, however, continue to trouble the peace process. In October 2002, Northern Ireland's devolved institutions were suspended amid allegations of IRA intelligence gathering at Stormont, the seat of Northern Ireland's government. Assembly elections scheduled for May 2003 were postponed. Elections were held in November 2003, but the Assembly remains suspended. The British Government is working closely with the Irish Government and Northern Ireland political parties to create the conditions that would allow the restoration of devolved government to take place.

The United States remains firmly committed to the peace process in Northern Ireland and to the Good Friday Agreement, which it views as the best means to ensure lasting peace. The United States has condemned all acts of terrorism and violence, perpetrated by any group.

The United States also is committed to Northern Ireland's economic development and to date has given or pledged contributions of more than \$300 million to the International Fund for Ireland. The fund provides grants and loans to businesses to improve the economy, redress inequalities of employment opportunity, and improve cross-border business and community ties.

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES BACKGROUND NOTE ON UNITED KINGDOM

Principal Government Officials

Head of State - Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Prime Minister (Head of Government) - The Rt. Hon. Tony Blair, MP

Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs - The Rt. Hon. Jack Straw, MP

Ambassador to the U.S. - Sir David Manning

Ambassador to the UN - Sir Emyr Jones Parry, KCMG

The United Kingdom maintains an embassy in the United States at 3100 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008 (tel. 202-588-6500; fax 202-588-7870).

POLITICAL CONDITIONS

Tony Blair became the first Labour Prime Minister ever to win a third consecutive term when he was re-elected on May 5, 2005. Labour has a 67-seat majority in the House of Commons. The Conservative (Tory) Party and Liberal Democrats (LibDems) form the major opposition parties. The main British parties support a strong transatlantic link but have become increasingly absorbed by European issues as Britain's economic and political ties to the continent grow in the post-Cold War world. Prime Minister Blair has promised that the United Kingdom will play a leading role in Europe even as it maintains its strong bilateral relationship with the United States. Britain's relationship with Europe, in particular its potential participation in the single European currency, the euro, is a subject of considerable political discussion in the United Kingdom. Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown has stipulated that a referendum on adopting the euro will occur only after five economic tests are met. A referendum on the EU Constitution is expected in 2006.

ECONOMY

The United Kingdom has the fourth-largest economy in the world, is the second-largest economy in the European Union, and is a major international trading power. A highly developed, diversified, market-based economy with extensive social welfare services provides most residents with a high standard of living. London ranks with New York as a leading international financial center.

Since 1979, the British Government has privatized most state-owned companies, including British Steel, British Airways, British Telecom, British Coal, British Aerospace, and British Gas, although in some cases the government retains a "golden share" in these companies. The Labour government has continued the privatization policy of its predecessor, including by encouraging "public-private partnerships" (partial privatization) in such areas as the National Air Traffic Control System.

The United Kingdom is the European Union's only significant energy exporter. It is also one of the world's largest energy consumers, and most analysts predict a shift in U.K. status from net exporter to net importer of energy by 2020, possibly sooner. Oil production in the U.K. is leveling off. While North Sea natural gas production continues to rise, gains may be offset by ever-increasing consumption. North Sea oil and gas exploration activities are shifting to smaller fields and to increments of larger, developed fields, presenting opportunities for smaller, independent energy operators to become active in North Sea production.

DEFENSE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS

The United Kingdom is a founding member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and is one of NATO's major European maritime, air, and land powers; it ranks third among NATO countries in total defense expenditure. The United Kingdom has been a member of the European Community (now European Union) since 1973. In the United Nations, the United Kingdom is a permanent member of the Security Council. The U.K. assumed the Presidency of the G-8 on January 1, 2005; it will also hold the EU Presidency July to December 2005.

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES BACKGROUND NOTE ON UNITED KINGDOM

The British Armed Forces are charged with protecting the United Kingdom and its overseas territories, promoting Britain's wider security interests, and supporting international peacekeeping efforts. The 42,000-member Royal Navy is in charge of the United Kingdom's independent strategic nuclear arm, which consists of four Trident missile submarines. The Royal Marines provide commando units for amphibious assault and for specialist reinforcement forces in and beyond the NATO area. The British Army-with a reported strength of 110,000 in 2001, including 7,600 women-and the Royal Air Force-with a strength of 54,000-along with the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, are active and regular participants in NATO and other coalition operations.

The United Kingdom stood shoulder to shoulder with the United States following the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the U.S., and its military forces participated in the war in Afghanistan. The U.K. was the United States' main coalition partner in Operation Iraqi Freedom and continues to have more than 8,000 troops deployed in Iraq to help stabilize and rebuild the country. Under UN Security Council Resolution 1483, the U.K. also shared with the United States responsibility for civil administration in Iraq and was an active participant in the Coalition Provisional Authority before the handover of Iraqi sovereignty on June 28, 2004. Britain's participation in the Iraq war and its aftermath remains a domestically controversial issue.

U.S.-UNITED KINGDOM RELATIONS

The United Kingdom is one of the United States' closest allies, and British foreign policy emphasizes close coordination with the United States. Bilateral cooperation reflects the common language, ideals, and democratic practices of the two nations. Relations were strengthened by the United Kingdom's alliance with the United States during both World Wars, and its role as a founding member of NATO, in the Korean conflict, in the Persian Gulf War, and in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The United Kingdom and the United States continually consult on foreign policy issues and global problems and share major foreign and security policy objectives.

The United Kingdom is the fourth-largest market for U.S. goods exports after Canada, Mexico, and Japan and the sixth-largest supplier of U.S. imports after Canada, China, Mexico, Japan, and Germany. U.S. exports to the United Kingdom in 2003 totaled \$33.9 billion, while U.S. imports from the U.K. totaled \$42.7 billion. The United States has had a trade deficit with the United Kingdom since 1998, although the deficit was relatively small prior to last year. The United Kingdom is a large source of foreign tourists in the United States.

The United States and the United Kingdom share the world's largest foreign direct investment partnership. U.S. investment in the United Kingdom reached \$255.4 billion in 2002, while U.K. direct investment in the U.S. totaled \$283.3 billion. This investment sustains more than 1 million American jobs.

Principal U.S. Officials

Chargé d'Affaires ad interim - David T. Johnson

Acting Deputy Chief of Mission - Joyce Rabens

Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs - Howard Perlow

Minister-Counselor for Commercial Affairs - Stephan Wasylo

Acting Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs - Jean Bonilla

Minister-Counselor for Public Affairs - Daniel Sreebny

Minister-Counselor for Management Affairs - James C. Lane

Acting Minister-Counselor for Consular Affairs - John Brennan

Regional Security Officer - Robert G. Reed

U.S. Consul General in Belfast - Dean Pittman

STATE DEPARTMENT ISSUES BACKGROUND NOTE ON UNITED KINGDOM

Principal Officer in Edinburgh-Cecile Shea

The U.S. Embassy in the United Kingdom is located at 24 Grosvenor Sq., W1A 1AE, London (tel. [44] (207) 499-9000; fax [44] (207) 409-1637).

TRAVEL AND BUSINESS INFORMATION

The U.S. Department of State's Consular Information Program provides Consular Information Sheets, Travel Warnings, and Public Announcements. Consular Information Sheets exist for all countries and include information on entry requirements, currency regulations, health conditions, areas of instability, crime and security, political disturbances, and the addresses of the U.S. posts in the country. Travel Warnings are issued when the State Department recommends that Americans avoid travel to a certain country. Public Announcements are issued as a means to disseminate information quickly about terrorist threats and other relatively short-term conditions overseas that pose significant risks to the security of American travelers. Free copies of this information are available by calling the Bureau of Consular Affairs at 202-647-5225 or via the fax-on-demand system: 202-647-3000. Consular Information Sheets and Travel Warnings also are available on the Consular Affairs Internet home page: <http://travel.state.gov>. Consular Affairs Tips for Travelers publication series, which contain information on obtaining passports and planning a safe trip abroad, are on the Internet and hard copies can be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, telephone: 202-512-1800; fax 202-512-2250.

Emergency information concerning Americans traveling abroad may be obtained from the Office of Overseas Citizens Services at (202) 647-5225. For after-hours emergencies, Sundays and holidays, call 202-647-4000.

The National Passport Information Center (NPIC) is the U.S. Department of State's single, centralized public contact center for U.S. passport information. Telephone: 1-877-4USA-PPT (1-877-487-2778). Customer service representatives and operators for TDD/TTY are available Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., Eastern Time, excluding federal holidays.

Travelers can check the latest health information with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Georgia. A hotline at 877-FYI-TRIP (877-394-8747) and a web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/index.htm> give the most recent health advisories, immunization recommendations or requirements, and advice on food and drinking water safety for regions and countries. A booklet entitled Health Information for International Travel (HHS publication number CDC-95-8280) is available from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, tel. (202) 512-1800.

Information on travel conditions, visa requirements, currency and customs regulations, legal holidays, and other items of interest to travelers also may be obtained before your departure from a country's embassy and/or consulates in the U.S. (for this country, see "Principal Government Officials" listing in this publication).

U.S. citizens who are long-term visitors or traveling in dangerous areas are encouraged to register their travel via the State Department's travel registration web site at <https://travelregistration.state.gov> or at the Consular section of the U.S. embassy upon arrival in a country by filling out a short form and sending in a copy of their passports. This may help family members contact you in case of an emergency.

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: May 21, 2005

The Almanac

UPI

January 25, 2005 Tuesday 3:40 AM EST

Copyright 2005 U.P.I. All Rights Reserved



Length: 4213 words

Byline: United Press International

Body

Today is Monday, Jan. 31, the 31st day of 2005 with 334 to follow.

The moon is waning. The morning stars are Mercury, Jupiter, Pluto, Venus and Mars. The evening stars are Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

Those born on this date are under the sign of Aquarius. They include Austrian composer Franz Schubert in 1797; western novelist Zane Grey in 1872; actress Tallulah Bankhead in 1903; radio and television personality Garry Moore in 1915; Jackie Robinson, the first black to play major league baseball, in 1919; singer Mario Lanza in 1921; actress Carol Channing and novelist Norman Mailer, both in 1923 (age 82); civil rights leader Benjamin Hooks in 1925 (age 80); actresses Jean Simmons in 1929 (age 76), Suzanne Pleshette in 1937 (age 68) and Jessica Walter in 1944 (age 61); Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands in 1938 (age 67); former baseball stars Ernie Banks in 1931 (age 74) and Nolan Ryan in 1947 (age 58); and actress Minnie Driver in 1971 (age 34).

On this date in history:

In 1929, the Soviet Union expelled communist revolutionary Leon Trotsky. He was later assassinated in Mexico.

In 1945, U.S. Army Pvt. Eddie Slovik, 24, was executed by firing squad for desertion. His was the first U.S. execution for desertion since the Civil War.

In 1950, President Truman announced he had ordered development of the hydrogen bomb.

In 1958, Explorer-1, the first successful U.S. satellite, was launched from Cape Canaveral.

In 1982, the Israeli Cabinet agreed to a multi-national peacekeeping force to act as a buffer between Israel and Egypt in the Sinai Peninsula.

In 1990, the first McDonald's opened in Moscow.

In 1991, allied troops with U.S. air support pushed Iraqi troops out of Khafji and back across the Saudi-Kuwaiti border.

The Almanac

In 1993, the Dallas Cowboys swept away the Buffalo Bills in the Super Bowl, 52-17.

In 1994, Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Fein, the political branch of the *Irish Republican Army*, traveled to the United States.

In 1995, after Congress failed to act quickly, President Clinton used his emergency authority to provide financially troubled Mexico with a \$20 billion loan.

Also in 1995, the prosecution in the double-murder trial of O.J. Simpson began presenting its case.

In 1996, a suicide bombing at Sri Lanka's main bank killed nearly 100 people and injured more than a thousand.

In 1999, a team of international scientists reported it had traced the predominant strain of the AIDS virus to a subspecies of chimpanzee that lived in parts of Africa.

In 2000, Illinois Gov. George Ryan halted all executions in his state after several death row inmates were found to be innocent of the crimes for which they were about to be put to death.

Also in 2000, the European Union warned that its members would diplomatically isolate Austria if its anti-immigrant Freedom Party, led by avowed Nazi sympathizer Jorg Haider, entered a coalition government.

In 2001, a Scottish court meeting in the Netherlands convicted a Libyan man in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103. The plane exploded over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people, including 11 on the ground.

In 2003, 18 people on a bus were killed when a bomb destroyed a bridge near Kandahar in southern Afghanistan.

In 2004, British Airways and Air France said they had canceled seven scheduled flights to the United States in the next two days for security reasons.

A thought for the day: it was Dag Hammarskjold who said, "Never measure the height of a mountain until you have reached the top. Then you will see how low it was."

Today is Tuesday, Feb. 1, the 32nd day of 2005 with 333 to follow.

The moon is waning. The morning stars are Mercury, Jupiter, Pluto, Venus and Mars. The evening stars are Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

Those born on the date are under the sign of Aquarius. They include composer Victor Herbert in 1859; Hattie Caraway of Arkansas, first woman elected to the Senate, in 1878; film director John Ford in 1895; actor Clark Gable in 1901; poet Langston Hughes in 1902; humorist S.J. Perelman in 1904; cabaret singer Hildegard in 1906; film and special effects director George Pal in 1908; actor Stuart Whitman in 1929 (age 76); former Russian President Boris Yeltsin in 1931 (age 74); singer Don Everly; rock parodist Ray "Dr. Hook" Sawyer and comedian Garrett Morris, all in 1937 (age 68); actor Sherman Hemsley in 1938 (age 67); actor/director Terry Jones ("Monty Python's Flying Circus") in 1942 (age 63); singer Rick James in 1952 (age 53); actor Billy Mumy ("Lost in Space") in 1954 (age 51); Princess Stephanie of Monaco and actress Sherilyn Fenn, both in 1965 (age 40); Lisa Marie Presley, daughter of Elvis Presley and ex-wife of Michael Jackson, in 1968 (age 37); and actor Pauly Shore in 1970 (age 35).

On this date in history:

In 1790, the Supreme Court of the United States convened in New York City for its first session.

In 1968, the communist Viet Cong began a major offensive of the Vietnam War with a fierce attack on the South Vietnamese city of Hue.

The Almanac

In 1979, Ayatollah Khomeini, symbol of the Iranian revolution, returned to his homeland.

In 1990, Attorney General Richard Thornburgh applied for independent counsel to investigate former Housing and Urban Development Secretary Samuel Pierce.

In 1991, 34 people were killed and 24 more injured when a USAir jet hit a SkyWest plane on a runway at Los Angeles International Airport.

Also in 1991, at least 1,200 persons were killed in an earthquake that struck Afghanistan and Pakistan.

And in 1991, South African President F.W. De Klerk announced that he would seek repeal of key laws on which the apartheid system was based.

In 1992, President Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin held their first meeting since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

In 1993, President Clinton said he's "looking hard" at the government purchasing childhood vaccines and then distributing them free to ensure all children are properly vaccinated.

In 1995, the House followed the Senate's lead and approved a measure making it hard for the federal government to pass so-called "unfunded mandates" -- laws that states and cities are required to implement but are given no money for doing so.

In 1996, a telecommunications bill cleared Congress that would lift most restrictions on telephone competition and broadcast station ownership, and also required V-chips in television sets. President Clinton signed the bill into law a week later.

