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Ministers covered up

Sinn Fein dialogue

Eamonn Mallie in

Belfast tells how the

truth about contacts

wing was dodged.

conceivably to the point when

the process would be de-

stroyed. If that were to occur,

the British Government

would consider that a poten-

tially historic opportunity had

'The paper gives out sub-stantive advice in response to the initial message. As it

makes clear, we wish to estab-lish whether this provides a

IN MEDDIE

Drit-

been squandered.

ten message - and you need our side are ready to answer

that it is a written message ther explanation.

Up against invincibles: Twickenham coverage Why people's choice will never manage England Snooker in the pink? Golf • Football results • Cricket • Ice hockey

**ESTABLISHED 1791** 

**SUNDAY 28 NOVEMBER 1993** 

No. 10546 90p

EXCLUSIVE: Whitehall uses 'hero' go-betweens to set up contacts with men of violence

# Major's secret links with IRA leadership revealed

## Peace feelers out since 1989

**Anthony Bevins, Eamonn Mallie** and Mary Holland

A SECRET communication chain has been running between the Government and the IRA Dublin. with the Prime Minister's approval, an authoritative British source has told The Observer.

place for many months. Effectively confirming that, the North-ern Ireland Office said in a statement to The Observer last night: 'The IRA have not delivered the ending of violence envisaged in

their original approach. "They have continued to inflict untold misery and grief upon the to-face talks with the IRA 'would public. It is for them to explain this. There can be no excuse for such terrorism. Their duty is to end it at once.'

The communication link was political storm. said by the source to be a message-delivery service run by unofficial intermediaries; deniable 'heroes' who began operating after British Ministers' public overtures - going back as far as jor's sincerity in 'going for peace' 1989 - scored a positive reaction with the IRA. with the IRA.

the terrorists' 'peace feelers'.

The go-betweens included clergymen, professionals and put their own lives at risk. Although the source emphatically denied direct government involvement, Sinn Fein chief of staff Martin McGuinness and others have said that a civil servant was used.

In a separate development, Mr McGuinness tells BBC TV's On the Record today: 'John Major knows who the contact is.' He claimed meetings had sometimes taken place daily, and were

continuing. According to The Observer's information, the chain of contacts chain of contacts had been used sion . . . the British Government land's status within the UK. eventually led to a key meeting with Mr McGuinness just after the Warrington bombing on 20 March, when both sides ex-

changed formal 'position' papers.
According to Dublin sources, a further meeting was planned, at Northern Ireland is to be proposed in a Commons which each side would be represented by four 'negotiators'. It was to take place outside Ireland the Labour Party, the Irish Government and the possibly abroad. Britain was constitutional nationalist party in Ulster, the Social said to have pressed hard for it to
take place at Easter, but said that

Democratic and Labour Party.

Eddie McGrady, the SDLP whip in the Comit would be conditional on a twoweek ceasefire by the IRA.

**Mary Holland** 

Dublin

A MEETING between Sinn Fein

and a contact they believed to be

a British civil servant was held in

Londonderry two days after the

Warrington bombing last March,

according to a senior Republican

The long-delayed official admission of contacts, sanctioned by Sir Patrick Mayhew, Northern Ireland Secretary, will put peace on a knife-edge in the run-up to Friday's Anglo-Irish summit in

The Observer's British source said that recent months had brought Ulster closer to a settled The contacts have been in peace than for decades past.

But that will not diminish the outrage of hyper-sensitive Unionists and the Conservative Right. The Prime Minister is bound to be severely embar-rassed by *The Observer's* disclo-sure, given the sheer force of his Commons statement that faceturn my stomach'.

Nevertheless, with peace as the potential prize, Ministers are prepared to ride out the inevitable

It is also possible that a delicate political calculation has been made — that the official avowal of the IRA link will do more than anything else to establish Mr Ma-

Certainly, the bitterness of that The process, so secret that it pill for the Unionist side could be was not even disclosed by John sweetened by a Commons an-Major to Albert Reynolds, the nouncement this week that their Irish Prime Minister, was de- long-standing demand for a scribed as an essential response to Northern Ireland Select Committee is to be granted.

That could provide the Unionists with the incentive to continue businessmen. The Observer their parallel talks with Michael source said that messengers often Ancram, the Ulster Minister of State, on a devolution of political power to Northern Ireland.

