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## American Irish Newsletter - September 2001

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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# AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

*Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation*

**Volume 26, Number 9**

**September 2001**

## **Loyalists Promise More Terror**

AS UUP LEADER **David Trimble** rejected both the British and Irish governments' attempt to save the peace process and the IRA's announcement that it was verifiably putting its weapons beyond use in Aug., the loyalist terror wave continued to spread across the North.

"We all know that the UDA cease-fire is over," Sinn Fein president **Gerry Adams** told a Belfast press conference in Aug. "What is causing anger is the refusal by the British government, and particularly the RUC hierarchy, to state that publicly."

Adams was speaking after the death of Belfast teenager **Gavin Brett** and serious injury of 18-year-old **Michael Farrell** in a Red Hand Defenders' (RHD) gun attack. The friends were standing with other teens outside St. Enda's GAA club in Glengormley, County Antrim, July 29 when loyalists fired from a passing car.

The RHD, a cover name for the UDA and the LVF, claimed its campaign will intensify "because of the existing denial of civil rights for Protestants." The RHD emerged in 1998 to wreck the peace process, but loyalist sources later admitted that the group never existed. It was simply a flag of convenience for the loyalists officially on cease-fire.

In March 1999, the RHD claimed the car bomb attack that killed Lurgan defense lawyer **Rosemary Nelson**, but other loyalist groups have always been suspected of involvement in the attack. In Sept. 1998, loyalists used the name to claim the death of RUC officer **Frankie O'Reilly**, who died when loyalists threw a blast bomb during a Drumcree protest. Loyalists used the name in connection with the killing of **Brian Service** in Belfast in Oct. 1998.

*(continued on Page 5)*

## **Adams: Trimble is Anti-Agreement**

By **Gerry Adams**, *Sinn Fein president* (Reprinted from Aug. 8 *RM Distribution*)

THIS week's report from the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning..., which followed months of discussions between the Commission and a representative of the IRA, announced the IRA...had made a proposal on the arms issue [that would put IRA weapons completely and verifiably beyond use]....

[Any party genuinely interested in resolving the arms question should have accepted the commission's determination.] Instead, after a UUP officer board meeting, UUP leader **David Trimble** rejected the report....Not only did he demand actual decommissioning as his price for restoring the institutions, but also he demanded nationalist endorsement of the policing proposals and railed against other elements of the package [of proposals the British and Irish governments put forward Aug. 1 to save the peace process.]

While Sinn Fein has stretched itself...to see all aspects of the Agreement implemented, [Trimble] has unlawfully refused to nominate other ministers. He has prevented the all-Ireland structures from functioning. He has breached his pledge of office and fractured the political architecture of the Agreement. Trimble has persisted in these actions despite a court ruling that he is behaving unlawfully.

He has signaled...that he is not committed to the Agreement except on his own terms. He has deepened the crisis within unionism by failing to endorse all aspects of the Agreement and to give positive leadership on a consistent basis.

Trimble has opposed the Patten recommendations on policing. He has argued against demilitarization. He has rejected rulings of the Parades Commission. He has called for the Human Rights Commissioner to resign. Now he has rejected [the IICD's report] .

Clearly, Trimble, as he told his party delegates last Oct., seeks to bring down the political institutions, to blame republicans for this, and to renegotiate the [Mitchell A]greement. Then, he said he intended to "progressively increase pressure on republicans and nationalists. This might result in a crisis in the Assembly and Executive. If

*(continued on Page 5)*

### **INSIDE**

<b>Peace Process Update .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>From the North .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Newsbits .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Loyalists Promise More Terror (continued) .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Irish and British Governments Outline Plan .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Peace Process Update (continued) .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Action Requests .....</b>	<b>8</b>



## ***Our View: Governments Seek to Put Out the Fire with Paper***

*THE BRITISH and Irish governments' package of proposals ostensibly represents their attempt to save the peace process. Even Sinn Fein says the package could be the basis for progress if the governments actually care to make progress. Maybe it is.*

*Nevertheless, the governments' promises to make reports, draft plans, set up investigations into collusion claims...sounds more like a paper chase than, well, anything else. The governments' package is frighteningly exactly alike Britain's response to turmoil--political, paramilitary, civil--in just about every other one of its colonies before the natives gave it the boot. Paper, paper, paper.*