In 2000, Sen. John McCain of Arizona swamped Texas Gov. George W. Bush in the New Hampshire primary; on the Democratic side, Vice President Al Gore defeated former Sen. Bill Bradley of New Jersey.

In 2001, former President Clinton said he and his wife would return \$86,000 in gifts they received in 2000 but would keep \$104,000 worth of others they received prior to 2000.

In 2003, the space shuttle Columbia broke apart during its descent over the southwestern United States. All seven astronauts aboard were killed.

In 2004, suicide bombings targeting the two main Kurdish party headquarters in the northern Iraqi city of Irbil killed 100 people and injured many others.

Also in 2004, Saudi Arabian officials said Sunday as many as 244 people were trampled during the Hajj pilgrimage to Mecca. An equal number of people were injured.

And, the New England Patriots edged the Carolina Panthers, 32-29, on Adam Vinatieri's 41-yard field goal with 4 seconds to play in Super Bowl XXXVIII.

During a halftime dance performance, Justin Timberlake tore off part of Janet Jackson's top garment, exposing her right breast and touching off strong criticism, a Federal Communications Commission investigation and a hefty fine for CBS, which broadcast the show. Timberlake apologized, blaming it on "a wardrobe malfunction."

A thought for the day: "One's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions." Oliver Wendell Holmes said that.

Today is Wednesday, Feb. 2, the 33rd day of 2005 with 332 to follow.

The Almanac

The moon is waning. The morning stars are Mercury, Jupiter, Pluto, Venus and Mars. The evening stars are Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.

Those born on this date are under the sign of Aquarius. They include French statesman Charles de Talleyrand in 1754; psychologist Havelock Ellis in 1859; Irish novelist James Joyce in 1882; Charles Correll, Andy of radio's "Amos and Andy" program, in 1890; National Football League co-founder George Halas in 1895; violinist Jascha Heifetz in 1901; novelist Ayn Rand in 1905; actor Gale Gordon in 1906; columnist Liz Smith in 1923 (age 82); comedian Tom Smothers in 1937 (age 68); singer Graham Nash in 1942 (age 63); actress Farrah Fawcett in 1947 (age 58); model Christie Brinkley in 1953 (age 52); and actor Michael T. Weiss ("The Pretender") in 1962 (age 43).

On this date in history:

In 1848, the war between the United States and Mexico formally ended with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. It provided for Mexico's cession to the U.S. of the territory that became the states of New Mexico, Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah, and parts of Colorado and Wyoming in exchange for \$15 million.

In 1876, the National Baseball League was formed, with teams in Boston; Chicago; Cincinnati; New York; Philadelphia; St. Louis; Louisville, Ky.; and Hartford, Conn.

In 1933, two days after becoming chancellor of Germany, Adolf Hitler ordered dissolution of the German Parliament.

In 1936, Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth, Honus Wagner, Christy Mathewson and Walter Johnson were voted into the brand-new Baseball Hall of Fame.

In 1990, South African President F.W. de Klerk announced he would free Nelson Mandela and lift a 30-year ban on the African National Congress. Mandela was released nine days later.

In 1991, allied forces in the Persian Gulf War declared they were in control in the air and at sea.

In 1992, one day after agreeing to withdraw its troops from Lithuania, Russia reached a similar agreement with Latvia and opened talks with Estonia.

In 1993, more than 7,500 UMW miners went on strike against the Peabody Coal Co., the nation's largest coal producer.

Also in 1993, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton banned smoking in the White House.

In 1998, President Clinton submitted the first balanced federal budget in 29 years.

In 2002, a report requested by the board of directors of the troubled Enron Corporation accused top executives of forcing the company into bankruptcy by, among other things, inflating profits by almost \$1 billion.

In 2003, Vaclav Havel, the playwright who became a president, stepped down after his second five-year term as head of the Czech Republic.

In 2004, the Bush administration says a bipartisan commission will investigate why prewar intelligence reports that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction apparently had been wrong.

Also in 2004, President Bush asked Congress for \$2.4 trillion to fund government programs for fiscal year 2005.

A thought for the day: Robert Frost said, "Education is the ability to listen to almost anything without losing your temper or your self-confidence."

Today is Thursday, Feb. 3, the 34th day of 2005 with 331 to follow.

The Almanac

The moon is waning. The morning stars are Mercury, Jupiter, Pluto, Venus, Neptune and Mars. The evening stars are Saturn and Uranus.

Those born on this date are under the sign of Aquarius. They include German composer Felix Mendelssohn in 1809; American journalist Horace Greeley in 1811; Elizabeth Blackwell, the first woman doctor of medicine, in 1821; poet and novelist Gertrude Stein in 1874; artist Norman Rockwell in 1894; author James Michener in 1907; comedians Joey Bishop in 1918 (age 87) and Shelley Berman in 1926 (age 79); Pro Football Hall of Fame quarterback Fran Tarkenton in 1940 (age 65); and actors Blythe Danner in 1944 (age 61), Morgan Fairchild in 1950 (age 55), Nathan Lane in 1956 (age 49), Thomas Calabro in 1959 (age 46), and Maura Tierney ("ER") in 1965 (age 40).

On this date in history:

In 1870, the 15th Amendment was ratified, decreeing that the right to vote shall not be denied on account of race, color or previous condition of servitude.

In 1913, the 16th Amendment, allowing establishment of an income tax, became part of the U.S. Constitution after ratification by Wyoming.

In 1917, the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Germany after a German declaration of unrestricted submarine warfare.

In 1924, Woodrow Wilson, the 28th president of the United States, died in Washington at the age of 67.

In 1959, singers Buddy Holly, J.P. "The Big Bopper" Richardson and Ritchie Valens were killed in a plane crash near Mason City, Iowa.

In 1966, the Soviet Union accomplished the first controlled landing on the moon, when the unmanned spacecraft Lunik 9 touched down on the Ocean of Storms.

In 1973, President Nixon signed into law the Endangered Species Act.

In 1984, a Long Beach, Calif., hospital announced the birth of the world's first baby conceived by embryo transplant.

In 1992, the angry rhetoric escalated between the United States and Japan when Japanese Prime Minister Miyazawa accused American workers of lacking a "work ethic."

And in 1992, pretrial hearings began in Simi Valley, Calif., in the criminal trial of four Los Angeles police officers accused in the videotaped beating of a black motorist.

In 1993, the federal civil rights trial of four police officers charged in the Rodney King beating opened in Los Angeles.

In 1994, the shuttle Discovery blasted off into space with the first Russian astronaut aboard a U.S. spacecraft.

Also in 1994, President Clinton announced the United States was lifting its trade embargo against Vietnam.

In 1996, a U.S. army sergeant became the first American killed on the Bosnia peacekeeping mission.

In 1998, Texas executed Karla Faye Tucke the first **female** inmate to be put to death by the state in 135 years.

Also in 1998, a U.S. Marines jetfighter, flying low over mountains in Italy, severed a ski lift cable, sending 20 people in a cable car plunging to their deaths.

In 2002 sports, The New England Patriots upset the St. Louis Rams in one of the most exciting Super Bowl games ever, 20-17, on Adam Vinatieri's 48-yard field goal as time ran out.

The Almanac

In 2003, President Bush sent lawmakers a \$2.23 trillion budget for 2004, including major new tax cuts and a big increase in defense spending, projecting a deficit of \$307.4 billion.

In 2004, the discovery of the lethal poison ricin in the mailroom of Sen. Bill Frist, R-Tenn., the Senate majority leader, forced the closing of three Senate office buildings in Washington.

A thought for the day: Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us."

Today is Friday, Feb. 4, the 35th day of 2005 with 330 to follow.

The moon is waning. The morning stars are Mercury, Jupiter, Pluto, Venus, Neptune and Mars. The evening stars are Saturn and Uranus.

Those born on this date are under the sign of Aquarius. They include Polish-born American patriot Tadeusz Kosciuszko in 1746; physician and educator Mark Hopkins in 1802; French cubist painter Fernand Leger in 1881; aviator Charles Lindbergh in 1902; civil rights activist Rosa Lee Parks in 1913 (age 91); actress Ida Lupino in 1918; feminist Betty Friedan in 1921 (age 84); actor John Schuck in 1940 (age 65); comedian David Brenner in 1945 (age 60); former Vice President Dan Quayle in 1947 (age 58); rock musician Alice Cooper in 1948 (age 57); actresses Pamela Franklin in 1950 (age 55) and Lisa Eichhorn in 1952 (age 53); country singer Clint Black in 1962 (age 43); and actress Gabrielle Anwar in 1971 (age 34).

On this date in history:

In 1789, George Washington, the commander of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, was unanimously elected the first president of the United States by all 69 presidential electors who cast their votes. John Adams of Massachusetts, who received 34 votes, was elected vice president.

In 1861, at a convention in Montgomery, Ala., six states -- Alabama, Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Carolina -- elected Jefferson Davis president of the Confederacy.

Also in 1861, the 25-year period of conflict known as the Apache War began at Apache Pass, Ariz., with the arrest of Apache Chief Cochise for raiding a ranch. Cochise escaped his U.S. Army captors and declared war.

In 1938, Adolf Hitler seized control of the German army and put Nazi officers in key posts as part of a plan that led to World War II.

In 1974, urban guerrillas abducted Patricia Hearst, the 19-year-old daughter of publisher Randolph Hearst, from her apartment in Berkeley, Calif.

In 1976, an earthquake measuring 7.5 on the Richter scale killed nearly 23,000 people in Guatemala and Honduras.

In 1991, Iran offers to mediate an end to the Persian Gulf War.

In 1992, Congress passed a jobless benefits extension bill.

In 1993, Congress approved legislation giving employees unpaid leave in the event of a birth or a medical emergency in their family. President Clinton signed it into law the next day.

Also in 1993, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control expanded its investigation into contaminated hamburger meat that sickened hundreds of people in four Western states.

In 1997, a jury in Santa Monica, Calif., found O.J. Simpson liable in the killings of his former wife and her friend, and was ordered to pay a total of \$33.5 millions to both families.

The Almanac

In 1999, an unarmed African immigrant was shot to death by four New York City officers searching for a rape suspect. The four officers later were charged with second-degree murder.

In 2002, President Bush submitted a \$2.13 trillion budget for the 2003 fiscal year to Congress, including a 14 percent or \$48 billion increase in defense spending.

In 2003, President Bush led the nation in mourning the seven astronauts lost when the space shuttle Columbia broke up during re-entry on Feb. 1.

In 2004, A Pakistani scientist considered the key figure in his country's nuclear weaponry development admitted he had leaked that technology to other countries.

Also in 2004, the Massachusetts Supreme Court refused to allow "civil union" as a substitute for gay "marriage."

A thought for the day: Ralph Waldo Emerson advised, "Go often to the house of a friend, for weeds choke the unused path."

Today is Saturday, Feb. 5, the 36th day of 2005 with 329 to follow.

The moon is waning. The morning stars are Mercury, Jupiter, Pluto, Venus, Neptune and Mars. The evening stars are Saturn and Uranus.

Those born on this date are under the sign of Aquarius. They include British Prime Minister Robert Peel, founder of the London Police Force, in 1788; evangelist Dwight Moody in 1837; Scotsman John Dunlop, inventor of the pneumatic tire, in 1840; outlaw Belle Starr in 1848; American statesman Adlai E. Stevenson in 1900; actor John Carradine in 1906; novelist William Burroughs in 1914; comedian/actor Red Buttons in 1919 (age 86); author Andrew Greeley in 1928 (age 77); baseball home run king Hank Aaron in 1934 (age 71); financial writer Jane Bryant Quinn in 1941 (age 64); Jamaican reggae singer/songwriter Bob Marley in 1945; writer/comedian Christopher Guest and actress Barbara Hershey, both in 1948 (age 57); actresses Jennifer Jason Leigh in 1962 (age 43) and Laura Linney in 1964 (age 41); and singer Bobby Brown in 1969 (age 36).

On this date in history:

In 1631, British clergyman Roger Williams arrived in Salem, Mass., seeking religious freedom. He founded the colony of Rhode Island.

In 1971, Apollo 14 astronauts Alan Shepard and Edward Mitchell walked on the moon for four hours.

In 1981, President Reagan, in a nationwide address, said the United States was in "the worst economic mess since the Great Depression" and called for sweeping spending and tax cuts.

In 1986, world oil prices plunged toward \$15 per barrel from \$30 three months earlier after OPEC failed to curb production. Prices dropped to \$9 by the summer of 1986.

In 1987, the Dow Jones industrial average closed above 2200 for the first time.

In 1988, two federal grand juries in Florida announced indictments of Panama military strongman General Manuel Antonio Noriega and 16 associates on drug smuggling and money laundering charges.

In 1989, Radio Moscow announced the last Soviet soldier had left Kabul, Afghanistan.

In 1990, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev proposed the Communist Party give up its monopoly on power in the Soviet Union. Two days later, the party's Central Committee agreed.

The Almanac

In 1991, President Bush sent his top military advisers to Saudi Arabia to decide whether a ground assault was needed to liberate Iraqi-occupied Kuwait.

In 1992, euthanasia advocate Jack "Dr. Death" Kevorkian was freed on bond following his arrest in the assisted suicides of two women.

In 1993, federal Judge Kimba Wood withdrew from consideration as President Clinton's attorney general after revelations that she'd employed, although paid the taxes for, an illegal alien.

Also in 1993, Oscar-winning writer-director Joseph Mankiewicz died at age 83.

In 1994, a mortar shell fell onto a crowded weekend market in Sarajevo, Bosnia, killing 69 people and injuring 200.

Also in 1994, white supremacist Byron De La Beckwith was convicted of the 1963 murder of civil rights leader Medgar Evers.

In 1996, a judge ordered President Clinton to testify in the Whitewater trial. He later did so via videotape.

In 1997, Morgan Stanley Group, Inc. announced it would merge with Dean Witter, Discover & Co. to become the biggest U.S. securities company.

Also in 1997, thousands of Albanians, many of whom had lost their life savings, protested to demand government reimbursement following the collapse of a pyramid fund.

In 2003, making a case for United Nations-endorsed military action in Iraq. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell accused the Saddam regime of deceiving UN weapons inspectors and having ties with the al-Qauida terrorist network.

In 2004, speaking out strongly against his war critics, President Bush said Iraq's nightmare was over and the United States was safer because he made the tough call to go to war.

A thought for the day: William D. Brown said, "Failure is an event, never a person."

Today is Sunday, Feb. 6, the 37th day of 2005 with 328 to follow.

The moon is waning. The morning stars are Mercury, Jupiter, Pluto, Venus, Neptune and Mars. The evening stars are Saturn and Uranus.

Those born on this date are under the sign of Aquarius. They include England's Queen Anne in 1665; statesman Aaron Burr in 1756; baseball great George Herman "Babe" Ruth in 1895; former President Ronald Reagan in 1911; actors Patrick MacNee in 1922 (age 83), Zsa Zsa Gabor in 1923 (age 82) and Rip Torn in 1931 (age 74); French film director Francois Truffaut in 1932; actors Mike Farrell in 1939 (age 66) and Michael Tucker in 1944 (age 61); television news anchorman Tom Brokaw in 1940 (age 65); handgun activist Sarah Brady in 1942 (age 63); singers Fabian Forte in 1943 (age 62) and Natalie Cole in 1950 (age 55); and actor/director Robert Townsend and actress Kathy Najimy, both in 1957 (age 48).

On this date in history:

In 1865, Gen. Robert E. Lee was appointed commander in chief of the armies of the Confederacy.

