

E.R.

PAB/2606/DP

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THE ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT - A LEGACY OF VIOLENCE

PAB have now acquired a copy of the booklet, of the above title, published by the Unionist Joint Working Party. I have attached photocopies of several pages including the outer cover, the introduction and several pages selected at random. The publication totals 112 pages and because it is fairly repetitive in format (consisting of photographs on the left hand page and a catalogue of events on the right hand) I felt it unnecessary to pass on a copy of the entire text. I hope the few pages I have chosen give the full flavour of the full document.

2. The publication covers the year from 15 November 1985 to 15 November 1986. It is quite professionally produced and the aim and design of the booklet is clearly meant to show that the troubles of Northern Ireland have continued despite the signing of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. In fact it contains little editorial comment (other than the introduction) and seems to carry a balance, in the photographs at least, between the expressions of violence from both sides. The text however (on a quick glance) slants much more towards republican violence but this is only to be expected since they have posed much the greater threat during the year in question.

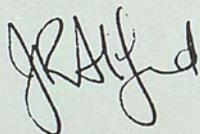
3. At its launch in Belfast both McCusker and Robinson stressed that it was not meant to be a "diatribe against republican violence" but rather was meant to show the deterioration in relationships between Protestants and Catholics in the community.

**E.R.**

From their other comments it is apparent that the booklet is to be used, both nationally and internationally, as evidence of the unionist contention that the Government is to blame for the continuing violence because it has discarded "the ballot box for confrontational politics".

4. It will be for you of course to decide how best to deal with the document but because it largely avoids comment and simply catalogues events it may be unwise at this point for Ministers to give much, if any, response. However this is not to say that it might not become a useful directory of information for unionists to use in speeches and interviews.

5. A final footnote. The unionist contact who acquired a copy for PAB was asked to pay £5 by unionist headquarters. It is unclear at this stage whether this is to recoup some of the publishing cost from among unionist party workers. However if it is intended to market the booklet at this price one can only suggest that its presentational impact will be significantly reduced.



J R ALFORD  
Political Affairs Division  
26 February 1987

# The Anglo Irish Agreement



**A LEGACY  
OF VIOLENCE**

## INTRODUCTION

The Anglo-Irish Agreement promised the people of Northern Ireland greater peace, reconciliation and stability. It has manifestly failed to deliver.

