

17 November 1985

PRIME MINISTER

PRESS DIGEST

NORTHERN IRELAND

- Unionist MPs may resign en bloc if they don't get a referendum; could mark the end of Powell's career.
- Threaten campaign of civil disobedience; Paisley prophesies tidal wave of violence.
- Tom King says we shall see it through; you are very determined lady.
- News of the World, Mail say 9000 troops on standby to head off chaos; Mail: Blueprint for chaos. Irresponsible.
- Powell says there have been two occasions when he has been deeply ashamed of his country - Munich and now.
- Alliance leader thinks the document was worthy of serious evaluation; urges SDLP to end boycott of Assembly.
- Observer - Thatcher's battle plan to beat rebel Unionists; two spearhead battalions on standby. You are being widely praised across the political spectrum.
- Haughey says Fianna Fail will repudiate agreement if returned to power.
- Sunday Times emphasises Anglo-Irish drive to defeat IRA.
- People - Give peace a chance; Geneva, Ulster.
- Express - One quality above all shines out of Ulster agreement - courage; both leaders deserve every good fortune.
- Mail - You are showing you are a woman of quite exceptional political courage and vision.
- Telegraph: Foolish to hold out high hopes of success, but a brave agreement if also a gamble and on which deserves general support.

R10ABY

LAW AND ORDER

- Woodrow Wyatt wants return of National Service.
- New laws to stop barristers doing back door deals to secure the type of jury they want.

INNER CITIES

- You are taking personal charge of improvement.
- Kinnock claims Government has brought the worst of Harlem to our housing estates.

POLITICS

- Lady Falkender thinks you are cranking up for an election next year.

ECONOMY

- Woodrow Wyatt wants priority for thresholds.
- Chancellor tells NOW he hopes we can look forward to a succession of tax cutting budgets.
- Mounting concern over City fraud; Goodison writes to you.
- BP finds another £1.5bn of oil in Forties.

RATES

- You are to drop reform until after the General Election and possibly for good (Mail).

LIVERPOOL

- Union leaders want meeting with City councillors today over crisis; tell Hatton to raise rates.

PENSIONS

- Meacher says pensioners will be mugged by Government next year of £120m when they get a pittance rise.

R10ABY

EAST-WEST

- Reagan arrives in Geneva.
- Marplan says almost 75% of British public favour world wide freeze on nuclear weapons.

PEOPLE

- Methodist, non-Pacifist elected chairman of CND.
- Tebbits have been guests of Princess Diana.
- John Junor wants OBE for Eric Sykes.
- Your doubts about Commons TV - Telegraph thinks TV won't make much difference to Commons.

BERNARD INGHAM  
17 November 1985

R10ABY

**FRANK**  
**FEARLESS**  
**FREE**

# Sunday People

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# GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

## VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

**IN a world battered by bloodshed, terrorism and disaster, there is now a passionate craving for peace.**

Not the pious wishes of the politicians but the real and desperate desire of ordinary people.

This weekend there are faint grounds for hope on two fronts.

The summit between President Reagan and Mr Gorbachev is about to start in Geneva.

Already the Americans have begun a public-relations offensive and the Soviets are using the most cunning propaganda skills. Their games-playing will never be forgiven if there is no genuine attempt to control the arms race.

Nearer home, Mrs Thatcher and Ireland's Dr Garret FitzGerald

have signed an agreement over Ulster.

There are too many men of ill-will for it to have much chance of success.

But after all the years of suffering, no straw is too slight to be grasped.

The overwhelming yearning for a better world has grown enormously this

year. Not just in reaction to the terrible acts of terrorism, but because of the plight of millions of Africans threatened by drought and famine.

The spirit of Live Aid and the song "We Are The World" have united people round the globe. But it is another song, written 16 years ago by John Lennon, which best sums up the message this weekend:

*All we are saying . . . is give peace a chance.*

## SUNDAY EXPRESS

# *Let it work*

**O**NE quality above all shines out of the Anglo-Irish agreement signed on Friday.

Courage.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher knows well that Ireland has always been a graveyard for the reputations of British politicians. She knows that any deal with the Republic is likely to provoke fury among her friends and colleagues in the Ulster Unionist Party.

She has shown once again that she is willing to accept any risk in the pursuit of what she believes to be right.

Dr Garret FitzGerald is venturing his reputation and his political future on this great gamble. He is surrounded by enemies willing to damn him for allegedly selling out the cause of Irish unity.