In 1943, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was named commander of Allied expeditionary forces in North Africa. He later became World War II Supreme Allied Commander in Europe.

In 1952, Princess Elizabeth became sovereign of Great Britain upon the death of her father, King George VI. She was crowned Queen Elizabeth II on June 2, 1953.

In 1974, the Caribbean island of Grenada was declared independent and a member of the British Commonwealth.

The Almanac

In 1987, broad no-smoking rules took effect for 890,000 employees in 6,800 federal buildings nationwide.

In 1990, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl proposed unifying the currencies of East and West Germany.

In 1991, President Bush authorized the direct shipment of emergency medical supplies to the Soviet republics of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Ukraine.

In 1992, a military transport plane crashed into a restaurant and hotel in Evansville, Ind., killing 16 people.

In 1993, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali asked NATO for authority to order air strikes against Serb artillery positions in Bosnia.

In 1995, the House approved, 294-134, the line-item veto.

In 1996, Pat Buchanan won the Republican presidential caucuses in Louisiana.

In 1997, President Clinton sent Congress a \$1.69 trillion budget he said would put the country on course for a balanced budget by 2002.

Also in 1997, the head of Mexico's leading anti-drug agency was forced to resign after evidence emerged that he'd taken brides from a drug cartel.

In 1998, President Clinton said he would never consider resigning because of allegations that he had an affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

In 2001, controversial politician Ariel Sharon was elected prime minister of Israel.

In 2003, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld approved deployment of the 101st Airborne Division and the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk to the Persian Gulf region.

Also in 2003, three NATO members -- France, Germany and Belgium -- blocked deployment of military equipment to Turkey that the Turks could use in the event of an attack by Iraq.

In 2004, a **female** suicide bomber detonated explosives in a suitcase on a Moscow subway car killing 39 people and injuring about 200.

A thought for the day: it was President Ronald Reagan who said, "You can accomplish much if you don't care who gets the credit."

Load-Date: January 26, 2005

WHITE HOUSE CONDUCTS DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

US Fed News

September 26, 2005 Monday 5:06 AM EST

Copyright 2005 HT Media Ltd. All Rights Reserved

Length: 6140 words

Byline: US Fed News

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Body

The White House released the text of the following press briefing:

Press Briefing by Scott McClellan

James S. Brady Press Briefing Room

1:30 P.M. EDT

MR. MCCLELLAN: Good afternoon, everyone. I just want to give a quick update on Hurricane Rita and then the recovery for Hurricane Katrina, as well.

As you are aware, the President issued major disaster declarations this weekend for Texas and Louisiana in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita, at the request of the governors. Priorities remain on saving lives and sustaining lives in support of the state and local response efforts; providing communications capabilities; continuing the damage assessments - there are ongoing damage assessments in Texas and Louisiana. Other priorities include restoring critical infrastructure, assisting with the return of evacuees and continuing to establish distribution recovery centers.

Getting power back on is a high priority, that's one of the issues that came up in the President's briefing earlier today at the Department of Energy; you heard his remarks about that. There are some - 707,000 was the latest number we had at that briefing, residents in Texas without power, and 539,000 in Louisiana. Altogether, with Arkansas and Mississippi, you have about 1.3 million, as of earlier today, that were without power.

Texas has a - on the evacuation efforts, has a seven-day planned phased return. With both Texas and Louisiana, we continue to urge residents to listen to the governors and their authorities about when is the best time to return, and not to return before they say so. On Katrina, we have provided more than \$2 billion in immediate cash assistance to more than 1.4 million households.

And, finally, the President will be returning to the region tomorrow, as he mentioned earlier today. We don't have the details of that trip yet, we're working on finalizing up some of those plans, but we'll get them to you as soon as we can.

And with that, I am glad to go to your questions. Kelly.

WHITE HOUSE CONDUCTS DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

Q Earlier today, the President said, and encouraged Americans to not use gasoline unnecessarily, to not take trips that were not absolutely necessary. Would the President curtail his own travel to the region, since he can be in touch by -

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, I think it's important for the President of the United States to travel to the region and get firsthand accounts of the operations and to provide comfort and support to those who are - have been affected by this - by these hurricanes, as well as those who are providing the critical support, the critical relief to get these people back up on their feet and to save lives and sustain lives. That's an important responsibility of the President of the United States, and he had a good trip over this weekend and was able to get a firsthand account of a lot of operations that were underway, as well as to talk to officials about some of the lessons we've learned over the past few weeks and do some fact finding on his own. But it's an important responsibility for the President.

And in terms of the conservation efforts, the President did call on people to conserve where they can. He will be issuing a presidential directive later today to federal departments and agencies, encouraging those agencies to take appropriate steps to conserve where they can, to conserve natural gas and gasoline and diesel fuel at their facilities to the maximum extent that they can.

And he mentioned a couple - he mentioned one way that federal agencies can help is to curtail non-essential travel and other activities that use gasoline or diesel fuel. They can take steps to conserve natural gas or electricity during periods of peak consumption. And the President will be issuing this directive to the agencies later today, and he also encourages the American people to do the same. We have a short-term, or temporary disruption of supply. And all of us can take steps to help to make sure that the people in the region are getting the resources that they need.

Jennifer, go ahead.

Q Is the situation with the gas supply really so bad that he needs to tell all Americans not to drive very much? I mean, that seems rather drastic.

MR. McCLELLAN: I don't think that's exactly what he said. He said to take steps where you can to conserve energy. He talked about it, and I think he put it in context when he talked about how we have a temporary shortage that we need to address and the American people can help in that regard.

Q If I can just follow up on what Kelly was asking. What the President did for the vast majority of the weekend was get briefings, many of them via videoconference, that he could have easily done here at the White House. Why is that not something - why is that not the kind of - just the kind of travel that could be curtailed?

MR. McCLELLAN: For the very reasons that I talked about this weekend, and that the President talked about. It's important for the President to get a firsthand look at the operations that were underway. It's important for the President to see how those operations are being carried out from the federal government's standpoint; how the coordination is going. The President made it clear that we are going to do what we can to learn the lessons of Hurricane Katrina, and do everything we can to prevent something like the response that we saw at all levels of government from happening again. That's why he talked about the role of the military today, and how that's one lesson learned from a major catastrophe like Hurricane Katrina. And there are a number of lessons learned.

I think that you all - some of you were there on the trip and able to see the discussions that took place. It was very important for the President to be there and be able to get a firsthand account of how those operations are being carried out and to hear firsthand some of the lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina, as well.

Q And what's he doing tomorrow that makes it necessary travel?

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, we'll be updating you on the schedule later today, but the President has typically gone to the affected regions when you've had major hurricanes to assess - to look at some of the damage, himself, as well as visit with victims or those affected, and to provide support or encouragement, to lift the spirits of all those who have been working round-the-clock to help people in need. There are more than 70,000 federal officials that are

WHITE HOUSE CONDUCTS DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

working with state and local officials and first responders to provide important relief to people in need. And I know the President's visit yesterday to the joint field office in Baton Rouge was very much appreciated. You saw the enthusiasm from all those who have been working 24/7 to help the people of the region rebuild their lives and recover.

Q Earlier today you said the President was thinking of suggesting trigger power for the military to take over in the most severe catastrophe. My question is, would he bypass our constitutional civilian rule over the military to get that kind of authority?

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, there are some laws that are already in place. You have the Insurrection Act, which was originally passed I think back in 1861. The President had authorities before that to quell rebellions or restore law and order if needed. But that was primarily - the purpose of that act was really aimed at what I just said, quelling rebellions or restoring law and order. What we saw with Hurricane Katrina was a category five hurricane coming up the Gulf Coast. I think it hit as a category four. But this was a major, catastrophic event, and that's what the President is talking about, a situation like Hurricane Katrina. Is there a trigger needed, an automatic trigger for something like a hurricane five -

Q Wouldn't that be dangerous? After all, there is a -

MR. McCLELLAN: - for something like a -

Q - precedent, isn't there?

MR. McCLELLAN: Let me - that's why I'm trying to go through this to talk to you about his views and his thinking on this because it is one of the important lessons learned of Hurricane Katrina. And the President is talking about what do we do in the event of a major, catastrophic event when we need to quickly deploy large amounts of resources and assets to help stabilize the situation. That's what he's talking about.

The military is the one organization that has the capability to quickly deploy large amounts of resources and assets to help stabilize a situation in the event of a major catastrophe.

Q But why bypass civilian control? You have instant communications, you can call the President.

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, we saw some of the problems from Hurricane Katrina. And this is one of the lessons -

Q Why? What -

MR. McCLELLAN: - this is one of the lessons learned when you have a situation where state and local first responders are doing everything they can to help. But they're also victims. And to a large extent, they are overwhelmed. And so the question becomes, in a situation like that, how do you immediately or quickly establish some stability to help get people the help they need.

Q But can't you assume, then, that the President would know immediately if there was a severe catastrophe in the country?

MR. McCLELLAN: I'm sorry, what?

Q I said, wouldn't we assume that the President would know immediately that there was something terribly catastrophic?

MR. McCLELLAN: And that's why we need to look at this issue, because right now, the way things are set up, you have the Department of Homeland Security, which is from the federal government standpoint where you have a number of agencies under its umbrella that help assist the first responders. But it's primarily a state and local responsibility - the initial response efforts, with the full support of the federal government.

WHITE HOUSE CONDUCTS DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

And we saw with Hurricane Rita that there was very good coordination going on at all levels of government. And the response - or the reports that the President was receiving that the response efforts were going well to get people the help that they needed and to save lives.

With Hurricane Katrina, you had a unprecedented natural disaster, one of a size and magnitude like we haven't seen before. It covered a very large area. And the President wants to make sure that we learn the lessons from Hurricane Katrina, and that means at all levels of government. And one of the lessons is, in a situation like this, do you need an organization like the military to come in and quickly stabilize the situation. They're the one organization that can do that, and that's what he wants Congress to consider.

Q They couldn't even reach the President during Katrina.

MR. McCLELLAN: That's false. That is absolutely false.

Q Well, then, isn't that the lesson -

MR. McCLELLAN: In fact, if you go back and look, the President was very engaged during that time period, including on the day - the morning before the storm hit, when he was participating in a videoconference with federal and state and local officials, and the different - in the region.

Q Scott, beyond the President's travel tomorrow, what is the President going to do to conserve his own gas use and energy use here by White House staff?

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, the directive will go out to the entire federal government, and it will be going out later today. And I highlighted some ways that people can take steps to conserve energy. So that's what we'll be looking to do here at the White House, as well.

Q Will you consider fewer cars in the motorcade? We've asked you previously how much gas the motorcade uses and you guys won't tell us. So I'm curious, can you tell us how much gas the motorcade -

MR. McCLELLAN: We will take steps here at the White House, as well. And I'll keep you posted, once the directive goes out.

Q Will you tell us how much gas the motorcade uses?

MR. McCLELLAN: I'm sorry?

Q How much gas the motorcade uses?

MR. McCLELLAN: Let me take your question. I'll look into it.

Q Is the President paying any attention to this protest outside, that's happened over the last few days?

MR. McCLELLAN: I haven't spoken to him about it. He was tending to business last - oh, you're talking about over the last few days?

Q Yes.

MR. McCLELLAN: Yes, he's very much aware of the people here who have come to Washington, D.C., some to express support for the steps that we're taking, and a number of others that expressed a different view. It's the right of the American people to peacefully express their views, and that's what you're seeing here in Washington, D.C.

Q Is he worried that Americans have lost confidence in his ability to conduct the war?

MR. McCLELLAN: Look, here in Washington, D.C., this weekend - I mean, the President talked about some of this the other day in remarks at the Pentagon. He recognizes that there are differences of opinion on Iraq and our role in

WHITE HOUSE CONDUCTS DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

the broader Middle East. Some people want us to withdraw from Iraq and withdraw from the Middle East. They are well-intentioned. But the President strongly believes that withdrawing from Iraq and the Middle East would make us less safe and make the world more dangerous.

He talked the other day in his remarks about the nature of the enemy that we're up against. The enemy that we're up against has no regard for innocent human life. They have a very clear strategy for wanting to dominate that part of the world. And the Middle East became a breeding ground for terrorism over the last few decades. The terrorists thought that the United States would not respond, that the United States - they saw in instance after instance where the President talked about the other day, they saw our response to the hostage crisis in Iran; they saw the bombings - our response to the bombings of the Marine barracks in Lebanon; the first attack in the World Trade Center back in '93; the killing of American soldiers in Somalia.

The President recognized on September 11th that we were engaged in a global war on terrorism, and that meant that we needed to go on the offense and take the fight to the enemy - and that's exactly what he's done - and that we needed to work to change the status quo in the Middle East. The status quo is no longer acceptable.

That's why we're working to spread freedom and democracy. The President believes very strongly that freedom is a universal right. And to defeat the enemy we need to continue to take the fight to the terrorists and bring them to justice. And we need to continue to support the advance of freedom and democracy, because free societies are peaceful societies. That's why we're engaged in the Middle East, and withdrawing our troops from Afghanistan and Iraq would be precisely the wrong thing to do.

Q Can I follow up?

MR. McCLELLAN: Go ahead, David.

Q Scott, I want to take you back for a moment to the President's comments on how and when he would use the military. As you said you have some existing authority. You have the Insurrection Act. You've got other acts that have taken place since then. And one of the arguments we've heard a fair bit is that there are many things that the military could have done, short of taking a law enforcement role from early on in Katrina. So what exactly is the President looking for? Couldn't he have invoked greater authority for the military before, or in the early days of Katrina under existing law?

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, again, if you look at existing law, I talked about the purpose of existing law. The purpose of existing law really was aimed at quelling rebellions or to restore law and order. And I think in the instances that it has been used - if you look back over history, it has really been used to enforce civil rights of African Americans. Back in '57, President Eisenhower brought in federal troops and the Arkansas National Guard to desegregate the schools in Little Rock. In 1963, Kennedy forced the - implemented it to force desegregation at the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. Now, in '92, President Bush - former President Bush used it to federalize National Guard troops to quell riots in Los Angeles. But I think the purpose -

Q Isn't this closer to the 1906 example where you had - when you had troops sent to the earthquake -

MR. McCLELLAN: The purpose that we're talking about here is a major catastrophic event like a category five hurricane, like a disease outbreak of avian flu, for instance - that's something the President is very focused on - or a large-scale terrorist attack. And so the President thinks Congress needs to look at this issue and consider the best way to address it. And should we establish some sort of automatic trigger that says the federal government is in charge of stabilizing this situation in the aftermath of a catastrophic-type event. And the one organization, in the President's view, that can do that is the Department of Defense, because they have the logistics and the communications and the resources and assets needed to do so.

Q You offered your comparisons to civil rights cases. Could you go back to another natural disaster? Obviously, the federal troops acting immediately in the San Francisco earthquake, that did not seem to require presidential action.

WHITE HOUSE CONDUCTS DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, these are all issues that we need to look at, and that's why he thinks there needs to be a robust discussion with Congress and do we need to establish some sort of trigger that would automatically say the federal government, and specifically, the military, is the one that will be in charge of stabilizing the situation.

Q Scott, tell me what you mean by automatic -

MR. McCLELLAN: And then the Department of Homeland Security would come back into play once the situation is stabilized, as he said earlier today.