*We might be less skeptical if plans for implementing Patten and reforming criminal justice in the North had materialized with the package instead of the governments' promising to produce them later. They have had three years to draft plans while the UUP cabaret has sung and danced around the Mitchell Agreement, the IRA's latest proposal to put its arms beyond use, and loyalists use terrorism to fight democratic reform.*

*Britain could make a direct, immediate response to unionist intransigence and loyalist aggression just as it made a direct, immediate response to the democratic demands of peaceful protesters 30 years ago. Why not use all that efficiency and discipline to further a good cause? It could clamp down on loyalist paramilitaries and advise unionists they must accept the Agreement and participate democratically and legally in its implementation.*

*Reports and proposals represent the governments' pretense of progress. The year might still be 1998. Where, after all, is Mitchell? How many reports, proposals, and suspensions of institutions are we away from that vision?*

## ***Peace Process Update***

### **July 1**

FIRST Minister **David Trimble** resigns his post to pressure the IRA to disarm. The Assembly has six weeks to reinstall or replace him before the devolved institutions collapse under legislation brought in under the Mitchell Agreement. Over this period, the Irish and British governments will work to resolve the outstanding problems surrounding the implementation of the Agreement. Sinn Fein says the IRA will not move to put its arms beyond use until it is satisfied the governments are implementing all of the interlocking parts of the Agreement—the implementation of the Patten report on policing, British army demilitarization, and inclusive power-sharing in all the North's institutions.

### **July 2**

The international decommissioning body says neither the IRA nor loyalists have decommissioned weapons: "In each of our meetings, we have been assured of the IRA's commitment to put its arms beyond use, completely and verifiably, but only in the context of its statement of May 2000. Taken in conjunction with the continued maintenance of the July 1997 cease-fire and the opening of some IRA arms dumps to inspections by the International Inspectorate, we believe that this conditional commitment is made in good faith." The commission adds that the UVF and UFF have made the IRA's decommissioning a condition of their own.

### **July 4**

Irish Prime Minister **Bertie Ahern** and British Prime Minister **Tony Blair** meet in London to discuss the peace process. Crisis talks involving the governments and the pro-Agreement parties begin next week.

### **July 7**

Trimble apologizes for attributing the loyalist murder of a 19-year-old Catholic man to republicans. The Red Hand Defenders claim the murder, saying it is their response to the election of two Sinn Fein councilors in Antrim.

*(continued on Page 7)*

### **American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC**

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## **From the North: *Unionists Want IRA Guns***

By Robert Heatley, *co-founder of the campaign for Democracy, a predominantly Protestant organization, Belfast, Northern Ireland*

THE RECENT talks at Weston Park in England were a superhuman attempt by the British government and its underling, the UUP's **David Trimble**, to force the IRA to decommission weapons at their command and on their terms.

The orchestrated campaign in the media gave the game away. Even most of the American channels joined in. The media created the impression that the IRA was opposed to taking the gun out of Anglo-Irish politics. This is patently untrue. In the time since the signing of the Mitchell accord, the IRA has taken several constructive steps, not the least of which is its allowing international inspection of arms dumps.

Trimble, in the lead up to Weston Park, also gave the impression that IRA decommissioning was the one issue of the Mitchell accord that remained to be delivered. This was, of course, being economical with the truth in a big way. What actually happened at the talks proved this.

The British government was forced to concede that it had not delivered on its obligations--in particular, the implementation of the Patten Report on policing reform. Also, the reform of the criminal justice system, for which we are still awaiting a promised government report. Then there is the British government's failure to implement a proper demilitarization program for the North, its failure to uphold the stability of the devolved institutions against unionist wrecking, and many other matters concerning equality and human rights. All of these matters were, despite Trimble's efforts, on the table at Weston Park.

They remained unresolved. Efforts were made to keep the focus on IRA guns despite the fact that the only guns

on display and in active use were those of loyalists continuing a pogrom against Catholics. Loyalists have shot dead three civilians--one, a Protestant, by mistake--and slung hundreds of bombs into Catholic homes and businesses without an outcry from unionists.