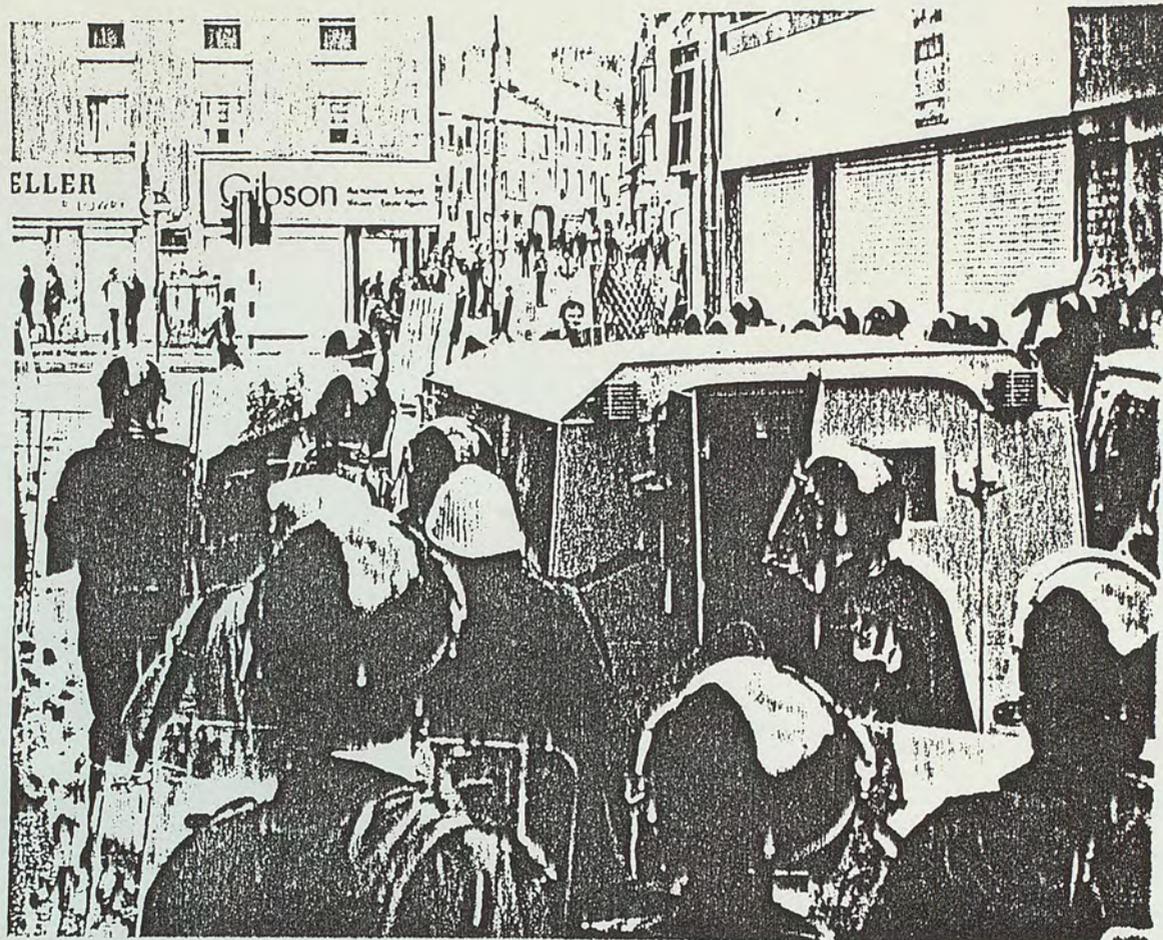
In a Belfast office a Unionist supporter compiled a meticulous record of developments in the year after Hillsborough.

This precis reveals the story in all its horror — a story of increasing terrorist murder, of escalating intimidation, of repeated cross border incursions, of bitter sectarian confrontation and deteriorating community relations.

Whatever its intended purpose, the Anglo-Irish Agreement brought in its wake a legacy of violence. Ostensibly designed as a framework within which a solution might be found, the Agreement has closed the door on political progress and driven politicians back to the trenches of their increasingly bitter and resentful communities.

In simple terms the Agreement was designed to alleviate the supposed 'alienation' of a minority. If its sponsors are satisfied that it has achieved that objective they must know it is at the price of alienation of the majority.

They must also know that simply is not the way.



*The shape of things to come: Loyalists and police clash in Portadown*

**ALSO:** Londonderry electrical contractor, Joe Smyth, of ADJ Services in Spencer Road, Londonderry, said he has stopped working for the security forces following threats from INLA on his life.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1986** – Police questioning man arrested in the strongly republican Creggan housing estate after IRA rocket and gun attack on police headquarters in Strand Road, Londonderry. Two bombs exploded inside heavily-fortified barracks and another fired from entry off Clarendon Street failed to explode. 30 shots were fired at the base by eight gunmen who had taken over a nearby building in Great James Street, were workmen were ordered into a toilet. No injuries reported although a number of cars were damaged. Police appealing for information about a Toyota van which may have been used in the attack.

**ALSO:** In a 3-hour search of the Creggan Estate in Londonderry, a quantity of bomb-making components was discovered by RUC officers. Find also included CB radios and Khaki-style jackets.

**ALSO:** Sinn Fein's, Danny Morrison organises demonstrations, pickets, tear gas and riots as Mrs. Thatcher visits Norway on State Visit.