Q What does "automatic" mean here? Does that mean category five versus category four? Does it mean the President, himself -

MR. McCLELLAN: As you are aware, there are instances - a governor can request us to take certain steps, or the President has the authority to take steps he deems necessary. But this would be, as I described it, more of an automatic trigger, and it's something the President discussed over the weekend with some of his commanders at Northern Command, where it wouldn't be necessary to get a request from the governor or take other action.

Go ahead.

Q Can I follow up on the demonstrations? Why were there arrests - right now, of the demonstrators? And, also, has the President communicated with any of the demonstrators, especially those who support his cause?

MR. McCLELLAN: Connie, I don't know about what's going on out there right now. We've been focused a number of important immediate priorities. We've been at the Department of Energy, over there participating in briefings on Hurricane Rita and the response efforts. So those are questions you need to direct elsewhere.

Q Is he communicating with those - especially those who support his cause? Has he said anything -

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, I think the American people recognize the importance of what we are working to accomplish in the broader Middle East. Iraq is a key part of establishing a foundation for lasting peace and security. What we're working to do is lay a foundation of peace for our children and grandchildren. And the President has made it very clear that his number one priority is the safety and security of the American people. And we are engaged in a global war. It is a war that is - that continues. The President said after September 11th, that some would tend to forget. He will not. We are going to stay on the offensive until we win this war, and we're going to work to spread freedom and democracy to address the -

Q How many are you going to kill, in the meantime?

MR. McCLELLAN: We are saving lives. We have liberated some 50 million people in Afghanistan and Iraq.

I'm sorry, go ahead.

Q Our colleagues are saying that Cindy Sheehan was arrested. Does the President approve of her arrest -

MR. McCLELLAN: I hadn't heard that until just now.

Q Scott, a follow-up on David's question. Colleagues at the Pentagon say that they have not talked to anybody at a senior level in the military who thinks that this idea of an automatic trigger is a good idea.

MR. McCLELLAN: The President talked to senior levels of the military, and they had a good discussion about it.

Q Good discussion. Was there concern raised about this idea of having a trigger without, sort of, an official presidential directive or -

MR. McCLELLAN: Yes. In fact, that's part of the discussion as I briefed you all over the weekend. He spoke with Admiral Keating and other officials at Northern Command. He was able to get some input from commanders there.

WHITE HOUSE CONDUCTS DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

He's talked to Secretary Rumsfeld about this, he's talked with state officials - some state officials about this, and I think they all understand the importance of moving forward and considering how we go about addressing this issue.

Q So you said, yes - yes, that there was concern expressed?

MR. McCLELLAN: I'm sorry? Well, there are a lot of issues to address, Dana. There are legal issues involved. You have to look at what the current law is. But we saw some unique and enormous challenges that Katrina presented us with. And that's why the President believes it's important to have a very robust discussion about this and for Congress to consider what steps need to be taken.

Q But would he do this - if there is a robust discussion and there is something decided on that, would - put the U.S. military in control of what's going on domestically and the military -

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, again, as he said today, it's to help stabilize the situation.

Q Would the President go over their heads if he thought it was absolutely necessary to put this in place -

MR. McCLELLAN: What we're doing right now is moving forward on a discussion about this, and we'll work with Congress as they consider this. As you are aware, there are two committees that are moving forward on hearings to look at what went wrong and what went right with Hurricane Katrina and to apply lessons learned. And this is an issue that they should look at as they're discussing these issues.

We are also doing a comprehensive review within the federal government. The President directed every Cabinet Secretary to participate fully in the review that is underway, being led by the Homeland Security Council. And so we're looking at lessons learned. That's the purpose of the comprehensive review that we're undertaking. And these are issues that I'm sure that will come up in the context of that, as well. But it's something he continues to discuss with his military leaders and commanders. And it's something we'll be discussing with members of Congress.

Go ahead.

Q Scott, is the President suggesting that he thinks it would make sense to draft another energy bill containing new incentives for companies to build or expand refinery capacity?

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, he believes it's important to continue acting to address the issue of high energy prices. He spoke about this earlier today. We have taken a number of steps. One of the most important steps we took was to sign the first national energy strategy in a generation. That was an important piece of legislation that will increase domestic supply, that will expand conservation and energy efficiency and that will help expand some of our critical energy infrastructure. And one of the issues he brought up today was the need to expand refining capacity.

Q Will the White House be taking new proposals to the Hill to address that?

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, we'll keep you posted on the steps that we're taking. But there's additional action that can be taken by members of Congress. One piece of legislation that they can act on is expanding domestic exploration and production in an environmentally sensitive way in ANWR. We're talking about a small footprint within ANWR where they can expand our domestic production.

And other steps that they need - that we are looking at are the rules and regulations relating to our refineries. There are refineries that the President has visited with that would like to expand. He visited the refinery down at Pascagoula, Mississippi, and was able to get a firsthand look at the operations there and the steps that they were taking in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

And there are U.S. refineries - officials at U.S. refineries that are saying to the President, we would like to be able to expand our refinery capacity, but under the existing rules and regulations, we cannot. And this is - that's one of the important needs we need to address. And the President has outlined a number of other initiatives that Congress can act on, as well.

WHITE HOUSE CONDUCTS DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

Q The President talked about having a robust discussion, and the phrase seems to have the connotation of debate. And I'm wondering, when he was talking to the military leaders over the weekend if he heard any kind of reservation about the military becoming the lead role and, if you don't want to say there was a dissension, at least a diversity of opinion on the subject with the military commanders he spoke with.

MR. McCLELLAN: I don't want to try to speak for everyone within the military, but this is starting the discussion on this important issue. And you heard General Clark, I think, talked about in the briefing the other day at the Joint Task Force Rita in Texas, that the military has the ability to bring in overwhelming resources and quickly get those assets in there.

He had a very good discussion with Admiral Keating and others at the Northern Command in Colorado Springs, Colorado. And that's why - there are a lot of issues that need to be looked at in this context, and that's why he was discussing these issues with some of the officers and the commanders at Northern Command. And I'm sure you can direct questions to them, if they want to comment any further.

Q Scott, everybody says we need more of a refining capacity, but nobody can give you a number. And the President must know how much refining capacity - what's the magic number?

MR. McCLELLAN: I didn't bring a magic number out with me. I'll see if there's any additional information to provide on that.

Go ahead, Richard.

Q Scott, if you have one of these restructurings, would it require creation of an office in the Pentagon to just respond to major disasters, so that you have a unit that would be ready and willing to -

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, the Northern Command was set up after the attacks of September 11th. It was set up for the purpose of defending the homeland. And that includes helping to defend the homeland when it comes to catastrophic events. They have played an important role in Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita, and it's Northern Command that was responsible for overseeing the operations of the United States military in those two hurricanes.

General Honore heads Joint Task Force Katrina; General Clark heads the Joint Task Force Rita. And General Honore has been the point person for the military, and he reports to Admiral Keating at Northern Command. So you already have the structure in place. And that's what the President was talking about some over the weekend and again some today. You have the Northern Command in place that has a large amount of resources and assets at their disposal; it has the logistical and communications capability needed to quickly deploy those resources and assets into a situation and bring about some stability. And that's what the President is talking about, that you already have that structure in place.

Q Scott, I have a two-part: The New York Post reports that at a meeting sponsored by the Congressional Black Caucus, New York's Democratic Congressman Charles Rangel declared: "George Bush is our Bull Connor." And my question: Since The Post says Rangel should be ashamed of himself, I'm wondering if the White House agreed?

MR. McCLELLAN: I haven't seen those comments.

Q At the same Black Caucus meeting, Harry Belafonte said, our foreign policy has made a wreck of this planet. To which Senator Hillary Clinton said, what Harry said is so important. And my question: Does the White House -

MR. McCLELLAN: Les, I haven't seen these comments. We've been focused - we've been focused on -

Q It was last Thursday -

MR. McCLELLAN: - the hurricanes.

Q Have you missed it? Don't you read The New York Post?

WHITE HOUSE CONDUCTS DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

MR. McCLELLAN: There are a lot of priorities we have that we're focused on right now, and I just haven't seen those comments, so I don't want to weigh in until I've had an opportunity to see the comments.

Go ahead.

Q Scott, when the President said - said this morning that he had talked to refiners, what have the refiners offered the President as an explanation of why they aren't doing more capacity?

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, like I said, as a general matter, talking about some of the rules and regulations that are in place that are overly burdensome that prevent them from being able to even expand at their own sites. We also want to be able to build new refineries in the United States. It's a real problem when it comes to supply, that we don't have the capacity to - when we have the oil to refine it into gasoline. And the demand is high for a number of reasons that the President has outlined, not only here, but across the globe, in places like China and India.

Q I guess what I'm getting at is have they brought forth some sort of laundry list that he has taken and given to Secretary Bodman, for example, to say do something -

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, the Department of Energy and the National Economic Council under Al Hubbard - Secretary Bodman and the Department of Energy and Al Hubbard, here, within the White House, are looking at these issues, and are looking at steps that we can take to help expand that refinery capacity from the federal level because we want to look at these rules and regulations and look at steps that we can take to help encourage the expansion of the refinery capacity.

Q Think something will come out of that?

MR. McCLELLAN: I'm sorry?

Q Think something will come out of that?

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, it's something we're very much focused on. The President has talked about it at length previously, not just today; but it's something we've been working on for some time now. And, certainly, we have to look at the energy strategy we've put in place and steps that can be taken in that, as well.

Go ahead, Goyal.

MR. McCLELLAN: Scott, President of Iran called the Prime Minister of India on IAEA. The Prime Minister of India told the Iranian President that Iran should pull their act together as far as the transfer of nuclear technology or the spread of nuclear weapons. And India in Vienna, Austria working with the European Union and the United States as far as Iran - the spread of nuclear technology is concerned, case went to the U.N. Security Council. My question is, what does President think about India's stand now with the United States and with the European Union and a clear message to Iranian -

MR. McCLELLAN: We appreciate the support. The world is saying to Iran that it is time to come clean. The world has put Iran on notice with this resolution. It is unacceptable the way Iran is behaving. And if it does not come into compliance, then the matter is going to be referred to the United Nations Security Council. The resolution clearly spelled that out.

Iran for two decades has hid their nuclear activities from the international community and failed to comply with their international obligations. They need to abide by their international obligations, and they need to abide by their agreements with the Europeans. We continue to support the diplomatic efforts of the Europeans to resolve this matter. But you saw at the International Atomic Energy Agency that there is a growing majority of nations that recognize Iran's noncompliance must be addressed. And if they continue to fail to comply with their international obligations, then the matter is going to the United Nations Security Council. That was clearly stated in the resolution that was passed.

WHITE HOUSE CONDUCTS DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

The resolution reflects the international community's deep concern about Iran's pattern of deception and concealment. And we will not tolerate it.

Q I have another question also. Just for the President, as a friend, I don't think I would criticize my friend, President Bush, politically, like General Musharraf did that time in (inaudible) before he came to the United Nations. What he said was really that women in Pakistan are treated better than in the U.S. And every 90 seconds, woman is raped in the U.S. And look at what's happening in Louisiana.

MR. McCLELLAN: Yes, I think this issue came up at the State Department yesterday. And the United States is a leader when it comes to speaking out about violence against women, and taking steps to prevent it. And that is a message we state very clearly across the world. And in terms of the specific comments, I think that the government of Pakistan has addressed that matter and disputed some of the characterizations that were made.

Our National Security Advisor is traveling in the region and visiting with Afghan and Pakistani officials and talking about ways we can continue to work together on important priorities.

Go ahead, Greg.

Q Scott, the President - is the President's call for fuel conservation a temporary one? Or is he asking Americans to permanently change their behavior and their energy usage?

MR. McCLELLAN: Well, there are steps that - in the energy bill that we passed, to, as I said, expand conservation, and there are steps that - or initiatives that the President has outlined that are important steps that we can take to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy. This has been a high priority for the President from day one, and he has spelled out a number of steps that we can take when it comes to addressing the root causes of high energy prices. We need to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy.

We can take steps to do so by expanding domestic exploration and production, but by also encouraging energy efficiency and conservation. That's why the President has put forward proposals such as his tax credit for hybrid, clean diesel vehicles. We've moved forward on new rules when it comes to the corporate average fuel economy to increase fuel economy for light trucks and SUVs. We've moved forward on renewable fuel standards to expand the use of ethanol and biodiesel. And the President has an initiative to move forward on hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles. He dedicated a significant amount of resources to that initiative. And we are going to continue to act to reduce our dependence on foreign sources of energy. And conservation is an important part of that. And also looking to alternative sources of energy.

Go ahead.

Q In Belfast today it was announced that the IRA is putting arms beyond use verifiably. The White House made a statement - welcoming it. Do you have anything more to add? And will you continue - will President Bush continue to employ Mitchell Reiss as a special envoy to the area?

MR. McCLELLAN: A couple of things. One, we welcome today's statement by the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning that the Provisional Irish Republican Army has comprehensively and verifiably disarmed. It marks an historic day for Northern Ireland, and is very encouraging for all those who support the peace process, the rule of law, and a Northern Ireland free from sectarian violence. It also marks an opportunity for all parties to renew efforts to reach a sustainable political settlement in Northern Ireland.

So the decommissioning by the IRA is a critical first step in fulfilling the terms of their July 28th statement to pursue its goals through exclusively peaceful and democratic means. And it must be followed by actions demonstrating the Republican movement's unequivocal commitment to the rule of law and to the renunciation of all paramilitary and criminal activities. We remain steadfast in our support for the peace process and the work of the British and Irish governments to achieve lasting peace and reconciliation for the people of Northern Ireland under the principles of the Good Friday Agreement.

Q Will you continue to employ Mitchell Reiss as a special envoy?

WHITE HOUSE CONDUCTS DAILY PRESS BRIEFING, SEPT. 26

MR. McCLELLAN: I don't have any update on that at this point, but we'll continue to work closely with the British and Irish governments as we move forward. And he's been - played an important role.

Thank you.

END 2:06 P.M. EDT

For any query with respect to this article or any other content requirement, please contact Editor at htsyndication@hindustantimes.com

Load-Date: September 28, 2005

End of Document

The Politics of Ibrahim Parlak

The New York Times

March 20, 2005 Sunday

Late Edition - Final

Copyright 2005 The New York Times Company

Section: Section 6; Column 1; Magazine Desk; Pg. 46

Length: 8414 words

Byline: By Alex Kotlowitz

Alex Kotlowitz is a regular contributor to the magazine and the author of "There Are No Children Here" and "Never a City So Real."

Body

This is a story about the trickery of time. Sometimes the world changes on a dime, as it did on Sept. 11, and with the transformation of the present, the past, too, can suddenly take on a different hue. This, it seems, is what happened to Ibrahim Parlak. Indeed, it's tough to choose the tense in which to tell his story. He runs -- or ran -- a Middle Eastern restaurant. It's in Harbert, Mich., a small summer resort town, an hour and a half by car from Chicago, along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Parlak is a Kurd from Turkey and had been in this country for 13 years when, on the morning of July 29 last year, he was arrested by officers with the Department of Homeland Security and taken into custody. He was charged with crimes relating to his time in Turkey, when he had been involved with a Kurdish separatist group.

D.H.S. declared that he was --and consequently still is -- a terrorist. A spokeswoman told the Associated Press at the time of his arrest, "We think that if most people knew the details they would see him as someone they wouldn't want living in their community." Those details included the fact that before immigrating to the U.S., he had illegally crossed the Turkish border and, armed with an AK-47, a pistol and a grenade, was involved in a firefight in which two Turkish soldiers were killed. He was compared to former Nazis who had hidden their pasts to become U.S. citizens. A nearby newspaper in LaPorte County, Ind., The Herald-Argus, ran the headline "Terrorist 22 Miles Away?" A D.H.S. prosecutor mentioned him in the same breath as Osama bin Laden.