Nevertheless, Trimble, whose July 1 resignation as first minister at Stormont had precipitated a crisis in the peace process, was not long making another major mistake. Even though General **John De Chastelain** of the decommissioning commission issued a report stating the IRA had agreed a plan to initiate decommissioning, Trimble rejected this initiative and refused to withdraw his resignation before the institutions would be suspended.

Almost everyone else, including the Irish and British governments and most of the media, applauded the IRA's move. Not rejectionist unionists, among whom Trimble clearly counts himself. These unionists wanted to know when the IRA would deliver product, and some of them wanted to participate in overseeing the operation.

Now, when movement on the guns issue was taking place, unionists discovered they had other objections to the governments' proposals for moving the peace process forward. They could not tolerate the Dublin's interference in the North's affairs, and mooted changes to the Mandelson legislation for preserving the RUC were unacceptable to them. What would Britain's proconsul do?

Despite objections from nationalists, Northern Secretary **John Reid** gave Trimble what he wanted, a suspension of the Assembly. Reid apologized for this, saying that there was nothing else he could do and that it was "technical"

and would last only 48 hours to gain six weeks in which the parties could bridge remaining differences.

Reid must not have been listening to unionists. He did have another option. Journalist and author **Kevin Toolis** spelled it out for him: "Tony Blair... must state that there will be no renegotiation of the Mitchell Agreement either with or without Trimble. He must show those in Ulster who are opposed to meaningful negotiations just how unimportant little men in Ulster can be. He must take a rod to their backs and show them the road to peace."

That is what Blair ought to do, but the problem is that Britain is wedded to unionism and is Trimble's mentor. Britain wants to pressure weapons out of the IRA's hands in exchange for the fewest possible reforms to the Orange state. That is what their three years of collusive stalling has been about.

This point is substantiated Reid's statement on how he intends to use the six weeks' he claims will advance the Agreement: "The two governments are now hoping that in the next six weeks the republican movement can make a further move towards decommissioning sufficient to allow Trimble to resume his position as First Minister" (*Sunday Tribune* 8/12/01).

Is this what they're going to do over the next six weeks? If a second illegal suspension of the Assembly was done for this purpose, then the prospects for further advancing the peace process look very bleak indeed. Has the penny not dropped with the Irish government regarding unionists' motivation? Already **Gerry Adams** has said no more moves can be expected from the IRA until Britain and the unionists deliver on their side of the bargain. The When question in relation to IRA guns has already been answered--when the British have created the political context by implementing the Mitchell accord (*See Action Requests, Page 8*).



## Newsbits

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**SOLDIERS** who opened fire on peaceful demonstrators on Bloody Sunday must return to Derry to give evidence at the Saville Inquiry. A tribunal rules the city is "the proper place" for military witnesses to testify about the British army's 1972 murder of 13 Catholics during a civil rights demonstration. About 250 military witnesses will be called into the witness box at the Inquiry, which has been sitting in public in Derry for more than a year. Among the soldiers will be the paratroopers who fired the lethal shots. Lawyers acting for the soldiers fought to have the hearings transferred to Britain when the men were called to testify, probably in spring next year. The Inquiry resumes in Sept. (*RM Dist. 8/2/01*)

Northern Ireland's major loyalist paramilitary group says it has no intention of causing or getting involved in violence at Drumcree in Portadown this weekend. The pledge comes after the mediator tasked with trying to find an agreement between Portadown Orangemen and nationalist residents of the Garvaghy Road pleads with loyalist paramilitaries not to cause trouble and to stay away from the parade. Church of Ireland Primate Archbishop **Robin Eames** supports the call and urges paramilitaries, "in God's name keep out of this dispute and allow reason and discussion to find a way forward." The Ulster Defense Association-Ulster Freedom Fighters nevertheless says it affirms its support for the "fundamental right" of the Orange Order in Portadown to march its traditional route down the nationalist Garvaghy Road. Nor do the paramilitary groups call on members to stay away from the annual parade. Individual members will exercise "their right to show solidarity with their fellow loyalists at Drumcree if they so choose," says the UDA....The

message comes in the wake of South African mediator **Brian Currin's** urging loyalists to stay away from the parade in the best interests of a long-term settlement. (*IAIS 7/3/01*)