**ALSO:** Dublin Government says the Anglo-Irish deal has survived its greatest threat with the end of the marching season. Parades now over and the Hillsborough accord still in place.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1986** – Mr. Ken Robinson, a 30-year-old Protestant, son of a part-time UDR soldier, blasted to death when he stepped on an IRA booby-trap device meant for his father in an alleyway close to his home at Clonmarkane Court, in the Nelson Drive district of Waterside, Londonderry. His legs were badly mutilated and the upper part of his body burnt. 46th murder victim in the Province this year. Troubles since 1969 have now claimed 2,510 lives.

**ALSO:** Several Protestant homes in Belfast's Oldpark Road area attacked by Republican gangs breaking windows and cars. Railings were ripped off walls and thrown through windows belonging to pensioners. Three arrests made in the Rosapenna Street/Oldpark area. Residents say the intimidation has become a weekly occurrence.

**ALSO:** UFF claim responsibility for planting a bomb under a prison officer's car in Ballymoney. Bomb planted in soil and connected by a trip wire to the wheel of his car but was spotted and the Army carried out two controlled explosions to deal with the device.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1986** – IRA shoot two men driving through the Crossmaglen area after they refused to hand over their van which was required by the IRA for their campaign of terror.

**ALSO:** Nationalists fire stones at Loyalists in a band parade in Downpatrick which was re-routed.

**ALSO:** RUC release six men from Castlereagh RUC station, questioned about intimidation of workers at the Shorts factory in East Belfast. They were held for a total of eight hours and a report is being prepared for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

**ALSO:** IRA engage Police in Bogside, Londonderry in 10 minute gun battle firing from the Rossville Flats complex. Police fired back at gunmen but were later attacked by stone throwing mobs when carrying out a follow-up search.

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 10, 1986** – RUC make only half-hearted attempt to block illegal annual internment anniversary rally in West Belfast. Scores of police formed barricade across the Lower Falls Road, but after a brief discussion between senior officers and Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams, the parade was allowed to continue along its three-mile route. 30-strong NORAIID delegation take part and rally addressed by a former prisoner, wife of a man serving a life sentence in England, representatives of the British Troops Out Movement, the American Ancient Order of Hibernians and NORAIID. Later, leading Sinn Fein member Alex Maskey was arrested and questioned about suspected terrorist crime along with six Scottish bandsmen: Joseph Sweeney, 21, Lettock Street, Glasgow; James McVey, 19, Brook Terrace, Priesthill, Glasgow; Michael Wallace, 19, Magdalen Gardens, Edinburgh; John Cannon, Kirshaw Avenue, Coatbridge; Mark Richardson, 21, Gilmerton Dykes, Edinburgh and Gary Ferns, 20, Dunbar Avenue, Coatbridge. Thousands took part in march and thousands more lined the route to mark the 15th anniversary of internment without trial.

**ALSO:** MP Peter Robinson and his wife Iris sent their children to safe houses after all the trappings of security protection provided by the RUC had been removed. Floodlights and closed circuit monitoring system removed as well as static security guard following his appearance in Clontribret.

**ALSO:** Brendan McGeown, a 24-year-old Roman Catholic father of three who lives in the Nationalist Callanbridge Park complex in Armagh, claims he was the victim of an assassination bid when two shots were fired at him by a man wearing a black ski type mask, as he was walking along the Old Callanbridge Road. Took to his heels and ran only to stumble into the Callan river. On hearing car driving off he ran up the road home. RUC investigating.

**MONDAY, AUGUST 11, 1986** – IRA crash a JCB excavator — with a bomb in the bucket — into the Birches RUC Station, near Portadown, demolishing the station damaging a nearby pub along with several houses, and injuring a partially-disabled American tourist and two civilians. The part-time RUC station was unoccupied at the time, the terrorists strafing it with gunfire before driving off. Blast heard in Richill, 12 miles away.

**ALSO:** IRA fire several shots at Pomeroy Police Station, after a small explosion occurred at the back of the building. No-one injured and a follow-up search for the gunmen was mounted.

**ALSO:** IRA fire a number of shots at an Army Land-Rover in Gt. James's Street, Londonderry. No one injured and fire not returned.