But the people around Parlak -- not just his close friends but customers and former employees, business competitors and neighbors -- saw things differently.

After Parlak's arrest, one of his closest friends, Martin Dzuris, who had fled Communist Czechoslovakia and who is now a loyal George W. Bush supporter, built a Web site and organized a letter-writing campaign to politicians. Parlak's tennis partner, Marty Goldrick, a square-jawed, retired Whirlpool executive, drove 120 miles to Lansing to lobby a U.S. senator on Parlak's behalf, the first political act he had ever undertaken. Jo Ann Jansky, a tough-talking waitress who worked for Parlak when he managed a truck stop, attached a plastic flag to her car's antenna. It read: "Free Ibrahim" -- as did signs that sprouted on front lawns like daisies. In their windows, businesses taped posters with a similar plea; they featured a picture of Parlak in his chef's apron. To help cover Parlak's legal costs, a competitor down the road sponsored a fund-raiser, which brought in \$25,000. (A friend contributed \$750, but told me he did it anonymously, not because he was afraid to take a public stand, but rather because he says that

The Politics of Ibrahim Parlak

otherwise Parlak would insist on repaying him.) A police officer in town, David Duis, took a day off work to testify at Parlak's bond hearing. "If Ibrahim moved next to me," he told me, "I'd welcome it. He's just a classy guy."

Even people who knew him only peripherally offered their support. A plumber who had done some work in the restaurant stopped by and, holding back tears, told Parlak's brother not to worry about the bill. Carol Marin, a TV journalist who had dined at the restaurant, wrote editorials in *The Chicago Sun-Times* urging the government to drop the charges. I was at the restaurant one afternoon when two faculty members from a nearby university dropped off a small contribution and a card. They explained that their school had warned them about getting involved and forbade them to associate the school in any way with the case, so they left the card unsigned. One friend commented that it was like a contemporary version of the film "It's a Wonderful Life," as Parlak's small, everyday gestures had suddenly taken on added significance. In the wake of 9/11, his friends were fairly certain that they knew evil, and in their minds Parlak wasn't it. Not even close.

How is it that two groups of individuals -- Parlak's small-town friends and the U.S. government -- can look at one man, at one case, at one situation and come to such disparate conclusions? Are his friends so close to him that they can't see what might have been ugliness in his past? Or is the government so intent on proving that it's tough on terrorism that it has lost its moral bearing?

The Flight

On April 13, 1991, Ibrahim Parlak, who was 28 at the time, arrived in the United States. He was on the run, and so was both relieved and tired. He had recently been released from a Turkish prison, and the authorities there had been putting pressure on him to rat out friends. Moreover, his family had received death threats. So he fled. His father sold a tractor and other farm equipment, and his sisters sold some of their jewelry to raise the several thousand dollars needed for plane tickets and a false passport. Parlak remembers clearly something his father told him before he left: "You're old enough and have been through enough to know what is right and what is wrong. But no matter what you do, don't stay in the front or the back, find a place in the middle." By that he meant find a place of comfort and safety.

Parlak told me he had planned his departure carefully. The day before leaving, he went to a Turkish barber and asked for "an American haircut," and he purchased new clothes, including a leather jacket, so that he wouldn't attract attention. Accompanying Parlak on the flight was a Turkish businessman, whom Parlak had just met and whose travel expenses he paid in exchange for carrying newspaper clippings and other documents that could help Parlak establish an asylum claim. Parlak didn't want to transport the papers himself for fear that he might be stopped and searched along the way. He was also traveling on a false passport, and so brought papers that could establish his real identity.

In Chicago, the businessman took him to a city college, where there was a language program for new refugees. There they met Ruth Lambach, its director. Lambach was immediately drawn to Parlak. "I looked at Ibrahim in my office," she recalls. "I could feel that he was on the edge of his life, that he didn't have that many options. He had this amazing warmth and fire in his eyes." Parlak is a slender, handsome man, but it's his eyes that most people comment on. They're deep-set and simultaneously sad and sparkling. "Dancing eyes," Lambach calls them. "Alert, curious, alive." Lambach offered to let him stay on her couch for the night. He spent much of the next year there, becoming good friends with Lambach and her son. In those days, Lambach and Parlak, who spoke no English, communicated in German.

Rebellion and Capture

Parlak immediately applied for political asylum, and two weeks after his arrival went downtown to the immigration building where he was interviewed about his claim. There are a number of critical moments in Parlak's story, and this one has taken on added significance, especially when looked back on through the prism of today's reordered world. In 1980, Congress passed legislation formalizing the asylum process, in part to be in compliance with the longstanding United Nations Convention on refugees and in part to respond to the influx of Soviet citizens fleeing Communist rule. Over time, the process for asylum seekers has become more demanding and systematic, but in

The Politics of Ibrahim Parlak

1991 it was a rather straightforward one that relied heavily on the intuition of the immigration officer. Asylum is given to people who can show a reasonable likelihood that if they were to return to their countries, they'd be persecuted because of their religion, race, nationality, social group or political beliefs; it cannot, however, be given to people who have persecuted others. Applicants must provide what documentation and narrative they can to substantiate their claims, though in the end, at least in 1991, much of it came down to a matter of trust. The immigration officer had to decide whether the applicant's story was believable.

There is a place on the application where Parlak had to list his residences of the last five years, the most recent first. It reads like a haiku of his experience:

Istanbul

Aksaray

Prison in Gaziantep

Mountains of Maras

P.K.K. Camp, Halvi, Lebanon

It's unclear whether Parlak told the asylum officer about his childhood, since the notes from that interview begin with high school. But Parlak grew up on a farm with four brothers and five sisters; his father grew wheat, cotton and watermelon. It was not an easy time to be a Kurd in Turkey, especially for someone as independent-minded as Parlak. In the 1970's, Turkey refused to recognize the Kurds as a distinct ethnic group even though half the world's Kurds -- an estimated 10 to 12 million -- lived in the country.

The Kurds were concentrated in the mountainous regions in the east and south, where few of their villages had electricity or running water. It has generally been Turkey's belief that the Kurds need to assimilate and become Turks, in language, culture and identity. In the 1970's and 1980's, the Kurdish language was forbidden for official use. Schools taught only in Turkish. Newspapers or television could not use the Kurdish language. Parents could not give their children Kurdish names. Kurdish songs and books were banned. Parlak tells the story of the time the military came through his village, and while his father threw books into a fire, Parlak and one of his brothers tried to salvage what they could, burying them in a nearby field. When Parlak was in first grade, a classmate reported to the authorities that Parlak spoke Kurdish in his home. When he got to school, his teacher hit him with a wooden cane and then humiliated him by making him stand by the blackboard all day.

Parlak's father sent him to the nearby city, Gaziantep, for high school, and it's here that Parlak's asylum testimony picks up. Parlak told the immigration officer that it was in Gaziantep that he became involved with the burgeoning Kurdish rights movement, attending meetings and political protests. At one rally, where he was distributing leaflets and hanging posters, the police arrested him. He was held for three months -- without ever appearing in front of a judge -- before being released. He was 16. Realizing the danger of his involvement in Kurdish affairs, Parlak left for the safety of Germany, where he lived for the next seven years.

During that time, the mid-1980's, the Kurdish Workers' Party, or P.K.K., emerged as the leading force for Kurdish rights. It was a Marxist-Leninist insurgent group (though with no ties to Moscow) that advocated an independent Kurdish state and was led by Abdullah Ocalan, who would eventually earn a reputation for his zealotry and brutality (including against P.K.K. members when he lost trust in them). The P.K.K. conducted guerrilla raids in southeast Turkey, killing soldiers and police officers as well as civilians who sympathized with the Turkish authorities. In Europe, Parlak became active in the P.K.K.'s political arm and organized Kurdish cultural festivals throughout the continent. They had a dual purpose: to fuel a sense of Kurdish identity as well as to raise money for P.K.K. activities. Parlak used a pseudonym, Ayhan.

Parlak missed his family, and he carried around their photographs, trying to memorize their faces so that he wouldn't forget them. He couldn't call them because his parents' village didn't have telephones. After seven years in Europe, Parlak decided to return home, with the assistance of the P.K.K. He thought he could be more effective advocating Kurdish rights in Turkey than he could from afar.

The Politics of Ibrahim Parlak

He told the immigration officer in Chicago that he left Germany for eastern Lebanon, where he trained at a P.K.K. camp for eight months and where he learned skills to survive in the mountains. He led a group of five Kurds, and with Syrian smugglers as guides, crossed the border from Syria into Turkey. A Turkish patrol discovered them, and a firefight ensued. In recounting this story for the asylum officer, Parlak -- with the businessman who accompanied him translating -- told her: "We were shot at with automatic guns. Three of my friends were injured, and we returned the gunfire." He didn't mention that in the skirmish two Turkish soldiers were killed. He did, however, submit a Turkish newspaper article that recounted the incident. The businessman translated the article and left out mention of the soldiers' deaths. This omission, which Parlak said he didn't know about at the time, would become important to the government's case against Parlak.

Parlak evaded capture, and a couple of weeks later, he crossed into Turkey successfully, spending the next six months hiding in the mountains by day and traveling by night. Parlak has always maintained that he was there doing political work, visiting villages to talk about Kurdish rights and Kurdish culture and to put families of prisoners in touch with support groups in Europe. (Turkey has never accused him of being involved in any combat outside of the border skirmish.) On the afternoon of Oct. 29, 1988, as he sat in a small hole he had dug into the side of a mountain eating a late lunch of macaroni, he was surrounded by the local police and Turkish soldiers. For a brief moment, Parlak considered fighting his way out, but thought better of it, and instead hastily tried -- unsuccessfully -- to burn a journal and some photographs. Parlak was arrested, and over the next four weeks was continually tortured. He didn't go into details with the asylum officer, though he told her that he still had the scars.

Parlak was put on trial in the State Security Courts, a separate judicial system the Turkish government had established to try leftists and Kurdish separatists. He was tried along with 57 other suspected militants; he faced the death penalty for his association with the P.K.K. and for his involvement in the deaths of the two soldiers (though the court concluded he had not shot them). But his sentence was reduced because he directed the Turkish police to a buried munitions cache and promised to end his involvement in Kurdish causes. He was released after serving 16 months in prison.

This was not, however, what he told the asylum officer. Rather, he told a half-truth: that he won an early release because of bribes his family paid to the police and the judge. His family did pay something to the local police, Parlak says, but he knew that wasn't the complete picture. Parlak now feared the P.K.K., and so figured the fewer people who knew about his turning over information, the better. He also felt ashamed. "I accepted a bargain," he told me. "I felt selfish." At his asylum hearing, along with newspaper articles, his discharge papers from prison and a recent internal police memo that said he was wanted for questioning, Parlak brought with him a report from Human Rights Watch, which condemned Turkey for its mass political trials and for its use of torture, which "continued unabated."

At the end of her interview, the immigration officer asked Parlak, "What do you think would happen to you if you returned to Turkey?"

"Everything," Parlak replied. "I'd be lucky to be alive after two to three weeks."

Parlak was given working papers after the interview and was granted asylum the following year. In doing so, the U.S. government gave Parlak refuge, assurance that it would protect him, that it would ensure his safety, that in the words of Parlak's father, it would give him "a place in the middle." Parlak says he thought to himself: One part of my life is behind me. I can start something new.

A Place of Comfort

Parlak slowly learned English, and took his first job, as a room-service waiter at the Ritz-Carlton in Chicago. In his first year here, on a blind date arranged by Lambach, he met Michele Gazzolo, a 31-year-old graduate student who grew up in a Chicago suburb. Gazzolo says she thought Parlak was "resolute about everything he did or thought." When she asked him if he liked verse, he replied, "I don't have time for poetry." Parlak told Gazzolo about his time in Turkey and his involvement with the Kurdish separatist movement, and on their first date drew the outlines of Kurdistan on a napkin. Kurdistan is the imagined future home of the roughly 22 million Kurds who live in a

The Politics of Ibrahim Parlak

contiguous area that reaches into Turkey, Syria, Iran and Iraq. "He impressed me as being a person who knew who he was and what he cared about," Gazzolo recalls. The two soon moved in together.

Parlak had trouble sleeping, and often in the middle of the night he would go to the kitchen, turn on the light and puff on a Winston cigarette. He was haunted. Gazzolo tried to get him to talk; his stories came out in bits and pieces. He told Gazzolo that after he was arrested he was blindfolded and placed in a box-size cage where the ceiling was too low to stand upright. But he couldn't sit either, since there was a layer of frigid water and excrement on the floor. He spent more than a week in this cage, and when he was able to fall asleep, in a crouching position, guards would spray him with a hose to wake him. His genitals, he told Gazzolo, still ached from the jolts of electric shock administered by interrogators. He once was tied to a wall, and had a sandbag that hung by a rope repeatedly knocked against his chest. He'd go days without food, and when his captors gave him bread they would smear it in excrement. He finally gave information to the authorities when they threatened to harm his father. Gazzolo tried to persuade Parlak to get some help, but he refused. He wanted to put it behind him, and he feared that talking about it would only invigorate the memories.

Gazzolo's parents had a summer home in Harbert, and occasionally, she would take Parlak there. He fell in love with the area, especially the long, winding sandy beaches, and relished the distance from the big city, mostly because he wanted to keep his distance from the Kurdish community. He still worried that the P.K.K. might seek revenge on him for turning over the munitions cache to the Turkish government. He soon found a job managing a truck stop. He had a reputation for working long hours, sometimes three shifts in a row, and for being an outstanding cook. Truckers would radio others about Parlak's lentil soup. Jo Ann Jansky, the tough-talking waitress, was struck by his generosity. When Jansky lost her job, Parlak came by her house a few days before Christmas and handed her a check for \$500. This, he told Jansky, was to buy presents for her grandchildren.

Parlak very much wanted his own restaurant, and so, in 1994, he opened Cafe Gulistan in a small, low-slung building along the Red Arrow Highway, a busy thoroughfare that runs along the lake. Gulistan means "land of roses"; it's how he and his friends in Turkey referred to Kurdistan because they couldn't refer to it by name. He planted rosebushes in front of the restaurant and hollyhocks along the side, and decorated the inside with Kurdish artifacts and photographs of Kurdish children.

Parlak, in his reserved, unassuming manner, found a community of friends. There was, for instance, Goldrick, the retired Whirlpool executive. He, Parlak and a local contractor took tennis lessons together, and nearly every Sunday night would gather for dinner at Cafe Gulistan, a ritual that they kept for three years until Parlak's arrest. Goldrick served as a Marine officer in Vietnam, and so he and Parlak would exchange stories about survival in the bush. "I came to consider him a very good friend," Goldrick told me, "one of the greatest human beings I've had the good fortune to know."

David Duis, who has been a local patrol officer for 18 years, recalls talking to Parlak when Cafe Gulistan was burglarized. Restaurant burglaries, Duis told me, are usually the work of an employee, and so the first thing he asked of Parlak was to interview the workers there. Parlak resisted. "He didn't want me to subject his employees to what he thought would be some kind of interrogation," Duis recalled. "He treated his employees like family." The burglary turned out to have been done by outsiders. Duis became a regular customer. After 9/11, his police unit was asked by the F.B.I. for background on Parlak. Duis couldn't understand why they'd be concerned about him.

