

MAIN NEWSPAPER STORIES - SUNDAY 21 AUGUST 1988

PM cut short holiday in Cornwall to call council of war in Downing Street after the IRA had blown up a coach, killing 8 soldiers and injuring 27 others.

Explosion happened at 12.30am (20 August) when a coach taking 35 members of the 1st battalion Light Infantry from Aldergrove airport in Belfast was destroyed by a 220 Lb bomb. The soldiers were all returning from leave in England.

PM given briefing by Tom King, Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir John Hermon, RUC Chief and Sir John Waters, General Officer commanding in Northern Ireland.

(Lines deployed at Annex A)

Two youths trampled to death and 2 seriously injured at open air rock music festival.

Police intelligence experts believe that up to a dozen 'steaming gangs' are planning a terror campaign at this years Notting Hill Carnival.

Lawyers representing Piper Alpha victims will demand payments of up to £750,000. Will form Britain's biggest compensation action.

Stock Exchange insider dealing surveillance team is carrying out probe into possible abuses of inside information obtained by City PR firms.

Pressure mounts within the holiday industry to refer Thomson Travel's £75 million acquisition of Horizon Holidays to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Head of South West Water is urged to resign over serious spillage of chemicals into North Cornwall's water supply which affected 9,000 homes and made thousands ill.

Spanish Air Traffic controllers call off one day strikes.

British Rail severely criticised for using PR company to leak story of planned hefty fare increases for long distance commuters.

Police Chief James Anderton set to leave force in October.

PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Maginnis is being accompanied by Mr. Rodney Peyton, the Consultant Surgeon at South Tyrone Hospital who dealt with the main seriously injured last night; and Mr. Alan Rainey, a local farmer who was first on the scene to help.

Mr. Maginnis himself received a fairly sophisticated letter on Thursday which was partially diffused. It was then totally diffused by the Army. We understand Mr. Maginnis's wife, Joy, is a nurse at the Erne Hospital, Enniskillen and has also been working during the night to help the injured.

The incident occurred outside Mr Maginnis's constituency. The constituency MP, the Reverend R. McCrea is away in the USA.

Although Mr. Maginnis is the official Unionist security spokesman, given the similar request for a meeting from Dr. Paisley and the DUP, we are treating the Maginnis meeting as you seeing those who were first on the scene of which he simply happened to be one.

Content with this line?

Henry from Haughey @

DOMINIC MORRIS

20 August 1988

LINE GIVEN TO MEDIA AT 5.30 AM

- The Prime Minister has been informed
- She was deeply shocked and distressed by the news
- She has asked to be kept directly in touch with developments
- and has extended her heartfelt sympathy to the bereaved and the families of those who were injured.

(PM arrived back at No 10 9.30 am)



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

PRESS STATEMENT

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH MR. MAGINNIS

It was a lengthy and constructive meeting. The Prime Minister was very grateful to Mr. Maginnis for clearly expressing his views about the current security situation, and to the local farmer and surgeon who accompanied him both for their help at the time and for their eye witness accounts.

Obviously it would be inappropriate to reveal what was said but the Prime Minister undertook to consider very carefully the points made to her.

All present were united in their expression of grief and sorrow at the incident and in their admiration of the courage of the armed services and police in the way they carried out their difficult task of ensuring that terrorism shall not succeed.

20 August 1988

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AMBASÁD NA hÉIREANN LONDAIN.



IRISH EMBASSY, LONDON.

17 Grosvenor Place,
London, S.W.1 X 7HR

20 August, 1988

Mr Charles D. Powell,
Principal Private Secretary to Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1

Dear Principal Private Secretary,

I have been instructed by my authorities to convey urgently to the Prime Minister the following message from the Taoiseach, Mr. Charles J. Haughey, T.D.

" I am appalled by the murder of British army soldiers this morning in Co. Tyrone and by the other outrages which have occurred in recent weeks.

I offer my deepest sympathy on these fatalities and injuries."

I would be grateful for your assistance in having the message conveyed to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely

Patrick O'Connor,
Charge d'Affaires a.i.

0860 395131.
Jon Craig