It was stressed by The Observer's British source that the Government had not budged from its long-standing position; that Sinn Fein could not participate in that political process until the IRA had ended its campaign of violence and demonstrated that it

Stating that no direct talks or negotiations had been held involving Ministers or civil servants, the source stressed that the face, but its violent expres- tional guarantee of Northern Ire-

The proposal will provoke a strong backlash from

report this week.



Open door: Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew, who sanctioned admission of contacts with the IRA, outside Stormont yesterday afternoon./Photograph by Paul Faith.

sition of each side.

One of the key triggers of the ment in 1990 by Peter Brooke, then Secretary of State, that 'in

Fury at Unionist deal forecast

THE CREATION of a Select Committee on Commons Procedure Committee, to protest. 'It's a

mons, told The Observer that he was writing to Sir Irish summit to concede part of the case to one side,

Meeting held two days after Warrington bombs

Peter Emery, the Conservative chairman of the against the wishes of the other.

to communicate messages, ques- has no selfish strategic or ecotions and clarifications on the po- nomic interest in Northern Government balancing act was

Ireland. The source insisted that, for its whole process had been the state- part, the Government message had been constant: 'What you see is what you get.' What Ministers Northern Ireland, it is not the had said in public was what they aspiration to a sovereign, united meant for private consumption, Ireland against which we set our too — including the constitu-

totally retrograde step at a very sensitive time when

the Prime Minister is talking about having inter-

'pay-off' for Ulster Unionist support and therefore

However, the delicacy of the inted up by James Molyneaux, leader of the nine-strong Ulster Unionist contingent in the Commons, who told The Observer last Thursday that he could not believe Ministers had sanctioned communications with the IRA.

lown prima facie evidence, Mr Molyneaux initially preferred to suspect a conspiracy between civil servants who had kept Ministers in the dark. Asked whether there could have been political complicity, he said: 'Not at a nisterial level.'

But in confirming the IRA link, The Observer's British source said there had been no freelance or party talks,' he said. It would be seen as part of the pirate operation — it had been carried out under political direction and authority. That could only have been done with Mr Major's blessing.

cast doubt on Government impartiality.

Kevin McNamara, Labour's frontbench spokesman, said: 'It would be wrong before the Anglo-Path to peace, page 3 Leading article, page 26

## **Briefly**

Health authorities set up a telephone helpline for thousands of anxious patients after claims that Vikram Advani, an NHS dentist with two London practices had died of Aids (Report,

Talks impasse

Negotiations between Britain and China on Hong Kong's political future have failed, analysts in the colony said, despite Britain's wish to continue talk-

**Britons freed** 

The Foreign Office was trying to ascertain the whereabouts of 11 British trade unionists reported arrested and later released in south-east Turkey. The group was investigating alleged human rights violations.

Arafat deadlock PLO leader Yasser Arafat said

negotiations with Israel had reached deadlock after Israel insisted on redeploying, instead of withdrawing, troops from the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho. **England win** 

Blacks to win 15-9 in a try-less rugby battle at Twickenham repeating the scoreline of their last victory over the New Zealanders at the same ground 10 years ago (Reports, comments, pictures, Sport, pages 1, 10, 11).

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process. We wish to take a positive view of these develop-ments and hope that it will be with the IRA's political possible to continue to do so. '2. You should be aware that the above has been personally approved by SOSNI [Secreprepared to tackle these and tary of State for Northern Iremembers of Sinn Fein and the accept the risks that they

land]. In fact, all but the first sentence of the first paragraph is his own wording. In But it must be recognised other words, it is not negotiable. that all acts of violence hereafter could only enhance these difficulties and risks, quite

On 7 November, when there were suggestions of contacts between Sinn Fein and the Government, a Downing Street spokesman said: 'We have made clear on many occasions that we don't speak to those who carry out or advocate or condone violence to further their political aims.'

On 11 November, a Unionist MP said that an 'insider' had told him of contacts 'In handing over this writ- basis for a way forward. We on stretching back through many months. The Northern Iremake no bones about the fact specific questions or give fur- land Office dismissed the suggestion: 'No such meetings 'You should also emphasise have taken place.'