**ALSO:** Roman Catholic workers from Newry working on a predominantly Protestant housing estate in Greenisland, near Carrickfergus, told to leave.



*On the other side: Nationalists in hand-to-hand fighting with police and soldiers in Portadown*





*Police block the Tunnel, Portadown*

# JULY 1986

**TUESDAY, JULY 1, 1986** – Part-time UDR soldier, Private Robert Hill, 22, killed instantly when his red Ford Fiesta car disintegrated in an IRA car bomb blast at Comber Road, Drumaness, Co. Down.

**ALSO:** Petrol bomb thrown at house in Tandragee Road, Portadown, home of Catholic family.

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 1986** – RUC man injured when confronted by a loyalist crowd at Campsie Road, Omagh.

**THURSDAY, JULY 3, 1986** – 18-year-old teenager Lawrence O'Keefe of Monaghan Row, Newry was jailed for 5 years in Belfast for the manslaughter of 9 RUC officers killed, and many others seriously injured, in a mortar bomb attack at Newry police station on February 28, 1985.

**FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1986** – 500 lb IRA culvert bomb packed in 5 beer kegs was found by Police near Oliver's Corner, on the Dungannon-Coalisland Road in Co. Tyrone and defused by Army.

**ALSO:** Army defuse a second 500 lb IRA bomb in a hijacked car on the Cookstown to Pomeroy Road.

**ALSO:** Firm building an extension to Omagh police station withdrew from the contract after an IRA death threat.

**ALSO:** Chief Constable, Sir John Hermon bans Orange Lodges from parading through the nationalist 'Tunnel' district of Portadown on July 12th.

**SUNDAY, JULY 6, 1986** – Policeman injured in the neck by a dart thrown from a Nationalist crowd in Portadown during disturbances when an Orange church parade was passing along Garvaghy Road on its way from Drumcree Parish Church.

**TUESDAY, JULY 8, 1986** – 12-year-old boy watched in horror as IRA terrorist shot dead his policeman father John McVitty at point blank range while cutting rushes in a field on the Fermanagh border near Lecky Bridge, Boyle. Terrorists then escaped back into Co. Monaghan.

**ALSO:** Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams refused visa entry to Toronto, Canada, where he was due to address an Ancient Order of Hibernians rally which was moved from the States when he was also refused a visa to enter there. Canadian Embassy said it was because of his criminal record.

**ALSO:** West Belfast man walking along Beechmount Pass attacked by IRA gang of 6 masked men in what was believed to be a paramilitary punishment beating. Man held on the ground and struck on the legs, arms and chest with pickaxe handles, causing severe cuts, bruising and a fractured leg.

**MONDAY, JUNE 16, 1986** — Hooded body of Mr. Terence McKeever, 32, Armagh businessman, discovered with hands tied, after being shot through the head by the IRA and left on northern side of the South Armagh border leading to Newtownhamilton. IRA claim he was working for the RUC at police stations in the area.

**TUESDAY, JUNE 17, 1986** — 150 lb IRA bomb defused not far from the body of Terence McKeever who was found yesterday.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 1986** — IRA explode 500 lb van bomb in the centre of Cloughmills, Co. Antrim, causing extensive damage to police station, primary school and 50 houses and shops. Man taken from his home at Ballyweaney Road and forced to drive his van at gunpoint into the village with the bomb on board.

**ALSO:** Greenshaw Primary School in Londonderry sealed off and 20 houses evacuated while Army experts examine a small IRA explosion in a wall at the school.

**ALSO:** Army disposal experts carry out controlled explosion on hoax bomb in East Belfast.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 21, 1986** — IRA plot to kill security forces and civilians at a charity fete in Warrenpoint is foiled by the discovery of a massive 1,000 lb bomb planted at Warrenpoint Golf Club, only 100 yards from the spot where similar bomb killed 18 soldiers at Narrow Water on August 27, 1979. More than 7,000 people were expected to attend fete.