A delegation of survivors and relatives of some of the 33 people killed in the 1974 Dublin and Monaghan bombings are at 10 Downing Street in London to protest Britain's hampering of the inquiry into the atrocity. They hand in a letter to Prime Minister **Tony Blair** highlighting British government delays responding to requests for information from the Independent Commission of Inquiry into the bombings. On Feb. 23 last, Taoiseach **Bertie Ahern** wrote to the Secretary of State requesting the full cooperation of the British authorities with the commission. A reply confirmed that all requests would be treated sympathetically, but five months on, the Independent Commission has still not received any information from the British government. (*RM Dist. 7/19/01*)

Police ombudsman **Nuala O'Loan** will investigate the shooting of Ciara Moss and other RUC actions in the nationalist Ardoyne area of north Belfast last week. The most clear-cut incident is the RUC's attempted hit-and-run attack in which officers drove an RUC armored vehicle onto a pavement and proceeded at speed toward a group of small children. A TV cameraman captured the incident on film. A number of victims of RUC assault are making formal complaints. The incidents surround an Orange Order parade that passed by the nationalist district. Some RUC officers bludgeoned their way into a corner house near Estoril Park, where nationalist protestors opposed to the parade were gathering. After securing the garden, the RUC officers pushed their way through the door, clubbing

the woman of the house and family members. Some nationalists threw stones at the police officers, and the RUC responded with water-cannon, plastic bullets, and baton charges as they cleared the area of protestors. (*RM Dist. 7/15/01*)

The Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission calls on RUC Chief Constable **Ronnie Flanagan** to follow the lead of some chief constables in England by declaring that he will no longer use plastic bullets as a method of crowd control in Northern Ireland. Basing its call on the report the Defense Scientific Advisory Council prepared for the British government, the Commission reiterates its view that the new weapon available in the North since June 1 appears to be even more dangerous than the weapon it replaces. The Commission says it believes that using plastic bullets as a method of crowd control is a disproportionate use of force. Chief Commissioner Prof. **Brice Dickson** says: "The Commission recognizes the intense pressure and difficulties which police officers in Northern Ireland face when confronting rioters. These have been all too obvious in recent days. We nevertheless note that, even though there have been serious riots in England in recent weeks, various police forces there, including the Metropolitan Police, indicate that it was not necessary to resort to the use of plastic bullets. The Commission feels that now is the time for the RUC chief constable to adopt the same policy." The Commission adds the government should intensify its efforts to develop other, safer methods of crowd control, particularly when young children are involved. Plastic bullets have killed nine adults and eight children in the North during the Troubles. (*IAIS 7/18/01*)

(continued from Page 1)

Recently, loyalists have used the name to claim hundreds of bomb attacks on Catholic families across the North.

"Clearly, the responsibility for [Gavin Brett's] killing rests with those who commissioned it or those who carried out the act, but this is also a tragic reminder of how precarious peacemaking can be," Adams said, adding, "This was the third person [in a month] to be killed because he was Catholic or suspected of being Catholic."

Three weeks ago, loyalists shot dead 19-year-old Ciaran Cummings as he waited for a lift to work at the Greystones roundabout in Antrim. The RHD claimed the killing.

Days later, loyalist gunmen opened fire on a Catholic community center in north Belfast, the site of a summer play scheme for local children.

Earlier this year, a loyalist gang that mistook its victim for a Catholic beat to death 49-year-old Thomas Lowry. The same gang had attempted to abduct a man leaving St. Enda's GAA club earlier that night. Local people who witnessed the abduction attempt identified one of the gang as a member of the UDA.

"This loyalist campaign is being conducted by anti-Agreement loyalists," said Adams. "Their aim is to bring down the Agreement, but it goes much further than that. It is also an attempt to destroy the peace process."

Within the last six months, there have been almost 150 loyalist pipe bomb attacks on the homes of Catholics, some of which have narrowly escaped serious death or injury.

Other Catholic families have been subjected to petrol and paint bomb attacks on their homes and property. Three weeks ago, when loyalists petrol-bombed a row of 16 pensioners' bungalows, neighbors spotted the fires and rescued the elderly residents.

