

**TODAY'S WEATHER**  
 Fog patches early.  
 Mostly cloudy with out-  
 breaks of rain. Tempera-  
 tures about normal.  
 (See Back Page)

# Irish Independent



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# Bombing madness

## Slaughter in the streets leaves 13 dead, 130 injured



**WE COULD  
 TAKE TO  
 STREETS  
 -CRAIG**

Mr. William Craig, the Vanguard leader, said that if security forces did not take immediate action against the I.R.A., armed Loyalist forces could finally go on the street. "In the event of security forces failing, Loyalist forces will consider what action to take. Consideration will be given to the immediate use of Loyalist forces," he said. "If any further proof was needed of the failure of the Government's initiative, this is it. The situation is now so grave that not only Mr. Whitelaw should resign, but so should Mr. Heath."

**Denounced  
 by Cardinal**

Cardinal Conway said last night that he wished to express utter revulsion and the strongest possible moral condemnation of the day's explosions with their terrible toll of innocent lives. "I am certain that this disgust and condemnation is shared by the overwhelming majority of the Irish people, Catholic and Protestant. May God comfort the relatives and friends of those who have been bereaved by these savage acts," the Cardinal said.

IN ONE HOUR of death and destruction, the bombers shatter Belfast with 22 explosions. These are two of them, at Grosvenor Rd. and Ship St.

## Whitelaw cracks down as Provos say we did it

BRITISH forces in the North are now certain to crack down hard on the Provisional I.R.A. after yesterday's bomb holocaust in the streets of Belfast.

Northern Supremo William Whitelaw and British Defence Secretary Lord Carrington said early this morning that the military had been authorised to launch "certain operations against the Provisional I.R.A. forthwith."

This major shift in policy followed an admission by the Provisionals that they were responsible for the 22 bomb blasts, which left 11 dead and 130 hurt, many critically maimed.

Two others died and five more were wounded in the Markets area of Belfast early this morning.

As the centre of the Northern capital smouldered from the afternoon's blasts, heavy troop carriers could be heard rumbling into flashpoint areas on the outskirts.

Downtown, ambulances wailed as the two senior British Ministers met at Stormont with top security men—including Gen. Sir Harry Tuzo and Deputy Chief Constable Flanagan.

### Provos responsible

Then in the early hours of the morning came the news that Mr. Whitelaw's "softly, softly" low profile policy was at an end.

The security and political chiefs deplored what they called the slaughter and maiming of men, women and children which took place yesterday on Provisional I.R.A. orders.

It now seems clear that a military initiative of some kind is going to take place with all urgency against the Provisionals, and early this morning an all-out assault on the Free Derry area was regarded as the most likely action.

Earlier, Belfast Provisionals admitted responsibility for the massive blitz and accused the security forces of not acting on bomb warnings which were phoned to the Press, the Samaritans and other organisations including the police.

A senior Army officer expressed the fears of many when he said: "We have no doubt that the I.R.A. are after an all-out clash with the U.D.A. in a bid to drag us into the middle."

And almost as if to bear him out the Vanguard Movement last night called for the resignation of Northern Supremo William Whitelaw.

"The time for talking is over," a statement said. "If the British armed forces are not directed to take up the offensive and flush out terrorists, the Loyalists of Ulster will be left with no other choice but to take up the offensive themselves."

### BELFAST'S HOUR OF DEATH—PAGE SEVEN

But in Belfast last night, the stark horror of the outrage and the trembling fear of the people overshadowed the possible consequences that may follow.

In mid-afternoon bomb after bomb exploded and clouds of thick black smoke spiralled into the sky.

Panic-stricken shoppers took refuge in doorways and in the foyers of office blocks. Screaming children, shocked women, frantic mothers and fathers, milled about as they were evacuated from area after area as rumour and blasts caused panic everywhere.

The Army said last night they were unable to specify where three of the deaths took place, but confirmed one civilian dead as a result of a heart attack when the Windsor Bridge was bombed.

At Oxford Street bus station, two soldiers and two civilians died, while at Cavehill Road there were three deaths, believed to be two women shoppers and a messenger boy. A priest on the scene gave the Last Rites to injured people at Cavehill Road.

### Headless bodies

A charge-hand at Oxford Street bus station, Mr. John Hynes, said: "I was standing at the gate when the whole place blew up, and all I could see were torsos. None of the bodies had a head or a limb."

The terror began for builder Mr. Michael Taggart, as he drove past a packed shopping precinct in usually quiet Cavehill Road.

"One moment everything was all right. But then the car was lifted in the air and thrown across the road.

"By the time I had recovered, stopped and got out, all was confusion. Bodies lay everywhere. Most of them pouring blood.

"But worst of all were the children. There seemed to be scores of them running round dazed and shocked looking for their mothers."

Several other bus depots—Smithfield and Grosvenor Road—were damaged by bombs. A garage in Donegall Street, next to the Irish News office, was blasted and a huge fire followed.

As a result of water damage the News expected that they would not be able to print this morning's paper. A breadvan packed with explosives demolished a large slab of property in Botanic Avenue, near Queen's University, and at Finaghy a bridge over the M1 motorway was damaged.

Emergency gas and electricity service crews were still working late last night to repair fractured cables in buildings damaged by bombs. Broken gas mains or electricity power lines causing fires in rubble were paramount dangers.

Police said the injured included 52 women and girls and 44 men and boys.

Among them is a four-year-old girl, a nine-year-old boy and two 72-year-old women.

It is understood that several more children are casualties.



WHITELAW... TOUGH NEW MEASURES



CRAIG... THREAT OF REPRISAL

IN DERRY, the local branch of the Democratic Unionist Party last night sent a telegram to Mr. Whitelaw criticising his entire Ulster policy.

