

Media Guardian

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40p Monday March 2 1992 Published in London and Manchester

10eGuardian

Terrorists plan to blast Ulster on to election agenda

RA threat to step up bombings

David Sharrock and Owen Bowcott in Belfast

nied its third bomb in London within 48 hours yesterday with a warning that it will step up its mainland campaign and blast Northern Ireland on to the political agenda in the run-up to a general election.

The threat came as the weekend's biggest sporting fixture — the Rumbelows League Cup semi-final between Tottenham Hotspur and Nottingham Forest — got under way after being delayed for an hour following the discovery of a bomb on rail way tracks close to White Hart Lane stadium, north London.

The Home Secretary, Kenneth Baker, said the sound of bombs would not drown the voice of democracy. "Thirtyfive thousand people going to a football match on a Sunday afternoon are not a military or

political target," he said.

He later backed a proposal to scrap publication of election candidates' addresses on ballot papers or nomination forms as a security measure.

The Irish prime minister, Albert Reynolds, said he totally rejected the IRA's political claim. Northern Ireland had already been placed at the top of Major, and by political leaders north and south in Ireland. There is no need for violence to achieve that," he added.

Police said the small device

on the railway tracks was made safe by an explosives officer after it was spotted by a passen-

er George Churchill-Coleman, I television station, had been too praised public vigilance in thwarting the attack. "With help from London citizens like

this, half the battle is won. In a statement issued from Dublin, the IRA said: "These attacks signal our determination and resolve to focus the Government's attention on their war in Ireland.

"As they face into a general election, our volunteers will continue to force their occupation of part of our country on to

the British political agenda."
The statement reflects republican belief that the political situation in Northern Ireland is highly volatile. With inter-party talks possibly reconvening before the election. Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, has once again been excluded because of its stance on violence.

The apparent strengthening of the Dublin-London axis, in the close working relationship between Mr Major and Mr Reynolds, has led many people to believe that some new government initiative on Northern

Ireland may be in the offing. Yesterday's bomb was the only one of the three not to detonate. On Friday, a device containing 2lbs of Semtex went off in a public toilet at London Bridge railway station, injuring 28 people, four seriously. On Saturday night a similar device slightly injured a woman passer-by outside offices in High Holborn in cen-

The weekend's events have fuelled arguments about IRA policy on civilian targets. The police claim the IRA has switched its tactics to maining

or killing innocent civilians. ger standing on the platform at White Hart Lane station.

The head of Scotland Yard's callous act designed to kill". anti-terrorist squad, Command- | The warning, given in code to a | page 5

vague and too late to do any-

thing but cause confusion.

But the IRA accused him of being "mischievous" in claim-ing the bomb was meant to maim and kill. The three latest bombs are in line with the campaign the IRA has been waging in Belfast, with the primary in-tention to cause chaos and weary the security forces and the public. Mr Baker seemed to disagree

with the police analysis in a television interview yesterday, be-fore the Tottenham incident, when he said the IRA's tactics were to cause disruption. Security alerts which para-

lysed London's West End on Saturday are a routine part of life in Belfast. A bomb at Clap-ham Junction last December was estimated to have cost £46 million in disruption.

The plan to stop publication

of election candidates' addresses would require an amendment to the Representation of the People Act.

Mr Baker said: "I have had clear advice that terrorists should be denied easy access to information of the sort — I trust there will be all-party support for this measure."

A Labour spokesman said: "If measures need to be brought forward, then we will not stand

A suspect package in a tele-Kensington Underground station in London was exploded by bomb disposal experts last night. Police said later it was not thought to have been a bomb. In Dublin, police were questioning two men early today after eight pistols, a shotgun, and IRA manuals were found.

Presbyterians meet UDA,

Survivors tell of killings by Armenians in Azerbaijan enclave



New wounds . . . An Azeri refugee from the town of Khojali in Nagorno-Karabakh tears her face in grief. Her family was killed in a slaughter which the survivors say was carried out by Armenians Reports, page 6.