Loyalist mobs have also injured a number of Catholics. Earlier this year, loyalists left for dead 51-year-old **Mary Campbell** after attacking the Catholic grandmother with pickaxe handles outside her North Belfast home.

Commenting on the UDA's involvement in both "a protracted campaign of bomb attacks on Catholic homes and property" as well as recent street disturbances, Adams criticized the British government's lack of response. "The refusal of the British government to face up to this is totally unacceptable," said Adams. "We have to face up to the reality that within recent weeks, all nationalists were declared targets."

Adams called on all civic society to make it clear that it is against this sectarian activity. "I am also calling on the leaders of unionism not only to declare their opposition to these sectarian attacks but also to meet the loyalist organizations involved," said Adams. "For my part, I am prepared to meet the UDA to make my position clear."

Commenting on the recent upsurge in street disturbances, Adams said there was a "very deep anger within nationalism that these disturbances have been reported as tit-for-tat." The Sinn Fein president rejected the portrayal of republicans as "a mirror reflection of rejectionist loyalism."

Repeating Sinn Fein's "firm and total opposition to sectarianism" and reiterating republican opposition to attacks on Protestant homes, Adams warned against nationalists' being sucked into a sectarian response to loyalist violence. "I want to commend many people in north Belfast—community workers and people involved in civic society, republicans and former prisoners—all of whom have played a very positive role," said Adams. "I am also aware that decent elements within loyalism are also trying to calm this situation and that each section of our people in these interface areas feels under threat."

"The difficulties in nationalist areas have been exacerbated by the partisan behavior of the RUC," Adams added, pointing out that community leaders attempting to calm situations "appear to have been deliberately targeted by the RUC. There are a number of people injured or still in hospital as a result of being batoned or hit by plastic bullets by the RUC" (*See Action Request, Page 8*).

(continued from Page 1)

[such a crisis] arises, we must...place responsibility on republicans. Only in that way can suspension be achieved." The current situation is a result of that strategy....Those in [government] who have sought to reshape the Agreement to Trimble's satisfaction [must] review their position in the light of his...tactics.

..[T]he issues that need to be dealt with under the Agreement are...about the rights and entitlements of citizens... They are universal rights.

....[Trimble's] response [to the IICD report], which essentially means that the UUP has pocketed [the IRA's] historic initiative while rejecting the IICD's determination, is evidence of

unionists' inability to come to terms at this time with the imperatives of the [Mitchell A]greement.

Those...who were trying to reshape the Agreement on the basis that Trimble was committed to the Agreement but had a problem only with the issue of weapons need to review their position. Trimble has a problem with the entire process....



## **Irish and British Governments Outline Plan for Peace Process**

ON AUG. 1, the Irish and British governments issued proposals to the pro-Agreement parties in an effort to fully implement the 1998 Mitchell Agreement. The governments acknowledge in the document that full implementation will be an ongoing process requiring the cooperation of the political parties.

The list of proposals begins by summarizing progress to date in the implementation of the Mitchell Agreement. Achievements thus far include: 1. the governments' working with the parties to implement the Agreement; 2. constitutional changes in the South to reflect "principles of consent and self-determination" and changes to British constitutional legislation; 3. the establishment of devolved institutions in the North and North-South and British-Irish institutions "to work for the benefit of all the people of these islands;" 4. new safeguards for human rights North and South; 5. progress on the North's equality agenda, normalization of security, pursuit of reviews of policing and the criminal justice system; and 6. the accelerated release of political prisoners.

The governments identify the outstanding issues as decommissioning, policing, security normalization, and the stability of the institutions.

### **Proposals on Decommissioning**

The governments repeat their view that putting weapons beyond use is an indispensable part of implementing the Agreement. The governments repeat that the issue must be resolved in a manner acceptable to and verified by the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning in accordance with its basic mandate in law.

### **Proposals on Policing**

Both governments remain committed to a new beginning in policing on the basis set out in the Mitchell Agreement. The British government reaffirms its determination to bring about such a new beginning by implementing the Patten Report. The British government will publish a revised Implementation Plan to set out plans for implementing, among other matters, Patten's recommendations on the Full Time Reserve, the Part Time Reserve, the closure of Gough holding center, and the future structure of the Special Branch. It will also set out the intention to avoid the use of plastic bullets, except where there is a serious risk of loss of life or serious injury, while Patten's recommendation for a major research program on alternatives is completed.