Un 1/ November. ish Government's acknow- McGuinness confirmed he difficulties for the British ledgement that all of those in- had been 'in direct contact volved share a responsibility with representatives of the ous. They are nevertheless to work to end the conflict. We British Government'.

## dentist's death

Aids fear over

JOHN MAJOR and the North-ern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, have evaded

telling the full truth to the public and MPs about secret

Documents leaked via a

Unionist MP have uncovered

a web of contacts involving

British Government at the

A transcript of an aide-

memoire, delivered orally to

Sinn Fein leader Martin

McGuinness at a key meeting

last March, just after the War-

rington bomb, along with a written document, 'Annexe

C', set out the parameters of

This is the full transcript:

'The following instructions

should be delivered orally to

[name deleted] when you

hand over Annexe C in writ-

that you are handing over -

you should emphasise that

this process is fraught with

Government, as must be obvi-

Britain's position.

contacts with Sinn Fein.

highest level.

ing (Deng's disciples, page 27).

England out-kicked the All

Austria 60 Sch	Malta 82 cents
Bahrain 1.5 BD	
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Cyprus£2	
Denmark 30 Kr	
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5177-P500 N2ZI

source. Attended by Martin would have to be accompanied by Republican side that it might be McGuinness, number two to Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams, the meeting consisted of the two sides exchanging key 'position papers'. Sinn Fein's paper laid out clas-

sic Republican demands, including British recognition of Irish right to self-determination. On the British side, 'the bottom line' was a demand for the cessation of violence; an interest in setting up more formal negotiations, possibly as soon as Easter, was also expressed. It was proposed such talks should involve four delegates from each side and be outside Ireland. Three venues were suggested — one on the mainland

and two abroad.

pushed for an Easter deadline. Contacts with Sinn Fein, instigated by the Government and going on for more than a year. In some instances, they involved business and professional people.

meeting was the outcome of these exchanges. The intermediaries were always well briefed with Ireland Office, the source said .

after the Warrington bombing -It was made clear the talks and there was concern on the but if they could have a face-to-

a two-week IRA ceasefire and the cancelled because of public out-British, keen to proceed quickly, rage over the bombs which killed two children and injured 56 other

Itwent ahead but was then using intermediaries, had been nearly cancelled by the Republicans when only one person turned up on the British side.

Sinn Fein became angry and Over a dozen documents were suspicious that the meeting was passed from the Government to not being treated seriously. They Sinn Fein and the Londonderry were persuaded that it was important, partly by the briefing note obtained by The Observer, showing the contact was fully notes authorised by the Northern backed by the Secretary of State.

The meeting was set to take that any declaration of intent to place on 22 March — two days withdraw from Northern Ireland would probably be impossible

e meeting over a period of four or five days, they believed they would be able to convince the RA and Sinn Fein that such a laration was 'not necessary'. But it seemed the British side egan to get cold feet. The possility of a Government defeat ver Maastricht and the imporort, increased Loyalist violence Northern Ireland and inreased IRA mainland bombing leant 'the trail went cold'. John Hume, leader of the

Social Democratic and Labour arty, confirmed to The Observer sterday that he had been in-The British side made clear le subsequently met John Major discuss his own talks with erry Adams.

**ON SUNDAY** 

-Published in London £1 (Ir Rep £1.10)



### Dictator's daughter

Fiammetta Rocco on Alessandra Mussolini

Sunday Review

28 November 1993



#### How basic is basic?

Back to the past with Mr Major's family

Page 17



#### **Christmas reading**

A 16-page critical guide to the best books

Sunday Review



#### Hearts in darkness

Gitta Sereny on the children who kill

Page 21

■ 'Do-gooder' was link between British intelligence and terrorists
■ Disclosure of secret contacts gives lie to Major's denials

# Unionists halted talks with IRA

SECRET contacts between the British Government and the IRA's Army Council were stopped after pressure earlier Unionists.

In an embarrassing blow for the Government, British and Unionist sources yesterday confirmed that a go-between was used by British intelligence to make contact with IRA chiefs of staff.

The intermediary - described by one source yesterday as "a do-gooder" such as a churchman rather than a politi-

bridge some of the differences between the two sides, raising questions with government rep-

The disclosure comes as Martin McGuinness, a Sinn rass the Prime Minister and the Fein leader, claimed that contact between the Government and his party is continuing sometimes on a daily basis.