In 1997, Parlak and Gazzolo had a daughter, Livia. Though they have split up, they have remained good friends, and Parlak has participated in their daughter's upbringing. Livia helped her father in the garden, and he taught her what each herb tasted like so she could pick them for his cooking. He called her maymun, Kurdish for "little monkey." He joined her school's parents' association, and when she had trouble with her reading in first grade, he worked with her every day on phonics and told her that she was teaching him to read English better. "The sun rises and sets on Livia," said a friend.

The Politics of Ibrahim Parlak

Parlak's life began to unravel when he took the U.S. citizenship test in 1999. Applying for citizenship seemed like the natural thing to do. He said he felt that the United States was where he belonged. His friend Goldrick had been nudging him to become a full-fledged American. "I just thought this guy was the epitome of the immigrant coming to America and making good for himself," Goldrick told me. "He needed to be a citizen." So, on a July afternoon, Parlak drove the 100 miles to Grand Rapids to take his English language and history tests, both of which he passed easily. Afterward, he was interviewed by an I.N.S. worker, and she asked him about his involvement with the P.K.K. She explained that as of 1997, the State Department had listed the P.K.K. as a terrorist group. He testily told her he had detailed his affiliation in his asylum application eight years earlier. "Didn't you just ask me about the meaning of Fourth of July?" he asked, referring to the U.S. history test he'd taken. "The Kurds fight for their freedom, and why do they have to be punished?" She told him that his citizenship application would be delayed. A month later, an I.N.S. representative sent a terse inquiry to Interpol, asking for any information it might have on Parlak.

For more than two years, Parlak awaited word on whether his application for naturalization had been approved. Then, in August 2001, his frustration mounting, he filed a lawsuit against the I.N.S.; his hope was to expedite the process. While awaiting word from the I.N.S., Parlak heard instead from the F.B.I., as the agency began taking a second look at old asylum and immigration cases after the Sept. 11 attacks. He would meet periodically with a local F.B.I. agent from nearby St. Joseph, and the two would have coffee together. Wanting to cooperate fully, Parlak handed out index cards to local law-enforcement officials with his work and home phone numbers on them.

By the end of 2001, Parlak received a formal denial of his naturalization request. Then, in April 2002, the I.N.S. filed charges against him for having lied on his green-card application 10 years earlier. He had answered no to two questions: one asked if he had ever been arrested for anything, the other inquired as to whether he had ever provided support to a terrorist organization. He says he misunderstood the questions because of his English, which was rudimentary then. In any event, he had previously disclosed his arrest and P.K.K. affiliation on his asylum application a year earlier.

While his immigration case dragged through the courts, Parlak received a call on July 29 of last year from the F.B.I. agent in St. Joseph, who invited him over to his office. Parlak thought it was to be a routine visit. Soon after he sat down to talk, though, two special D.H.S. agents, who were also seated in the room, rose from their chairs and handcuffed him. Parlak was told he was under arrest.

The D.H.S. (the I.N.S. had been subsumed by this new agency) charged Parlak with committing an aggravated felony after his admission to the U.S. This charge came out of an unusual turn of events. Shortly after Parlak had been released from a Turkish prison in 1990, the prosecution there appealed the sentence. The appeal sat unanswered in the court system until early last year, when the State Security Court in one of its last acts before it was disbanded (which was a condition for Turkey's entry into the European Union) resented Parlak, in absentia, to six years. D.H.S., which says it didn't know of Parlak's involvement in the two soldiers' deaths until 2002, argues that this resentencing means he was convicted of a felony while he was here, even though it was a crime for which he had already served time.

But the government soon ratcheted up the charges and accused Parlak of having engaged in terrorist activity in Turkey. It suddenly became a very different kind of case.

Terrorist activity as defined by Congress includes the "intent to endanger, directly or indirectly, the safety of one or more individuals" (other than for mere personal monetary gain), and the government argued that Parlak's presence at the shooting of the two soldiers fell under this rubric. Parlak was also charged with providing material support to a terrorist organization, given his activities with the P.K.K.'s political arm. There have never been any allegations that Parlak is a threat to the security of this country, or that he has been involved with any kind of militant group since his arrival here. Rather, as legislators reshaped the definition of terrorism, first in 1990, then in 1996, and then again in 2001 -- in the aftermath of 9/11 -- Parlak's activities in Turkey took on a more sinister coloring. What's more, with each broadening of the definition by Congress, its application became retroactive.

What Is Terrorism?

The Politics of Ibrahim Parlak

There has long been disagreement about what constitutes a terrorist. Often the definition depends on the historical context. In one case in 1990, immigration authorities gave asylum to a member of the mujahedeen, a group that used terrorist tactics against the Soviets in Afghanistan. They said there was no lawful way for him to change the government. In 1997, a member of the ***Irish Republican Army*** who had served time for bombing police barracks received asylum; the immigration judge ruled that it was not a terrorist act but a political offense because of the conflict in Northern Ireland. In the late 80's, the African National Congress was considered a terrorist group by the Department of Defense, while the State Department called it "a legitimate voice" in South African affairs. In the past, there has been disagreement over whether a state can be guilty of using terrorist tactics, and in 1984 a member of Savak, the shah of Iran's notoriously brutal secret police, received political asylum.

The definition of terrorism in the U.S. has changed over time, as terrorism has itself changed. In the 1980's, U.S. immigration law had no definition for terrorism (though it explicitly banned admission of members of the Palestine Liberation Organization). The State Department thought of it as "premeditated, politically motivated violence perpetrated against noncombatant targets . . . usually intended to influence an audience." In 1990, for purposes of immigration matters, Congress came up with a definition that didn't explicitly limit terrorism to attacks against civilians, and while the law didn't take effect until after Parlak's admission to the U.S., the government argues it applies retroactively to his case. Then in 1996, after the bombings of the World Trade Center and the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City -- acts that seemed designed to take as many lives as possible -- the government made it a crime to provide any sort of material support, including food and housing, to a terrorist organization. Congress also directed the State Department to publish a list of organizations it deemed to be terrorist groups; it included the P.K.K. Finally, in the U.S. Patriot Act, Congress used broader language so that now a terrorist organization included any two or more individuals involved in what it deemed terrorist acts. It was also retroactive to past situations like Parlak's.

"The problem now is that if you broaden it so much, you can pin the label on anyone you don't like," said Louise Richardson, a scholar of terrorist movements and now the executive dean of the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. "The P.K.K., while guilty of certain atrocities, were more in line with a guerrilla group insofar as they had a broad base of support in the Kurdish community. And the Kurdish community was so discriminated against."

The P.K.K. nonetheless has been involved in some rather ugly and savage activity. It not only attacked the Turkish police and military but also went after civilians, including Turkish teachers in Kurdish communities, and even fellow Kurds -- especially landlords and the village guards -- who wouldn't take a stand for a separate Kurdish state. The State Department's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for the late 1980's -- the period when Parlak re-entered Turkey -- chronicled various attacks on civilians by the P.K.K., including on women and children. While the State Department often referred to the P.K.K. as a terrorist organization, it also employed the terms "insurgency," "guerrillas" and "separatist organization." (In newspaper articles about the P.K.K. from that same period, they're described as "Kurdish guerrillas," "Kurdish insurgents" and "Kurdish separatists.") This isn't to suggest that the P.K.K. didn't attack civilians, but rather that there was ambiguity about how we viewed a militant organization that appeared to have some legitimate complaints. Indeed, a State Department official told me that until the mid-1990's, Turkey never felt that the U.S. condemned the P.K.K. strongly enough.

"There's such a fuzzy line between civil war, insurgency and terrorism," says Peter W. Singer of the Brookings Institution. "To be blunt about it, a lot of people use Justice Potter Stewart's notion about pornography: I know it when I see it."

Since 9/11, it has become a much less fluid term, and like the way we saw the Communist threat in anyone who opposed us during the cold war, we now see terrorism in any group that employs unconventional tactics of warfare. But most important, the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon have colored our view of history. "Today, we're looking for terrorism everywhere," Singer says. "It's the lens through which we view the world. The bar has been lowered. . . . It's going to shift the way we look at things in the past."

It's also instructive to revisit 1991, the year Parlak was admitted to the U.S., to understand the prism of that time. There was much going on in the world that made us more tolerant and ready to embrace someone with his background. Two years earlier the Berlin Wall fell, a grand symbolic moment signaling an openness and orderliness

The Politics of Ibrahim Parlak

the world hadn't experienced in a long while. And there was much worldwide sympathy for the Kurds. In the late 80's, Saddam Hussein gassed Kurdish villages and carried out mass executions, killing some 100,000. Then around the time of Parlak's arrival, after the gulf war, roughly half a million Iraqi Kurds decamped for the safety of Turkey, but tens of thousands were stranded at the border. There was a world outcry first at Iraq, then at Turkey, for their treatment of the Kurds. Certainly, these events shaped the way we viewed someone like Parlak back in 1991.

Jailed and Confused

I visited Parlak this past October at the Calhoun County jail in Battle Creek, where there's a wing set aside for immigrants awaiting possible deportation. He has been held without bond because of the terrorism allegations. We sat across from each other in a small, windowless, white-cinder-block room, and Parlak spent much of our time together leaning over the table, his attention fully on the moment, his eyes, as Lambach had suggested, "dancing." They brighten when he laughs, but even then there's a solemnity about them. (When he spoke of his torture in Turkey, he averted my gaze altogether.) We spent four hours together, but this was, it turns out, the last visit D.H.S. would allow reporters.

Parlak, who's now 42, looked thin, his wiry shoulders apparent through his orange jail garb; he told me he had lost 10 pounds since his arrest. I asked how he was doing. "It's not how I expected to spend my summer," he said, forcing a smile.

He told me that shortly after he was arrested and taken here, he decided to request deportation rather than proceed with a hearing. He didn't have any fight in him, he told me. He was too angry, too bewildered and too disoriented. Being incarcerated had revived memories of his time in Turkish prisons. "It's just like watching old movies," he told me. "You put your head on the pillow, and they come." Then he heard what his friends were doing on his behalf, about the fund-raiser, about people stopping by the restaurant to donate money, about neighbors who hadn't lost faith. And he thought of his daughter, Livia.

Lambach, the first American to befriend him, sent him 36 postcards, all scenes from Monet's garden, because she knew he loved flowers. Goldrick visited Parlak in jail and got so choked up that he found it hard to have a conversation. Through the glass partition, Parlak told Goldrick he was having a hard time with the radical Muslims in the jail. He would argue with them about America, and they would deride him for not joining their gripe sessions about the country. (An Iraqi who was in the jail with Parlak told me that Parlak was a calming influence there, that many of the immigrants came to him for advice.) Two of his sisters -- one of whom he hasn't seen in 20 years -- came to the U.S., one from Switzerland, the other from Germany. And every Monday night, 20 to 40 friends of Parlak's gather at Cafe Gulistan for a potluck, and Parlak calls to speak with them.

When I saw him, he clearly seemed boosted if not emboldened by the support. "I'm not any less American than the judge," he said. "I'm not any less American than the prosecutors. The America here is not the America I know."

Parlak talked openly and in great detail about his time as a Kurdish separatist, about crossing the border, about being armed, about the firefight, about his six months hiding in the mountains. There wasn't any effort to hide his place in the Kurdish movement. Regarding his arrest here, he seemed more perplexed than anything else. Periodically he would say to me: "Why? I've been asking myself that question over and over."

Parlak had a pile of papers in front of him, many of them legal documents. On the top were a few pages of notes he had jotted for himself, some in English but much in Kurdish. He told me that he can't sleep for more than two to three hours at a time, so he'll often record what he can remember of the events 16 years ago. The hardest thing, though, was being away from his 7-year-old daughter, with whom he had had only one contact visit, but who comes to see him almost every Thursday morning at the jail. They talk through a glass partition. At one point, using toothpaste, he glued photographs of Livia to a sheet of cardboard, but the guards told him he had to take it down. "The only thing I could tell her," he said, "is that I didn't do anything wrong. That it's a mistake. That we'll fix it."

A Defiant Hearing

The Politics of Ibrahim Parlak

On a gloomy, rainy Monday morning this past December, Parlak, whose hair had grayed considerably after four months in detention, was escorted by federal agents, one of them toting an automatic, into the building that houses Detroit's immigration court. Parlak's wrists were tethered to a manacle around his waist.

His friends, each of whom wore a sticker with a photograph of a red rose, waited for him outside the courtroom, and when he appeared, burst into applause. Livia wore a T-shirt that read: "Free My Dad." People squeezed onto the nine wooden benches of the compact courtroom; two of the benches were filled with reporters from small newspapers that serve the area around Parlak's hometown, as well reporters from The Chicago Tribune and "Nightline." Goldrick spent the first day in a blue poncho with the words "Free Ibrahim" on the back, parading in front of the building, holding aloft his "Free Ibrahim" lawn sign.

The prosecutor was Mark Jebson, 37, a rapid-fire speaker with the straight-backed bearing of a marine. He has spent most of his career working for immigration, first for the I.N.S. and then for the D.H.S. By contrast, Parlak's legal team was unusually large -- seven in all; there was room for only three of them at the defense table, so the others crammed into the front bench. They included two attorneys from the Chicago office of a large corporate law firm that had agreed to take the case pro bono. (One of them, David Foster, was Gazzolo's cousin, who had known Parlak for many years.) A D.H.S. official later commented to me, "That kind of goes against the perception of David going against Goliath."

The attorney who spent the most time visiting Parlak in jail, and who would be the one to question him in court, was a demure, soft-spoken woman, Anne Buckleitner. Buckleitner, who is in private practice in Grand Rapids, first heard about Parlak's case when she read a local newspaper article about his arrest and remembers thinking to herself, He was in trouble now for what he'd already opened up about? This can't be right. There's got to be more to this story.

From 1989 to 1999, Buckleitner worked for the F.B.I. at its Washington headquarters, the last five of them as an assistant general counsel specializing in counterintelligence and counterterrorism. (She and her law partner, John Smietanka, who also served in the U.S. attorney general's office during the Reagan and first Bush administrations, have taken on Parlak's case at a reduced fee.) Buckleitner remembers the debates she and her F.B.I. colleagues would have over what constitutes a terrorist organization, especially because they saw the emergence of radical Islamic fundamentalists who had no connection to a country or a discernible cause. Buckleitner wondered if the government might have reason to believe that Parlak posed a security threat, but she became satisfied -- through her meetings with him and through her own investigation -- that that wasn't the case. "Government people often times lose a perspective of the power and the impact that their actions have," she told me. "When you have shifting goal posts, I don't know how Ibrahim could anticipate what would be important to the government."

The hearing lasted two days, and it was Parlak's testimony that occupied most of the time. Parlak, who had had little sleep, looked on edge. He wore an ill-fitting green suit and, because he hadn't been given time to shave at the jail, had a day's worth of growth. He appeared nervous, and often sat on his hands, his body leaning forward, as if he couldn't decide how best to appear, deferential or assertive. One friend noticed that his English, usually quite good, was more halting and choppy than usual. His exchanges with Jebson, the prosecutor, were combative. Indeed, Parlak's demeanor was at times defiant, which made his answers seem elusive. At one point, Jebson asked Parlak about the pseudonym he used while in Germany.

"Was that your code name?" Jebson asked.

"Could be," Parlak replied. Jebson approached him.

"It is or it isn't," he demanded.