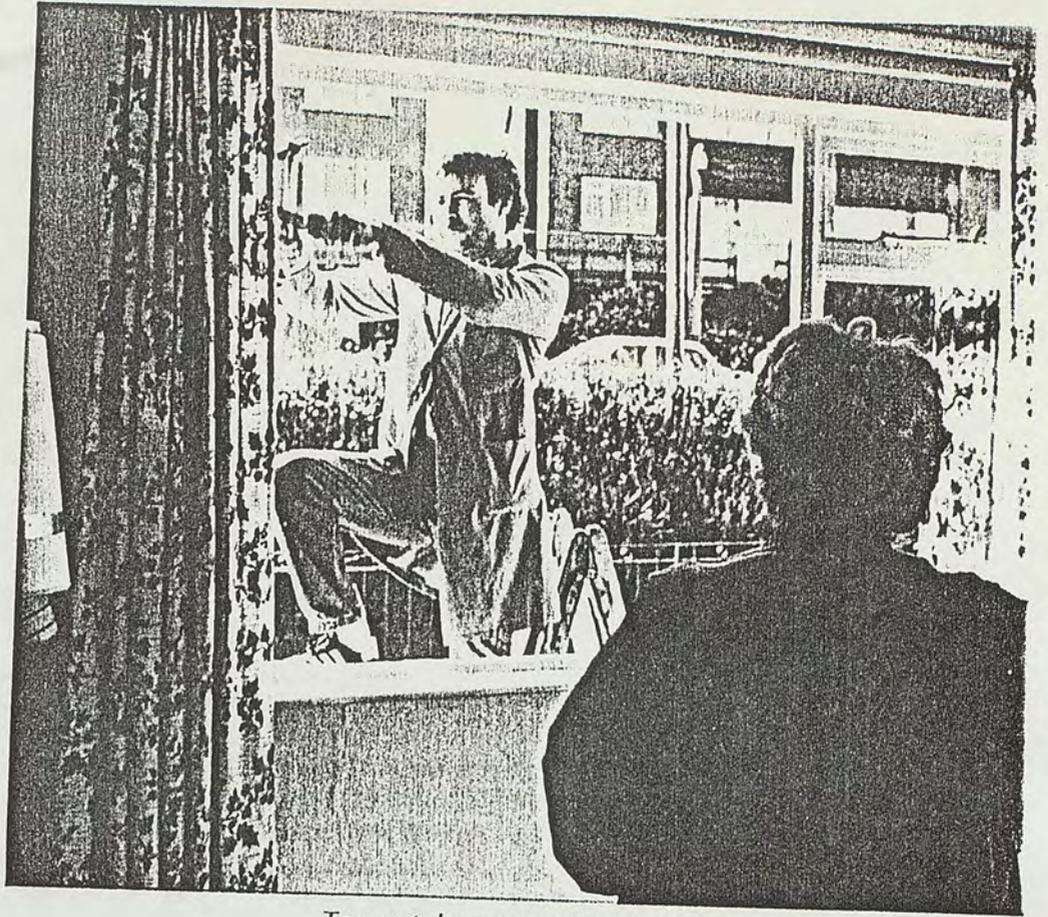
**MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1986** — Northern Ireland Assembly is dissolved by order of Northern Ireland office.

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1986** — Sinn Fein leader and Assemblyman, Martin McGuinness claims the IRA gun is the only way to unite Ireland in a speech at Wolfe Tone commemoration rally in Co. Kildare.

**ALSO:** Alex Maskey of Sinn Fein warns in Belfast Council Chamber that the IRA will end unionism in Northern Ireland.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1986** — Army engineers construct number of "super sangers" as observation posts on vantage points at Creevekeeran, Drumuckavall and Glasdrummond in Crossmaglen area of South Armagh after 17 years of trouble in the Province.

**MONDAY, JUNE 30, 1986** — Irish Government under leadership of Garret Fitzgerald suffers crushing defeat on referendum on divorce. Fitzgerald's "Constitutional Crusade" crushed by influence of the Catholic Church.



*Terror takes a new twist: RUC homes under fire*