Two unionist sources said that the contacts came to an end when James Molyneaux, leader of the Ulster Unionst Party, raised the matter with

cian or civil servant - sought to the Government in the summer. The nine Ulster Unionists knew about the talks before they backed Mr Major in a cruthis year from the Ulster resentatives and relaying cial Commons division over the Maastricht treaty.

The disclosure will embar-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Sir Patrick Mayhew, who have denied direct negotiations with the IRA or its political wing, Sinn Fein.

John Taylor, Ulster Unionist MP for Strangford, said: "Mr Molyneaux and myself got wind of it prior to the local government. By Stephen Castle Political Editor

elections in Northern Ireland.

"This information will be an embarrassment to Sir Patrick Mayhew. Every time he has spoken he has been playing with words. It discredits the standing of the Government."

The news may complicate preparations for the Anglo-Irish summit. Tensions over the agenda are believed to be the cause of Downing Street's refusal to confirm the date of the meeting pencilled in for Friday.

Mr McGuinness will claim today that he has been engaged in a dialogue with the Government. In an interview to be shown on BBC Television's On the Record, he says: "The British Government have their accommodation with Unionists and the dialogue ended then, but the contact has continued." Asked whether it was weekly, he replies: "Yes sometimes on a daily basis".

Mr McGuinness recounts

..... . ........ Gundountable 'All' Dlanks

contacts going back to October 1990. This includes a meeting in a residential area of Northern Ireland "between a representative of the Foreign Office and myself. It was a discussion; it was a meeting at their request which I agreed to do after con-

sultation with my colleagues."
He adds: "John Major knows who the contact is. Patrick Mayhew knows who the contact is. Douglas Hurd knows who the contact is."

The SDLP leader John Hume yesterday told Mr Major that it "should not be too difficult" fo the Government to bring about an end to violence in Northern Ireland. Mr Hume told his party's annual conference in Cookstown, Co Tyrone, that he was convinced the IRA and Sinn Fein were serious about brirging about a lasting

In a reference to proposals he formuated with the Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, he said: "The key to opening the doors, he key of peace, now exists. John Major is in possession of that key. It will require no great efort from him to turn

that key and open the door to our new future." Mr Hume attacked Unionist politicians who criticised him for talking to Mr Adams.

The Democratic Unionist leader, Ian Paisley, told his party's annual conference that Mr Major and the Government should "have the guts and the resolution to stand up to the Irish authorities". While the Dublin government was fighting desperately to save its constitutional claim to Northern Ireland "there will be no solid basis for peace."

Prince's secret bid

SUNDAY LIFE 28/11/93.

# Government forced to admit secret contact with terrorists IRA MARIED

8/11/23

THE IRA made an amazing appeal for help from the British Government to end their 25-year terror campaign in Ulster, it was revealed last night.

In a surprise statement, the Northern Ireland Office admitted that the Provo leadership approached them nine months ago.

The terrorists told the government "the conflict was over" but said they needed advice on how to bring it to a close.

#### **Furious**

The disclosure comes in the wake of repeated Government denials that it has been engaged in secret contacts with the IRA.

The fresh revelations sparked a furious political storm on both sides of the Irish Sea.

#### By STEPHANIE BELL

PO 135 (328 (3)

The DUP called for Sir Patrick Mayhew to resign after "repeatedly lying to both the public and parliament".

And Opposition MPs are expected tomorrow to challenge both the Prime Minister and the Northern Ireland Secretary of State over their repeated denials that any contacts have taken place with Sinn Fein.

The government was, forced to issue a statement last night after The Observer newspaper acquired details of a memo which formed the centepiece of the reply to the Provos.

Continued on P2

sise that this process is fraught with difficulties for the British Government, as must be a obvious.

"They are nevertheless prepared to tackle these and accept the risks that they entail.

# What NIO

THE Northern Ireland Office statement read:

"The public should not be misled by this published text.

No-one has been authorised to conduct talks or negotiations on behalf of the Government with the Provisionals, Sinn Fein or any other organisation perpetrating or supporting violence for political ends.

"At the end of February this year a message was passed on to the Government from the IRA leadership.

"It was to the effect that the conflict was over but they needed our advice as to the means of bringing it to a close.

bringing it to a close.