"It was."

Toward the end of the hearing, Jebson asked Parlak if he still supported the P.K.K.

The Politics of Ibrahim Parlak

"As long as they stay with the Kurdish issue," he said. "I want the Kurds to be free to speak their language, to experience the culture. If the P.K.K. encourages that, then we're on the same page. I don't agree with their military tactics. I agree with their ideals." In subsequent conversations, Parlak has made it clear that his fire for Kurdish rights has not diminished.

Jebson contended that Parlak's asylum application "was full of lies," and in his conclusion argued that "if he had told the truth, we never would have granted him asylum." During the two-day hearing, Jebson presented some material that Parlak had not disclosed when he entered the U.S., including the fact that right before crossing the border into Turkey he had a farewell meeting with the P.K.K. leader Ocalan, that he was the commander of the five men and that a grenade fell from his pack when he fled. The bulk of Jebson's argument rested on the contention that Parlak had hidden his involvement in the deaths of the two soldiers. Parlak continues to maintain that he always believed the newspaper article had been fully translated.

For Jebson, it seemed clear: Parlak had a violent past. He had tried to re-enter Turkey carrying an AK-47, a pistol and a grenade, prepared to do battle. When Jebson asked why he was armed, Parlak replied: "Because I was in danger. The Turkish government considered me an enemy, and I considered them an enemy." Jebson appeared irritated by the efforts of Parlak's lawyers to make his activities seem benign. While they wanted to establish that Parlak was not part of the P.K.K.'s military arm, they sometimes soft-pedaled the evidence. At one point, they argued unconvincingly that the P.K.K. camp where Parlak spent time could also be considered a refugee camp for the elderly and children. Plain and simple, Parlak was armed and involved in illegal activity in Turkey. About that there seems no doubt.

Indeed, in the end, what's most striking is not how far apart the two sides are, but how much they agree on. Jebson confirmed that assessment. "Mr. Parlak admitted almost everything I questioned him on," he told me after the hearing. Parlak by his own admission had been associated with the P.K.K. He had told the asylum officer that he attended a P.K.K. camp in Lebanon, and that he was a member of the P.K.K.'s political arm. (The government does claim, though, that there was little distinction between the political and military wings of the organization.) Parlak had spoken of crossing the border into Turkey illegally and in court acknowledged the death of the two Turkish soldiers. The government doesn't dispute that Parlak himself didn't shoot the soldiers. Parlak spoke of his torture, and of his ultimate conviction and prison sentence. None of that is in dispute. Rather, it seems, what is in question is how we view his activities now, through the prism of a post-9/11 world.

"Mr. Parlak," Jebson said in his concluding remarks, "is literally the complete terrorist package. . . . There are many governments in this world that would claim Osama bin Laden as a freedom fighter. He's not a freedom fighter. He's a terrorist. Parlak is not a freedom fighter. He's a terrorist."

But is he? Was he? Parlak and his lawyers argue that he never committed any violent acts against civilians, that he was in fact convicted in Turkey not for being a terrorist but rather for his activities advocating an independent Kurdish state. They also argue that, to use their words, he has been "road tested," that in his 14 years here he has shown himself to be an ideal citizen. Until changes in the immigration laws in 1996, if you'd been in this country for seven years, proved yourself to be of good moral character and had a family who depended on you, it was enough to avoid deportation. "I think the way he was treated speaks for itself," Buckleitner said, referring to the asylum office. "They had comfort with what they knew and let him in."

At his hearing, Parlak testified to his torture in a closed courtroom with only the attorneys and the D.H.S. guards present. It was, one of his lawyers said, a highly emotional session. Immediately afterward Parlak was allowed a break, and the plainclothes officer guarding him allowed him a visit with his daughter in a room off the hallway. He left the door open. At one point, Buckleitner passed by. She noticed Livia in her father's lap and the guard sitting in a corner reading a newspaper. "Something about that scene, coming on the heels of that testimony, just overwhelmed me," Buckleitner said. "The guard seemed real comfortable with him. I have to think that the guards were also affected by his deportment and his testimony." Buckleitner told me she got teary-eyed, and still can't fathom why the government is so determined to prosecute this case. "Maybe," she suggested, "it's because they've been dealt so many blows on the criminal side, and so they're just digging in their heels."

The Politics of Ibrahim Parlak

It is the question that everyone familiar with this saga asks: Why? Is this a political payoff to Turkey, whose assistance in the Middle East we rely on? Unlikely. The State Department had no involvement in this case, and an officer at the Turkish Embassy told me that while Turkey was satisfied that the U.S. had gone after Parlak, Turkish authorities had not made a decision whether to even allow him back into Turkey. (Oddly enough, the U.S. government has in recent years tried to get Turkey to expand its offer of limited amnesty to P.K.K. members; since the 1999 capture of Ocalan, P.K.K. activities have diminished considerably.) Are there suspicions that Parlak might still be active in any kind of nefarious activity since his arrival here? There's been no suggestion of that. It may be as simple as this: since 9/11, the government has clamped down on immigration cases (57 percent more people were deported last year than in the year 2000), and we now see threats where we didn't before. From D.H.S.'s perspective, they're simply following the letter of the law.

"There's a lot of people on his side who really feel that he's helpless victim of government oppression," said Robin Baker, the director of detention and removal for a D.H.S. branch based in Detroit. "Frankly, if people wanted an individual who's admitted to being a member of a terrorist organization and who's been held responsible for the murders of two people to live in their neighborhood, then they should contact our elected representatives and ask them to change the law because all we're doing is enforcing the law."

Even if you presume, as the government does, that Parlak once engaged in terrorist activity, is he still a terrorist? I spoke with Henri Barkey, an expert on Turkey who served on the policy-planning staff at the U.S. State Department in the late 90's. "If we're going to brand a terrorist forever and go after them until the cows come home, we'll never win this thing," he said of the country's war on terrorism. "If there's no redemption, we'll either have to jail them forever or kill them."

After the hearing, in a phone conversation from jail, Parlak told me that a year and a half before his arrest, the F.B.I. approached him with a vague proposal to infiltrate the P.K.K. somewhere in the Middle East. Parlak declined the offer. When asked about this, the F.B.I. refused comment and asked that I speak to the D.H.S. A spokesman there said, "Nobody will disclose that a conversation materialized." Privately, a D.H.S. official said that he had been told that the F.B.I. had pitched Parlak, though he didn't know the details. What does it say that at one point one arm of the U.S. government felt confident enough in Parlak's integrity to think that he could re-enter the Kurdish separatist movement and turn over valuable information? It's further evidence, I suppose, that we see what we want to see.

The Court Rules

On Dec. 29, Elizabeth A. Hacker, a U.S. immigration judge, issued a scathing 59-page decision, ordering Parlak deported to Turkey. She wrote that she didn't find Parlak credible because of "his evasive demeanor" at the hearing. She agreed with the prosecution on virtually every point. She wrote that Parlak's "actions as a restaurateur, father and resident of Harbert are not the subject of this hearing." She continued: he "is accountable for the actions he took prior to entry into the United States and the actions in obtaining his status under the immigration laws before this Court." Parlak's attorneys are appealing, first to the Board of Immigration Appeals, and then if necessary to the federal courts.

Meanwhile, Parlak worries that if sent back to Turkey he would be a target of the authorities and of the P.K.K., which he says he believes views him as a traitor to their cause. (Despite his new sentence, he doesn't have to serve any more prison time because he has already fulfilled one-fifth of it, which was all that was required by the Turkish court.) If Turkey -- which long ago revoked Parlak's citizenship -- refuses him entry, then it's unclear what will happen. It's highly unusual for a deportee to be sent to a third country. Theoretically, he could be detained indefinitely, if it was believed he posed a danger to the community. Otherwise, he could be temporarily released under supervision. A D.H.S. spokesman told me, "Ibrahim Parlak will never walk these streets again."

Shortly after the decision, I spoke with Parlak's neighbors. I thought that given the forcefulness of the judge's decision, some of them might now think differently about their friend. Goldrick conceded to me that he had been worried that maybe the government had something on Parlak that would suggest he was engaged in villainous activity here. "I thought, I'll kill you if you haven't been honest with us," he told me. But in the end it was as he had

The Politics of Ibrahim Parlak

known it to be. "You better go and round up all those people who fought the apartheid government in South Africa," he told me, sounding even more agitated than when I'd spoken to him a couple of months earlier. He's in Florida for the winter, and told me that when he returns to Michigan, he intends to continue lobbying his local politicians.

David Duis, the local police officer who testified at an earlier hearing, told me that he plans to visit Parlak in jail. "There's a big difference between law and justice," he said. "The law says some things can be done, and justice is what's the right thing to do. I think in this situation, the law may say we can deport him, but I don't think it's justice."

<http://www.nytimes.com>

Graphic

Photo: Parlak in his cafe before his arrest. (Photograph by Michelle Gazzolo) Drawings: Turkish troops discovered Parlak in his mountain hideaway.

First Date: When Parlak first met Michele Gazzolo, he sketched out a map of an imagined Kurdistan for her.

Stopover: Parlak managed a truck stop and was known for his cooking, especially his lentil soup.

Cafe Gulistan: Parlak opened his restaurant in 1994. It was there that he built up the community of friends who would become staunch supporters after his arrest.

Without Bail: In a Michigan jail cell, Parlak used toothpaste to hold up pictures of his daughter, but was told to take them down

The Hearing: Parlak was often combative and his English which was usually smooth, became halting.

For the Defense: Parlak's friends paraded outside the courthouse and packed the courtroom during his hearing (Illustrations by Tomer Hanuka)

Load-Date: March 20, 2005

End of Document

Irish sisters in snub to Thatcher

The Courier Mail (Queensland, Australia)

November 5, 2005 Saturday

Copyright 2005 Nationwide News Pty Limited

Section: WORLD; Pg. 20

Length: 159 words

Body

LONDON: Former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher was snubbed by five sisters of a Belfast murder victim who refused to share a stage with her because of her policies in Northern Ireland.

The McCartney sisters, who made world headlines earlier this year by standing up to the *Irish Republican Army*, were due to collect a *Women* of the Year award in London but declined when they found Baroness Thatcher would be there.

Reuters

"Our campaign is one of justice, and as an Irish republican family we feel we cannot share the same platform with a former prime minister who inflicted injustices on our community," two of the sisters said in a statement. The sisters' brother Robert, a 33-year-old forklift driver, was stabbed to death in January by a gang that included known IRA members.

While the sisters have criticised IRA violence, they have remained loyal to their republican roots and said that was why they could not share a stage with Baroness Thatcher.

Load-Date: November 4, 2005

Murder charge set for Omagh

The Toronto Star

May 11, 2005 Wednesday

Copyright 2005 Toronto Star Newspapers, Ltd.

Section: NEWS; Pg. A17

Length: 160 words

Dateline: BELFAST, Northern Ireland

Body

A suspected ***Irish Republican Army*** dissident will be charged with murdering 29 people in Northern Ireland's deadliest terrorist attack, a 1998 car bombing in Omagh, a prosecutor said yesterday.

Sean Gerard Hoey, 35, has been behind bars since September 2003 while awaiting trial for about 20 other charges related to bombings in 1998, a momentous year in Northern Ireland with its landmark Good Friday peace accord.

State prosecutor Gordon Kerr told Belfast High Court that prosecutors have accepted a police recommendation to charge Hoey with the murders of all 29 people killed by the Aug. 15, 1998, bomb. He would be first to be charged with the murders.

The bomb planted in Omagh became an unprecedented tragedy when police, responding to vague telephoned warnings, accidentally evacuated people straight toward the bomb. It detonated in a crowd, killing mostly children and ***women***, among them a woman eight months pregnant with twins, and wounded more than 300.

Load-Date: May 11, 2005

Police arrest IRA dissident for involvement in Omagh bombing

Prince George Citizen (British Columbia)

November 23, 2005 Wednesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2005 Prince George Citizen All Rights Reserved

Section: WORLD; Pg. 15

Length: 166 words

Byline: Associated Press

Body

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) -- Detectives arrested a suspected ***Irish Republican Army*** dissident Tuesday on suspicion of involvement in a 1998 car-bombing that killed 29 people in Omagh, the deadliest terrorist attack in Northern Ireland's history.

Nobody has been convicted in connection with the Aug. 15, 1998, explosion, when a 227-kilogram car bomb detonated amid a crowd on the town's main shopping street.

The blast killed 29 people, mostly ***women*** and children, and wounded more than 300.

A dissident group called the Real IRA claimed responsibility for the bombing.

Police declined to identify the 34-year-old man arrested Tuesday. He could be held in the police's main interrogation centre for up to a week before being charged or released. In September, a court ruled the accused bomb maker, Sean Hoey, stand trial in the deaths, making him the first person to be charged with murder in the bombing. The dissidents oppose the IRA's 1997 cease-fire and the 1998 peace accord for Northern Ireland.

Load-Date: February 17, 2006

Police arrest suspect in Northern Ireland's deadly Omagh bombing

AP Worldstream

November 22, 2005 Tuesday

Copyright 2005 Associated Press

Section: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Length: 182 words

Dateline: BELFAST, Northern Ireland

Body

Detectives arrested a suspected ***Irish Republican Army*** dissident Tuesday on suspicion of involvement in the 1998 car-bombing of the town of Omagh, the deadliest terrorist attack in Northern Ireland's history.

The Police Service of Northern Ireland declined in a statement to identify the 34-year-old man, who could be held in the main police interrogation center for up to a week before being charged or released.

Nobody has been convicted in connection with the Aug. 15, 1998, slaughter in Omagh, when a 500-pound (225-kg) car bomb detonated in a crowd on the town's main shopping street, killing 29 people - mostly ***women*** and children - and wounding more than 300. A dissident group called the Real IRA claimed responsibility.

The dissidents oppose the IRA's 1997 cease-fire and the 1998 peace accord for Northern Ireland, which proposed Catholic-Protestant cooperation in a joint government and the gradual disarmament of the IRA and other groups. A power-sharing government fell apart in 2002, while disarmament officials in September announced that the IRA had surrendered its weapons stockpiles.

Load-Date: November 22, 2005

Irish women to brief Bush on IRA

UPI

March 16, 2005 Wednesday 8:57 AM EST

Copyright 2005 U.P.I. All Rights Reserved



Length: 171 words

Dateline: WASHINGTON, March 16

Body

Six women from Northern Ireland have prepared a dossier to brief U.S. President George Bush on the Irish Republican Army's activities.

The group include the fiancée and five sisters of Robert McCartney, a 33-year-old Catholic who was killed outside a Belfast pub Jan. 30 by a gang.

The IRA has admitted two of its members slashed McCartney's neck and stomach after he intervened in a dispute at the pub.

The women arrived in Washington Tuesday and are scheduled to meet Bush Thursday, St. Patrick's Day, with a dossier, CNN reports.

One of the sisters, Catherine McCartney, said the family would give Bush the report detailing "everything that has happened since Jan. 30, the events leading to Robert's murder, the people involved and events since."

Since the incident, Gerry Adams, leader of Sinn Fein, the IRA's political arm, did not receive the traditional invitation to the White House for St. Patrick's Day, and the U.S. State Department privately advised him not to raise funds during his visit to the United States this week.

Load-Date: March 17, 2005

McCartney sisters reject Sinn Fein warning

UPI

March 15, 2005 Tuesday 8:17 AM EST

Copyright 2005 U.P.I. All Rights Reserved



Length: 168 words

Dateline: BELFAST, Northern Ireland, March 15

Body

The sisters of slain Belfast man Robert McCartney say they are not "stupid women" and reject Sinn Fein's warnings about manipulation.