News in brief

'Power deal' talk

Labour and Liberal Democrats have begun warily circling one another over the ways they might co-operate in the event of a hung parliament. Page 24

Edging towards judgment Unemployment, up by 1 million in a year, will be harder for Tories to defend in this general election than in 1983 or 1987. What does this mean in Conservative marginals? Page 4

Repossessions concern Homes are being repossessed unnecessarily because mortgage lenders are failing to help borrowers in trouble. Page 24

Mansell dominates

Nigel Mansell led from start to finish in the South African Grand Prix, the first race of the 1992 Formula One campaign. Alan Henry, Page 18

Money in the slot

British Rail is preparing to offer its rail system to private train operators to increase use and income by allocating busi-ness 'slots'. Page 11

Schools radio 'at risk' The BBC is considering internal recommendations that Radio 5 be scrapped in its present form and live schools radio be ended.

Campaigners' outrage Environmentalists are outraged after a court quashed a jail sentence on the cattle rancher accused of planning the murder of Chico Mendes. Page 24

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Car sales boost and lottery on **Budget agenda**

and Simon Beavis

N easing of taxes on new cars and a lottery designed to raise funds for the arts and environmental projects are high on the agenda of the Chancellor, Norman Lamont, as he puts the finish-ing touches to next week's preelection Budget.

Mr Lamont is constrained by a higher than expected level of public borrowing — £24 billion — as he makes his final Budget preparations. But he will probably find room to lower income taxes and relieve the burden of recession on British industry with possible changes in the unified business rate and car taxation. He may also raise the levels at which inheritance tax begins to be levied, and reduce

tax on income from savings.
Figures to be released this week will show that new car sales plummeted 15 per cent in February, adding to the depth of the slump in manufacturing.

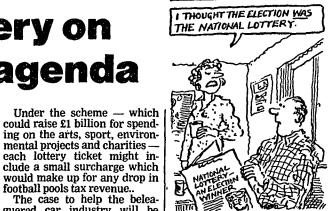
A recovery in car sales and production, together with an upturn in the housing market, are seen as essential to the long awaited improvement in economic conditions.

Having been dissuaded from

introducing a lottery last year by concern that it might hit revenues from the football pools tax, the Government believes it may have developed an accept-



Austin



The car market, which fell by more than 20 per cent last year

to 1.59 million vehicles, is ex-

pected to grow by nearly 9 per cent this year to between 1.7

Ford has said that this would

depend on measures in the Bud-

get to boost sales, but like other

manufacturers it does not ex-

pect the car market to show

real signs of recovery until

August, when new registration

Mr Lamont has the unenvi-able task of writing a Budget

which will help alleviate the

recession and unemployment, and lift Conservative re-elec-

tion hopes without storing up

million and 1.75 million.

prefixes are introduced.

The case to help the belea guered car industry will be underlined this week with figures from the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders showing that car sales fell by 15 hold because of the Budget and estimates that up to 22,000 per cent in February, to lanorders across the industry may guish nearly 45 per cent behind have been put in abeyance

their 1989 peak.
Ford, which slumped to record trading losses of £920 million in 1991, was toppled by Vauxhall from the market leadership in February, the first time it has lost first place for 15

football pools tax revenue..

Ministers have come under unprecedented pressure from both sides of industry to use the Budget to stimulate car sales. predominantly by abolishing the 10 per cent tax on new cars. With VAT at 17.5 per cent, new car buyers face a 27.3 per cent

tax burden on every purchase. Car industry officials believe any abolition of the tax would be phased in over two or three years to avoid immediate tax revenue loss and damage to the second-hand car market.