"The Government obviously had to take that message seriously, though we recognised that actions not words would be the real test.

"The Government had already made it publicly clear what had to be done by those who used or threatened violence for political ends.

"If they wanted to enter into talks or negotiations with the Government, there first had to be a genuine ending of violence.

"The Government accordingly responded to the IRA's request for

advice.
"The response reinforced and spelt out in a private message what

SOSNI (Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Sir Patrick Mayhew).

"In fact all but the first sentence of the first paragraph is his own wording. In other words it is not negotiable."

# NIO said

the Government had consistently said pub-

'There had first of all to be a genuine end to violence. It also repeated the constitutional guarantee.

"The text now published contains the wording of instructions given by the Government for the transmission of that response."

(This is believed to refer to the publication of a leaked document on the Government's response to the IRA's overtures published in the Observer today).

"As the text makes clear, the response provided the advice that had been requested.

"It continues to reflect the Government's policy, which has again recently been made clear by the Prime Minister and by the Secretary of State. "The IRA have not

"The IRA have not delivered the ending of violence envisaged in their original approach."

"They have continued to inflict untold misery and grief upon the public.

"It is for them to explain this. There can be no excuse for such terrorism. Their duty is to end it at once."

Ireland and he must go," he said.

#### Answer .

Mr Robinson said last night's NIO statement exposed "the tip of a deceitful iceberg".

"People had been asking why more vigorous action had not been taken against the IRA and now they have their answer," he said.

Party colleague and official spokesman for the DUP Sammy Wil-



John Alderdice: 'Deliberate leaks'

son backed the call, saying: "If Patrick Mayhew has any honour he will resign."

Mr Wilson added: "It must be the most bare-faced example

comment last night, but party colleague John Taylor said the NIO statement confirmed what his party already knew.

"Mr Molyneaux received confirmation that the government was talking to the IRA as early as May of this year.

"I, myself have known about it since June. Over the last few months I have been advising my party colleagues not

untrue."

The Alliance party leader Dr John Alderdice said it was clear that the IRA had been trying to entice the British government into negotiations "using the promise of peace".

"They had failed and

"They had failed and the terrorist campaign had continued.

"Next they turned to Mr Hume who was more obliging", he said.

frightened that the policy frightened that the policy frightened that the policy frightened the British and Irish prime ministers would succeed in bringing about a peaceful solution in Northern Ireland.

Speaking on behalf of the SDLP, Mr Denis Haughey said he was "not surprised" by reports of contacts.

"The situation can only be resolved by dialogue.



John Major: Facing challenge



Gerry Adams: 'It's a



The disclosure shows

that the document was written by the Northern Ireland Secretary, Sir Patrick Mayhew, himself.

And Sinn Fein are also publicly claiming that they have been engaged in "high level" talks with the British government for the past four years.

Refering directly to the Observer document, the NIO still insisted last night: "Noone has been authorised to conduct talks or negotiations on behalf of the government with the provisionals, Sinn Fein or any

other organisation perpetrating or supporting vioence for political ends."

But the government revealed: "At the end of February this year a message was passed on to the government from the IRA leadership.

"It was to the effect that the conflict was over but they needed our advice as to the means of bringing it to a close.

"The government obviously had to take that message seriously though we recognised that actions not words would be the real test."

The statement admits that the government responded to the IRA's request for advice and "spelt out in a private message what the government had consistently said publicly. There had at first to be a genuine end to violence."

Gerry Adams described the government statement as "a lie" and an attempt to distract from the facts.

The Sinn Fein leader said of Sir Patrick Mayhew and John Major that: "In their desperation to protect their positions they are squandering an opportunity for beace."

No 8,832



**POWER GAMES** 

How they dumped Bill Fyfe

Scotland Section



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JULIE BURCHILL

The return of Punk

The Magazine

# Government admits contacts with IRA for past year

THE Northern Ireland Office last night revealed it has established a means for "passing messages" between the British government and the IRA. The claimed there had been secret meetings between the government and terrorists.

said its link with the IRA did "not constitute negotiations. It has not involved ministers, or civil servants".

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But sources in the Northern Ireland Office confirmed that intermediaries have been used over the past year or so to pass messages setting out the govadmission came as senior ernment's position to the IRA politicians on both sides of and its political wing, Sinn Ulster's sectarian divide Fein. These middlemen, thought to be Catholic businessmen in the province, relayed the IRA/Sinn Fein A government spokesman response back to the government.