It read: "Surely the events of this day show that the policies of you and your Government are absolutely useless against the I.R.A."

"Loyalists now sincerely say that if you will not act aggressively against the I.R.A., in God's name get out and leave the enemy to those who can and will."

IN LONDON, Capt. L. P. S. Orr, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party at Westminster sent a telegram to Mr. Heath last night urging him to visit Ulster without delay.

He said the situation was now so grave in Belfast that it was essential for the Government to be seen to take a grip of the situation.

### MARKETS AREA GUN BATTLE

A MAN DIED and five other people were wounded in cross-fire when a gun fight developed in the Markets area on the fringe of Belfast City centre early yesterday evening.

At one stage of the shooting soldiers stationed in the telephone exchange in May street joined in the action.

The shooting started when about five men engaged British army patrols in the Joya Street and Cromac Street areas. Later guns opened up on the Markets from the nearby Donegall Pass area which is predominantly Protestant.

There were reports that police in the area were keeping under observation a U.D.A. vigilante-type patrol which was suspected of being armed.

The British Army said they returned fire and claimed one hit. They reported four civilian casualties in the battle.

Belfast R.U.C. last night said that they had a dead body but did not know how the man had met his death. They said five other people were in hospital with gunshot wounds.

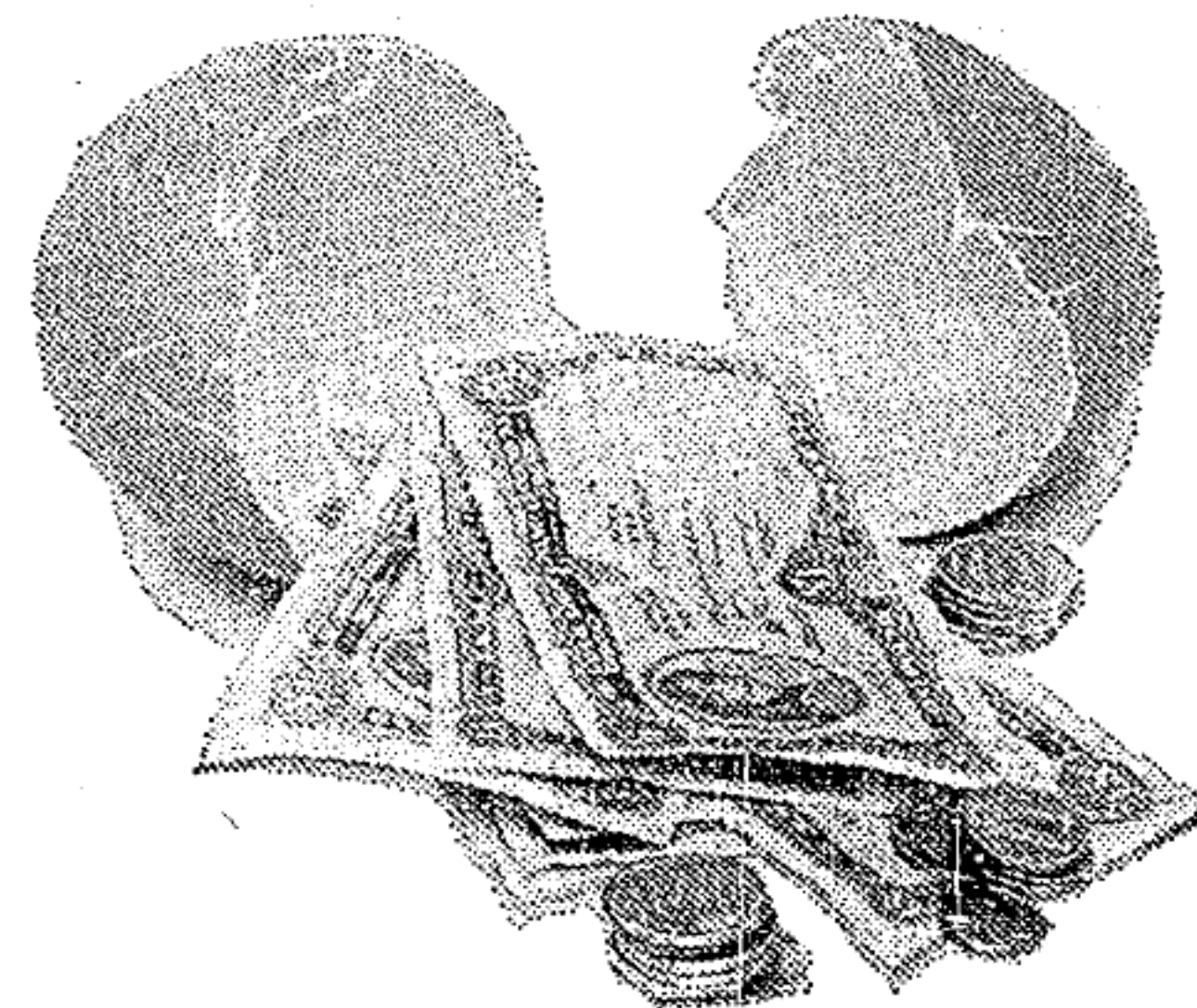
A late report said that the man had been shot in Joya Street where I.R.A. leader Joe McCann was shot by troops some months ago.

Another man was in a Belfast hospital after being shot from a passing car in Clifton Park Avenue. He had leg and back wounds. Reported to be serious.

A small bomb exploded in the grounds of Crumlin Road jail. Apart from these incidents Belfast was reported quiet at midnight after what was generally accepted to have been the most violent day this violent city had seen so far.

A man was shot dead early today when he answered a knock at his door in Deerpark Road, in the Old Park district of Belfast, police said.

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