One manufacturer, the Japa nese group Daihatsu, has pre-pared its network of 115 dealers for the possibility of a tax cut in

the Budget. Car makers believe the steep fall in new car sales for February — which compares with a decline of 6 per cent in January — reflects a move by car buy- which compares with a ers, particularly private ones, to put off purchases until after the Budget in the hope that the tax burden will be eased. Ford says that some 6,300

dangers for the Government on the financial markets. City estimates suggest the Chancellor will concede some £3-4 billion in tax and spending

giveaways. Stockbrokers James Capel ar gue Mr Lamont will cut Ip from income tax at a cost of £1,950 million; freeze the uniform business rate at a cost of £700 million; and increase spending by about £350 million. Among other possibilities are improved tax breaks for child care facilities.

Will Hutton, page 12;

Cash lost in ivory sting

Paul Brown

RHINO HORN and ivory trading "sting" run from London by ex-SAS men to trap smugglers has collapsed amid allegations of fraud.

Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, a former president of the World Wide Fund for Nature, funded the operation with £800,000 obtained from selling a painting, but now more than half the money is missing.

The SAS men were employed on the advice of John Hanks, then head of WWF's affairs in Africa, although WWF in Geneva maintains he was involved only in a private capacity. In any event, he could have had no knowledge of the financial | uncover their own governaspects of the operation.

The SAS mercenaries working for KAS Enterprises, whose managing director, Colonel Ian Crooke, won a DSO in the Falklands campaign, spent four years from 1987 in undercover operations in southern Africa.

By 1990, with the operation going wrong, Prince Bernhard complained to the Duke of Edinburgh, president of WWF, that his money was not accounted for. Scotland Yard was called in. Details of Operation Lock, as

it was called, have emerged from papers passed to the Guardian. Some of them were originally compiled for South African Military Intelligence which infiltrated the organisation because of fears it would

gal trade to finance guerrilla movements destabilising neigh bouring states. The papers are embarrassing

to South Africa and other states named as tolerating smuggling in their efforts to remove protection from the elephant and restart international ivory trading. If the ban is lifted at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (Cites) meeting starting today in Japan these countries will see big in-creases in the value of their stockpiles of ivory.

Details, page 2; Cites meeting, page 9; Leader comment,

A wink from gays to warders

John Carvel Home Affairs Editor

N what promises to be one of the more memorable clashes of cultures in Britain's rich tradition of political dissent, gay rights activists and the Prison Officers' Association have organised railies outside the House of Commons for the

same time on Thursday.
About 700 prison officers, supported by 400 probation officers, and 400 probation officers. cers and 400 prison chaplains, psychologists, and others will be moving across Parliament Square to complain about priatisation of jails, on what may be the last day for lobbying MPs before the dissolution of Parliament for the general election. The officers will have just heard Roy Hattersley, the shadow home secretary,

address a rally on the evils of commercialised custody.

At the same time, about 70 members of OutRage, led by the film director Derek Jarman and singers Tom Robinson, sciousness. Union leaders were Jimmy Somerville and Andy Bell, will head down Whitehall women probation officers if the wearing winking masks and confessing to "crimes" which could render them liable to imprisonment under laws against some forms of consenting ho-

mosexual behaviour. They will have come from an exhibition of what the organis-ers describe as "frenzied bonking inside OutRage's portable Wendy house" beside the Eros statue in Piccadilly Circus.

The potential prisoners and their possible jailers will meet at the St Stephen's entrance to the Commons at about 2.30pm. Their organisers said they had been unaware of the clash until informed by the Guardian.

There had already been some concern in the anti-privatisation camp about possible ten-sions between the prison and probation unions.

The National Association of Probation Officers considers itself to be at the forefront of anti-sexist and anti-racist conrather more unreconstructed male POA members being bused in from around the country used familiar terms like "love" or "pet".

Scotland Yard is understood

to be more concerned about what might happen if the Out-Rage protesters start wolf-whistling the uniformed prison officers. Both groups have been warned they will be arrested if the banter turns into a breach

of public order.
OutRage said its members would do a lot of winking and defiantly exchange giant calling This would "highlight how gay men cruising and swapping

names and numbers or even merely winking at each other can be prosecuted, convicted and imprisoned".
Peter Tatchell, one of the organisers, said the juxtaposition

of events was "amusing". The

POA refused to comment.

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