The revelation comes after repeated official denials that the government had held talks

with those committed to violence - leaders of Sinn Fein claimed there had been lengthy negotiations. John Major said in the House of Commons on November 1 that he would "not talk to people who murder indiscriminately". It would "turn my stomach - we will not do it".

John Taylor, the Ulster Unionist MP for Strangford, said: "These contacts are most unwelcome. However, both Mr Molyneaux [his party's leader] and myself knew in adby Liam Clarke and Mark Skipworth

vance of our understanding with the government [for Unionists to support the government in parliament] that there was contact between republican terrorists and the government.'

Yesterday, Martin Mc-Guinness, a leading IRA/Sinn Fein activist, said contacts

were continuing with the British government with the full knowledge of the prime minister. He claimed they went back to 1990 when, during Margaret Thatcher's premiership, a three-hour meeting with a Foreign Office official was held in a "quiet residential area" in the province.

pages 10-11

In an interview for BBC1's "We have made clear time present form last spring and on The Record, to be broadagain that there can be no was instigated by the IRA It cast today, McGuinness says that since then there has been 'fairly intense contact between the British government representatives and ourselves

. John Major knows who the contact is". He added that they were continuing on a weekly and sometimes daily

A Northern Ireland Office spokesman last night refused to say whether government officials had met McGuinness.

and again that there can be no talks or negotiations with those who use or threaten or support violence for political ends," he said.

There were reports last night that the "messages" passed between the government and the terrorists were an attempt to establish the terms that would allow the IRA to call a permanent ceasefire.

This "peace process" is reported to have started in its

was instigated by the IRA. It has continued in talks between John Hume, the leader of the mainly Catholic Social Democratic and Labour party (SDLP), and Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein.

Price 90p

The confirmation of government-IRA contacts come amid growing speculation throughout Ireland that the IRA is on the brink of a ceasefire. A Catholic Belfast

Continued on page 2

## Clarke to offer tax breather

The compensation scheme was not settled until Friday after Major intervened to resolve the dispute between Clarke and Lilley. The package is expected to be approved by the cabinet on Tuesday

The compensation will be by the fuel tax will be autoadded to income support payments from April, when Vat takes effect at 8%. Clarke will argue that other people on benefits, including pensioners not receiving income support, will be compensated next year when the percentage rise in the retail prices index caused

matically added to their state benefits.

Ministers are worried that the limited compensation package may emerge as the most controversial element of the budget.

Yesterday, rebel Tory MPs claimed that at least nine Tories were ready to vote for a more generous Vat relief scheme during the passage of the finance bill which im-plements the budget — enough on paper to overturn the gov-ernment's majority of 17 if the rebels stand firm.

William Powell, Tory MP for Corby, said no scheme could compensate for the unfairness of the fuel tax. Pressing ahead with it was "like the charge of the Light Brigade it is magnificent but it is

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## Ulster

Continued from page 1

nouncement would be made this weekend; the speculation was dismissed by Sinn Fein

sion is likely to provoke a fierce reaction among

In an exclusive interview fore the end of this year.

ference Robinson also announced plans for a Save Ulster campaign to oppose any involvement by the Dublin government in the running of Northern Ireland. The Rev Ian Paisley, the DUP leader, added: "Instead of peace breaking out, there is preparation for war.'

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**AWARD 1993** 

#### Lee Rainford

LAST week's story on accidental deaths among cancer patients carried a picture incorrectly captioned, "Victim: Lee Rainford". The picture was not Mr Rainford and we apologise for any distress

**Ulster:** peace or bloodbath

newspaper predicted an ansources yesterday.

The government's admis-Unionists.

with The Sunday Times, Albert Reynolds, the taoiseach, revealed that no date for a summit with Major had yet been set but declared that a breakthrough was needed be-

Reynolds revealed that the government had not asked Major to commit Britain to a date for withdrawal from the province, adding that Dublin's formal proposals do not even include an agreement in principle for British withdrawal as part of any peace initiative.

Peter Robinson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist party (DUP), said yesterday, before reports of government-IRA links became public, that he believed there were documents that would confirm such links.

At his party's annual con-

Additional reporting: John