Both leaders deserve all the good fortune and all the good will that is going.

For these are not petty politicians conspiring to create a petty triumph.

They are leaders sickened by the blood and pain and waste which have characterised the years of Ulster's crisis. Leaders genuinely trying to create new relationships which could help the Province back to normality.

We should pray their effort succeeds. For it will be only evil which profits if they fail.



## Ulster must take courage from Maggie

**THIS** newspaper has not been Margaret Thatcher's warmest admirer in recent months. However, once again, our Prime Minister is showing that she is a woman of quite exceptional political courage and vision.

Mrs Thatcher knew full well when she first entered into talks with the Irish Government that even the most minor shift from the status quo in Northern Ireland would win her the enmity of Irish Protestants and, unless she capitulated entirely, the continued hostility of the IRA.

It would have been easier to let the matter rest, stand on the sidelines and watch the Province slowly bleed to death. She decided instead to take history by the arm and seek to nudge this most intractable of Provinces towards territory where one day at least the bones of some kind of solution may be found.

In truth the Anglo-Irish agreement on Ulster does not go terribly far. But then it could not. Mrs Thatcher has honoured her commitment to the Protestant majority by not permitting sovereignty to be an issue. She has given something to the Republic by recognising that it is almost inconceivable there should not be some structure allowing its voice to be heard on what happens in the North.

Alas, Irish politicians of both North and South have operated with such disregard to the welfare of the people and played on their emotions for so long that they no longer really understand how cynically they have manipulated those feelings or spoken against their better interest.

Protestants in Northern Ireland have the right to expect our support for the notion that there can be no change in the constitutional position of Northern Ireland in the United Kingdom without the consent of the majority.

But they must surely now understand that in return the minority community of the Province needs to be assured that its interests, too, are being safeguarded. If the Protestants have irrational fears then so do the Catholics.

The question now, of course, is whether the people of Northern Ireland, so wearied of the long, bloody and useless struggle will now tell their politicians that Mrs Thatcher's word is to be trusted and that this is a deal which they can all accept with honour.

It may be a difficult pill to swallow but the Parliament of the United Kingdom will insist that it must. Let not more lives be lost or innocent people maimed.

The real champion of the people of Ulster is Mrs Thatcher, not Mr Enoch Powell, not Mr James Molyneaux not the Rev Ian Paisley and certainly not Mr Gerry Adams.

Let those in Ulster take courage from her and come out in the open with their support. Only if the people speak will the fighting finally stop.

## A brave plan, if a risky one

FOR an Ulster Unionist and Loyalist, as Mrs Thatcher was still describing herself last Friday after the signing of the Anglo-Irish agreement, the temptation to avoid political initiatives is strong. The status quo is one that, basically satisfies Unionist and Loyalist aspirations, so why change it? Attempts in the past to accommodate the aspirations of the province's large Roman Catholic minority have always failed: the temptation for a British Conservative and Unionist Government is to stand straightforwardly on the side of the Protestant majority and to continue the battle against terrorism by conventional means. Why, therefore, did the Prime Minister decide to embark on the risky course which resulted in last week's historic agreement with the Irish Government?

The main reason is certainly the persistence of Irish terrorism despite all efforts to destroy it. An important feature of the agreement, which Ulster loyalists should not ignore, is the prospect of closer practical co-operation between Britain and Ireland in this vital battle. A key element is Dr FitzGerald's promise to accede to the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism, a major concession which will make it easier to extradite suspected IRA terrorists from the Republic to Britain or Northern Ireland.

But in addition to practical measures of this nature, the agreement seeks to undermine the IRA by more controversial means. By giving Dublin a consultative role in the Government of Northern Ireland, it aims to increase the confidence in that Government of the large Roman Catholic minority, without whose support IRA terrorism would slowly wither and die. This involves considerable risks to both Britain and Ireland, who are already accused of betraying their own causes—in the first case Unionism, and in the second Irish nationalism.

But neither accusation can really be justified. The Irish Government has for the first time formally recognised that Ulster should remain part of the United Kingdom until such time as a majority of its people wish to secede, while Britain has promised to accept the will of the majority if that moment ever comes. Both, in other words, are committed to the principle of no change in the status quo without the support of a democratic majority.

It would be foolish to hold out high hopes of success. But this is a brave agreement, if also a gamble, and one which deserves general support. That is, of course, a rare commodity in Northern Ireland.