The British government will ask the Oversight Commissioner responsible for overseeing the implementation of the changes recommended in the Patten Report to review the new policing arrangements next March and report by next Oct. Legislation will be introduced after the review to amend or clarify some provisions to reflect more fully the Patten recommendations. These amendments will be set out in detail in the revised Implementation Plan. On this basis, the British government will invite the parties to nominate political members to the new Policing Board and complete the process for selection of independent members so that the Board will be established by the end of Sept.

The British government will establish a Police Fund, which will assist families of officers killed by terrorist action, and the RUC GC Foundation, which will mark the sacrifices and honor the achievements of the RUC.

The British government will shortly publish a full Implementation Plan for the Criminal Justice Review, together with draft legislation, with a view to passing the necessary bill in the current session of Parliament.

### **Proposals on Normalization**

The British government will take all the necessary steps to secure as early a return as possible to normal security arrangements in Northern Ireland. These steps depend on the continuing implementation of the [Mitchell] Agreement and the chief constable's assessment of the threat at the time.... Ultimately, the normal state would mean the vacation, return, or demolition of the great majority of army bases, the demolition and vacation of all surveillance towers, no further army presence in police stations, and the use of Army helicopters for training purposes only.

The Irish government confirms that the Garda Siochana will work in the closest cooperation with the new police service and will join with them in taking all necessary measures to counter any remaining terrorist threat and to enable the normalization of security arrangements.

The British government will review the operation of the Parades Commission and the legislation under which it was established.... This review, which will take place in consultation with the parties and others with an interest, including the Irish government, will consider whether there are any changes that could promote further public confidence on all sides, respect for the rights of all, and the peaceful resolution of disputes on parades.

Both governments will appoint a judge of international standing from outside both jurisdictions to undertake a thorough investigation of allegations of collusion in the cases of the murders of Chief Superintendent Harry Breen and

*(continued on Page 8)*



(continued from Page 2)

### July 8

Portadown district Orange master **Harold Gracey** says the protest at Drumcree will continue until Orangemen march down the Garvaghy Road, and he hits out at the loyalist Apprentice Boys for entering into discussion in Derry with nationalist residents to reach an accommodation over the loyalists' annual parade.

### July 9

Former President **Bill Clinton** joins **Ahern** and **Blair** at **Blair's** home as talks to save the Agreement begin. A Downing Street spokesman says Clinton is not expected to play an active role in today's talks but might "make the odd call." One party to the talks says that today's round-table session is aimed at forming new relationships between the parties because these have become more and more strained since the 1998 Mitchell Agreement. Sinn Fein says the meeting is "reasonably useful," but the UUP calls it a waste of time. The UDA/UFF withdraws support for the Mitchell Agreement, saying it "finds it intolerable that Sinn Fein has gained concession after concession, yet there is still a growing erosion of our culture and heritage. This has to stop; we cannot allow this to go any further. There can be no more concessions to nationalism while the fabric of our loyalist community is torn asunder." The Progressive Unionist Party, aligned with the loyalist Ulster Volunteer Force, also withdraws its support for the Agreement.

### July 13

Sinn Fein president **Gerry Adams** rounds on SDLP deputy leader **Seamus Mallon** for claiming republicans have given the parties no sense of its position on decommissioning. Adams argues: "[Mallon] can't have it both ways. [He] has failed to attend any of the bilaterals between Sinn Fein and the SDLP at Weston Park and,

indeed, before that. He doesn't seem to realize that the elections are over. He needs to get real and stop being grumpy, and he needs to fulfil his responsibility in the acting capacity of deputy first minister. Seeking to score points off us in public while refusing to engage with us in private is not the way to make this process."

### July 14

The British and Irish prime ministers end six days of talks with pro-Agreement parties by saying the governments will offer a new, comprehensive peace package of measures to save the Agreement. SDLP leader **John Hume** insists that although weapons decommissioning has to take place within the Agreement's framework, viewing it as a precondition to progress on other issues such as demilitarization would result in "stalemate" and the loss of hope for a new beginning.

