



NORTHERN IRELAND Information Service

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"THE DAY OF PEACE MUST SURELY COME"

A 72-page book setting out developments in Northern Ireland over the past 20 years has been published, the Government announced today. Ten thousand copies have been printed for distribution to Members of Parliament, the media, opinion formers and those interested in Northern Ireland. Copies will also be circulated overseas through Embassies and Consular Posts.

The main aim of Ministers in publishing the book, says Dr Brian Mawhinney MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary, is to demonstrate the positive and creative work of the "real" people of Northern Ireland and the achievements of the last 20 years and to contrast this with the nature and futility of violence and those who practise it.

Dr Mawhinney said: "Violence has achieved nothing but heartache and suffering, not least in those areas from which the terrorists seek to extract support and which they claim to defend. And what do they have to offer for the future? More of the same? In twenty years they have learned little other than new ways to kill.

"Contrast all of that with the real changes in Northern Ireland over the same period. New housing, a better environment, new industries and skills, people learning to live together, ordinary people doing ordinary things. It is they who are building a better future for Northern Ireland."

Dr Mawhinney said the book would also aim to reinforce the growing international

perception that these positive developments, not the image of the masked terrorist, represent the true face of Northern Ireland.

This theme is reflected in the cover of the book. On the front in bold type is the quotation: "The day of the men and women of peace must surely come". And on the back inside cover the quotation by Dr Cahal Daly, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Down and Connor - is completed thus: "The day of the men of violence will never come".

The publication is divided into five sections. The first, 'The Community; a change of direction' deals with the Civil Rights movement and consequential reforms, before moving on to political developments culminating with the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The second section, titled, 'Attacking the Community', highlights the scale and nature of terrorism with particular attention being given to terrorist 'mistakes'. The third section - 'Protecting the Community' - is about the commitment, the sacrifices and the successes of the Police and the Army in the forefront of the fight against terrorism.

The final two sections strike an even more positive and upbeat note. 'A Community on the Move', about the vitality of Northern Ireland, details the Government's commitment to the broad range of social issues, the efforts to reshape and stimulate existing industry, create new jobs and develop industrial training and skills. The new spirit is about young people, their successes and the role they have and are taking in building the Province's future.

As the tailpiece to the book says, "The future begins to look brighter. Civil, family and personal pride are still intact. Space is being created to allow Ulster generosity to express itself in an ever-increasing number of ways. Mutual respect and a willingness to appreciate the other's point of view is rendering bigotry irrelevant: Faith in the future is stronger than ever."