They say the *Irish Republican Army* was behind their brother's killing after a brawl in a Belfast bar in January.

One of them also accused Sinn Fein of being involved in a cover-up.

Sinn Fein Chief Negotiator Martin McGuinness warned the sisters Monday against being manipulated for political purposes.

But Catherine McCartney told the BBC: "We have to be very careful we're not being used by anybody ... we're not stupid women."

One of the sisters is threatening to stand against Sinn Fein in the May elections.

The IRA expelled three of its members and Sinn Fein, seven, over the killing. Last week the IRA revealed it had offered to shoot the men involved, an offer the McCartney family declined.

It later emerged two Sinn Fein candidates were in the bar on the night of the killing.

The sisters are to meet President George Bush Thursday, and will hand him a dossier on the case.

Load-Date: March 16, 2005

Bank employee in court over Northern Ireland robbery

Deutsche Presse-Agentur

December 7, 2005, Wednesday 13361513:36:15 Central European Time

Copyright 2005 Deutsche Presse-Agentur

Section: Miscellaneous

Length: 177 words

Dateline: Belfast

Body

A bank employee who claimed he was held hostage in a major bank raid in Northern Ireland's capital Belfast appeared in court Wednesday - himself charged in connection with the robbery.

The court heard that Chris Ward, 24, had manipulated a work rota so that the 26.5 million pounds (45 million dollars) raid on the Northern Bank in Belfast could be carried out on December 20, 2004.

But Ward, who was arrested together with a **female** bank employee, denied the charges and said he was being "framed".

The security agencies in Northern Ireland have blamed the raid, believed to be the biggest cash theft in British history, on members of the underground **Irish Republican Army** (IRA).

Soon after the raid, Ward gave a television interview in which he spoke of his ordeal.

He described how gunmen took over his home and threatened that he and his family would be killed if he did not co-operate.

In a statement responding to evidence based on police surveillance records, Ward said he had his family had been "tortured in an attempt to frame me with the robbery." dpa at ms

Load-Date: December 7, 2005

Wrongly-jailed N. Ireland woman given medal in one of late pope's last acts

Agence France Presse

21 mai 2005 samedi 11:01 PM GMT

Copyright 2005 Agence France Presse All Rights Reserved



Length: 430 words

Dateline: LONDON May 22

Body

A women wrongly imprisoned for nine years over a bombing by Northern Irish extremists was on Sunday awarded a papal medal, an honour conferred in one of the last official acts of Pope John Paul II.

The late pontiff issued the Bene Merenti medal to Anne Maguire just three days before he died on April 2.

Maguire was awarded the medal in recognition of her "remarkable ability to forgive" as well as for community work, said the head of the Roman Catholic Church in Britain, Archbishop of Westminster Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor in a statement.

Maguire, a Londoner of Northern Irish origin now aged 68, was imprisoned in 1976 along with five members of her family and a family friend following a pair of deadly bombings on mainland Britain two years before.

A bomb at a bar in Guilford, just south of London, frequented by British soldiers killed five people, while an explosion in Woolwich, south London, killed two more.

The blasts were the work of the **Irish Republican Army** (IRA), Northern Ireland's main Catholic paramilitary group.

Four men were jailed for carrying out the blasts, while the "Maguire Seven", as they became known, were imprisoned for possessing nitro-glycerine which was allegedly passed to the IRA to make bombs.

Maguire was released after serving nine years of her 16-year sentence.

Then in 1989, Britain's Court of Appeal quashed the sentences of the four men jailed for carrying out the bombings amid serious doubts about the evidence against them.

An investigation into the case found massive faults with the way police handled the case, and in 1991 the Maguires -- all of whom had served their sentences -- were also cleared.

The case has since been recognised as one of Britain's most serious-ever miscarriages of justice, dramatised in multi-Oscar nominated 1993 film "In the Name of the Father".

Wrongly-jailed N. Ireland woman given medal in one of late pope's last acts

"Her work for others, her strength as a woman and a human being, her constant faith, her remarkable ability to forgive -- these are the reasons why the pope wanted to single her out and hold her up as an example," Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor said of Maguire.

"Anne Maguire and her family suffered wrongful imprisonment for many years. This is an experience that normally produces deep bitterness and drives families apart.

"But Anne had the gift, which is not given to everyone, of forgiveness. She learned to forgive through long years of patiently waiting for the truth to emerge, and held her family together throughout this time."

The medal -- the name of which means "well deserved" -- was to be presented by Murphy-O'Connor at a church in north London later Sunday.

Load-Date: May 22, 2005

End of Document

No Headline In Original

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette (Pennsylvania)

May 31, 2005 Tuesday

SOONER EDITION

Copyright 2005 P.G. Publishing Co.

Section: LOCAL,; THE MORNING FILE

Length: 883 words

Body

Scotland the sick

If memory serves, and our remembrances of the 19th century dim with age, the Ottoman Empire was the original "Sick man of Europe." Since then, many countries have held the title, most recently Scotland. And "sick man" is barely a metaphor. Scots, by and mostly large, are an unhealthy lot. They smoke too much, drink too much and eat the most unbelievable things, stuff that makes Three Rivers Arts Festival fare look like health food. In the developed world, Scotland is at or near the top in heart disease, cancer and strokes and last in life expectancy, according to official figures.

The emergence of the deep-fried Mars bar, served with a side order of fries, as a fast food staple would seem to be an indicator. National Geographic has reported other bizarre variations, such as batter-fried ice cream, pizza, pineapple rings, pickled eggs, Snicker bars and bananas. Haggis, Scotland's national dish, a tough sell to outlanders to begin with as a combination of seasoned meat and oatmeal boiled in a sheep's stomach, has taken a turn for the worse, too. Instead of being boiled and served with "neeps and tatties" (turnips and potatoes), the haggis is deep fried, too. Perhaps it's not a stunner that 62 percent of Scottish men and 54 percent of women are overweight.

Straight no chaser

The Scottish Daily Record reported that Hollywood actress Juliette Lewis tried a deep-fried Mars bar in Glasgow last month. "It's gross," she said. "It tastes like doughnuts and chocolate, but I won't be eating this again any time soon." The chef who whipped up the delicacy was philosophical: "It doesn't surprise me that Juliette didn't like the Mars bars. You really need to be drunk to like them and people who ask for them have generally had a few too many. People who are sober don't tend to think deep-fried Mars bars are tasty."

/ Clip and save

Deep-Fried Mars Bars recipe from recipezaar.com:

Invented in Scotland, this dish has now become famous worldwide. It is an excellent source of fat, sugar and calories. For a seasonal variation you could also try deep frying a Cadbury's Creme Egg.

1 Mars bar or Milky Way bar

1 cup plain flour

No Headline In Original

1/2 cup cornflour

1 pinch baking soda

milk or beer

oil (for deep frying)

Chill the chocolate bar by keeping it in the fridge, but don't freeze it. Mix the flours and baking soda together. Add milk (traditional) or beer (which gives a lighter result) until you get a batter with the consistency of thin cream. Heat the oil until a small piece of bread will brown in a few seconds, but don't allow to smoke. Remove wrapper from chilled chocolate bar. Coat completely in batter. Carefully lower into hot oil and fry until golden brown. Serve, with ice cream or french fries, if you're so inclined. 10 minutes, 5 mins. prep. Calories: 698.

/ Word from the IRA

About that bug the **Irish Republican Army** says MI 5 (the British intelligence service) planted in a Sinn Fein office in Belfast. You can't buy it on eBay, as we reported last week. Apparently, Sinn Fein reads The Morning File and e-mailed us over the weekend:

/ Hi! We were kicked off eBay! The auction is now going ahead here on our Web site www.sinnfeinbookshop.com.

Is Mise, [Gaelic for: "I am"]

Brian Dowling, Sinn Fein Bookshop, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1 Ireland.

/ Let's pick this up

Do we have something to learn from Papillion, Neb.? It's the seat of Sarpy County, whose motoring citizens have racked up \$300,000 in traffic-related fines, according to The Associated Press. Here's the creative solution these Nebraskans have come up with: If you can't pay, you can work it off picking up litter. Don't we have a litter problem here?

/ He's still the king

The U.S. Postal Service makes a lot of money on stamps people don't use. Not those stamped envelopes some charities send in an effort to make you feel guilty for being into them for 37 cents. The Postal Service cleared \$36 million from the 1993 stamp of Elvis Presley, which accounts for 124 million stamps bought but never used, according to The Associated Press. Collectors consider stamps in mint condition to be better investments than those with a postmark. After Elvis, the all-time profit-making collected stamps: Greetings from America (2002) \$24 million; Wildflowers (1992) \$22 million; Rock 'n' Roll (1993) \$22 million; Insects and Spiders (1999) \$20 million; Legends of Baseball (2000) \$18 million; Art of Disney (2004) \$18 million; Baseball fields (2001) \$17 million; Civil War (1995) \$15 million; Moon Landing (1994) \$14 million.

/ Words we need

From Margaret Eshbaugh of Penn Hills:

Folks pas, what you are guilty of when you say or do the wrong thing in front of your in-laws.

Merci bouquet, thank you for the flowers.

Pate de foey grass, those icky wet clumps of cut grass thrown out by the lawn mower.

Artoo detour, a road that ends up in a galaxy far away.

Marthadontics, a complete line of dental products available at Kmart.

No Headline In Original

Estee Louder, too much make-up.

Almoscar, an award for runners-up at the Academy Awards.

Marple tunnel, a wrist problem caused by repetitively turning pages of British mysteries.

From Poosie Orr of Squirrel Hill:

leditor, letter to the editor, as in, "Did you read yesterday's leditor from Cyril Wecht?"

/ * Tony Norman is off this week. His column will return next Tuesday.

Notes

PORTFOLIO / Contact us with new words or high-caloric recipes at page2@post-gazette.com, 412-263-1112 or Portfolio, 34 Blvd. of the Allies, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

Graphic

DRAWING: By James Hilston/Post-Gazette:

Load-Date: May 31, 2005

Canada at a Glance: PM

Resource News International

February 28, 2005 Monday

Copyright 2005 Comtex News Network, Inc.
Copyright 2005 Resource News International



This content is provided to LexisNexis by Comtex News Network, Inc.

Length: 950 words

Dateline: Winnipeg, MB

Body

SERIES OF QUAKES SHAKE THE OCEAN FLOOR WEST OF VANCOUVER ISLAND

Vancouver - The ocean floor creaked and groaned deep in the Pacific Ocean west of Vancouver Island early Monday.

Three moderate earthquakes were recorded within an hour, but they were far enough at sea that none was felt in populated centres.

The shaking began at 4:50 a.m. with a magnitude 4.9 tremor about 250 kilometres west of Ucluelet, said the U.S. Geological Survey's National Earthquake Information Centre.

It was followed half an hour later by a 4.5 shaker and a 4.8-magnitude quake another 30 minutes after that.

The tremors come four years to the day after the big Nisqually earthquake that rattled Puget Sound in Washington state.

There were no deaths but the 6.7-magnitude quake caused more than \$2 billion US in damage in the Seattle area.

The 50-kilometre-long Seattle Fault runs through the heart

of Seattle and the suburbs east of lake Washington. In the past 3,000 years, it has rearranged the landscape as many as four times, mostly recently 1,100 years ago. (Canadian Press)

KILLER DAY ON ROADS

The death toll on Manitoba highways this weekend was one of the worst in recent memory. By press time last night, there had been 10 known fatalities in less than 24 hours, and police were still investigating dozens of crashes.

"It's too many. One is too many. People have to drive to road conditions. Don't be afraid to go below the speed limit," said RCMP spokesman Sgt. Steve Colwell.

Three people, a man and two women all in their mid-20's, were killed about 5:20 p.m. yesterday when their vehicle - en route from Winkler to Winnipeg - collided with a pickup truck on Highway 3 just south of Sanford.

"The driver lost control on a curve due to icy road conditions and spun out of control," said Colwell.

The two occupants of the truck were taken to hospital in Winnipeg with non-life-threatening injuries, he said.

At about the same time yesterday, an Oakbank woman was driving eastbound on Highway 15 between Highway 207 and Pine Ridge Road when she lost control of her car on the icy road and was hit on the passenger side by a westbound GMC Jimmy.

The 38-year-old woman and her four-year-old son were brought to Concordia Hospital, where they both died later.

The four occupants of the Jimmy were taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Police in Winnipeg, meanwhile, are investigating an early-morning crash that killed a 26-year-old man yesterday.

Cops said the man was driving a 1997 Toyota RAV-4 at a high rate of speed on King Edward Street when he lost control of the truck, hit the east lane curb, and vaulted the vehicle through the air.

The man was thrown through a window, police said, and was pronounced dead at the scene.

His two male passengers were taken to Grace Hospital, where they were treated for their injuries and released.

The first of the weekend's deadly accidents was a head-on collision between two vehicles on a stretch of Highway 6 between Warren and Grosse Isle just before 9 p.m. Saturday night.

Colwell said the crash was still being investigated yesterday, but confirmed that 21-year-old Norway House resident Lenny Richard Goosehead, 57-year-old Marlene Gisti of Winnipeg and 67-year-old Audrey Pepin of Calgary were killed in the accident.

Road conditions at the time of the crash were good, as was visibility, Colwell noted. (Winnipeg Sun)

CANADIAN EXTENDS STAY AS OVERSEER OF NORTHERN IRELAND POLICE REFORM

Belfast, Northern Ireland - The Canadian policing expert who is overseeing the revamping of Northern Ireland's police force will get another two years to monitor the controversial project, Britain announced Monday.

Britain said Oversight Commissioner Al Hutchinson's job is to confirm whether more than 700 reforms - proposed in 1999 by a police commission led by former Hong Kong governor Chris Patten - have been achieved.

Hutchinson, a former assistant commissioner of the RCMP, has helped to monitor the painstaking process since 2000, including for the last 15 months in the top post. He was supposed to step down in May 2005, but Britain said it would need his services until May 2007.

"We are well along the road to the full implementation of the Patten recommendations, but we have not yet completed the journey," said Britain's governor, Northern Ireland Secretary Paul Murphy. "In order to do so, I am extending the terms of the Office of the Oversight Commissioner so that the implementation of the outstanding recommendations will be independently verified."

Reshaping Northern Ireland's predominantly Protestant police

force has been a particularly contentious goal of the 1998 peace accord in this British territory.

Many Protestants have criticized the changes as going too far to placate Sinn Fein, the **Irish Republican Army**-linked party, which represents most Catholics. But Sinn Fein continues to reject the police's authority and boycotts community panels designed to foster better community-police relations.

Protestants and moderate Catholics welcomed the extension of Hutchinson's role. They said it reflected the reality that the proposed changes were never going to be completed by this year.

"Transforming this organization has been an enormous task and the time scale set down just wasn't long enough," said Fred Cobain, a Protestant member of the Northern Ireland Policing Board, the main civilian panel that now scrutinizes police policies as part of the reforms.

Alex Attwood, a moderate Catholic on the Policing Board, praised Hutchinson's work and took a swipe at Sinn Fein's refusal to participate.

He said Hutchinson "has reported major change across policing and good progress on implementing Patten."

"This is in stark contrast to others who demonize police officers . . . and cling to outworn slogans on policing."

(Associated Press)

Load-Date: March 1, 2005