### July 20

The Red Hand Defenders—a cover name of the UFF and the LVF—says it attacked a community center in north Belfast.

### July 30

The Red Hand Defenders claims the murder of a Protestant and injuring of a Catholic outside a GAA hall in a drive-by shooting July 29. A loyalist source says he is in little doubt the UDA is behind the shooting. The Red Hand Defenders also attack a group watching a play during a community festival in the nationalist Ardoyne area of north Belfast. Trimble says republicans must take responsibility for the problems facing the peace process and the IRA must decommission if the Assembly is to survive. Northern Secretary **John Reid** asks the RUC to review the UDA's cease-fire in the wake of recent loyalist violence.

### August 1

The British and Irish governments present their package for saving the Agreement to the political parties and ask them to respond by Aug. 6.

Commenting on the package and his party's likely rejection of it, Trimble says, "There can't be a moral vacuum at the heart of this. We are not legitimizing terrorism. It's not all right to be in government by day and out engaged in other activities by night." Health Minister **Bairbre de Brun** of Sinn Fein calls on the UUP leader to withdraw the comment.

### August 2

President **George Bush** backs the governments' package of proposals.

### August 3

Northern political parties call on the governments to provide more details about the latter's proposals.

### August 4

Sinn Fein's **Alex Maskey** says there are aspects of the package that do not meet his party's requirements. The party meets with Reid to discuss policing proposals. Adams says Sinn Fein cannot give a definitive response to the document because it has not yet received the details of the proposals. The party also wants to see the implementation plan for criminal justice, but the governments do not plan to release this for several weeks.

### August 6

The international arms body appointed under the Mitchell Agreement says the IRA has proposed a method to deal with arms and has begun a process to put its arms completely and verifiably beyond use. **Ahern**, **Blair**, and **Reid** welcome the IRA's announcement. Meanwhile, Sinn Fein says it needs more time to analyze the governments' package, and the SDLP says it has several questions about policing proposals.

### August 7

The UUP rejects the governments' package to save the Agreement and says the IRA's proposals fall "far short" of unionist demands. Although an election to elect a new first minister is due at the end of the week, Britain might impose direct rule at that time.



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## **Action Requests**

*Please take the actions recommended below.  
Mention that you are a PEC member.*

Contact: **President George Bush**, The White House, Washington, DC 20500; tele. 202-456-1111; fax 202-456-2461; email [president@whitehouse.gov](mailto:president@whitehouse.gov)

**Message:** I urge you to use your good offices to ensure that the British government take immediate action to stop the loyalists' campaign of violence against Catholics. Loyalists have stated they are opposed to the Mitchell Agreement and democratic reform. Please help stop this assault on democracy.

Contact: **Your Representative**, 2244 Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC 20515-3010

**Message:** I urge you to publicly call on the British and Irish governments to fully and immediately implement the Mitchell Agreement in Northern Ireland. Call on the British to immediately put an end to the loyalists' campaign of murder and terrorism against nationalists.

*(continued from Page 6)*

Superintendent Bob Buchanan, Pat Finucane, Lord Justice and Lady Gibson, Robert Hamill, Rosemary Nelson, and Billy Wright. The investigation of each individual case will begin no later than April 2002 unless this is clearly prejudicial to a forthcoming prosecution at that time....

Both governments also recognize that there is an issue to be addressed, with the completion of the early release scheme, about supporters of organizations now on cease-fire against whom there are outstanding prosecutions, and, in some cases, extradition proceedings for offences committed before April 10, 1998. Such people would, if convicted, stand to benefit from the early release scheme. The governments accept that it would be a natural development of the scheme for such prosecutions not to be pursued and will as soon as possible, and in any event before the end of the year, take such steps as are necessary in their jurisdictions to resolve this difficulty so that those concerned are no longer pursued.

Both governments reaffirm that the full implementation of the [Mitchell] Agreement is a collective responsibility and can only be achieved in cooperation with the parties in Northern Ireland. They will invite those parties committed to securing the full implementation of the Agreement to join both governments in an Implementation Group. This Group will meet regularly to review implementation of the commitments made. The Group could meet in a variety of formats, but there will be a meeting at least every six months involving the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and the Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs and representatives of the parties.