

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - DUBLIN - 1996

JANUARY

- 11 Mr Major meets International Body in London.
- 12 Irish Government, Fianna Fail, SDLP and Sinn Fein meet International Body in Dublin.
- 15 NIO Ministers, and UUP meet International Body in Belfast.
- 17 Trilateral meeting between British and Irish Governments and Sinn Fein at Stormont.
- 18 Visit of HRH The Princess Royal.
- 19 Visit of HRH Prince Edward.
- 24 International Body publishes its report on decommissioning. Mr Major responds by announcing "an elective process". Irish Government complain about lack of consultation.

FEBRUARY

- 4 UUP Deputy leader, John Taylor calls Tanaiste "the most detested politician in Northern Ireland".
 - 7 "Adare" meeting between Tanaiste and Sir Patrick Mayhew in Dublin. Mr Spring proposes "proximity talks", which Michael Ancram describes as "premature".
 - 8 Tanaiste meets President Clinton in Washington.
 - 9 Canary Warf bomb. IRA announce end of their ceasefire.
 - 10 Taoiseach suspends Ministerial contact with Sinn Fein.
 - 13 Taoiseach calls for "proximity talks" before any elective process.
 - 20 Tanaiste accepts Mr Trimble's invitation to "limited talks".
 - 28 Anglo/Irish Summit in London sets 10 June as date for all-party talks, with Sinn Fein participation conditional on restored ceasefire, and launches "intensive consultations" with the NI Parties.
- Edward O'Brien (London bus bomber) buried in Gorey.

MARCH

- 2 US Ambassador criticised in State Department report for discouraging dissent within the Embassy.
- 4 Opening of "intensive consultations" in Belfast, preceded by "Adare" meeting between Tanaiste and Sir Patrick Mayhew. DUP and UKUP decline to attend because of Mr Spring's presence.
- 6 Secretary of State for Northern Ireland addressed Chamber of Commerce of Ireland.
- 8-9 Fine Gael ard fheis in Dublin.
- 8 "Adare" meeting in Belfast.
- 11 UUP delegation led by Mr Trimble meets the three coalition party leaders in Dublin.
- 14 "Adare" meeting in Dublin.
- 20 "Adare" meeting in Belfast.
- 20 Visit to Dublin by Select Committee on Agriculture.
- 23 Sinn Fein ard fheis in Dublin.
- 25 Gardai mobilised to prevent cattle smuggling after EU ban on British beef.
- 29 Tanaiste, speaking in Dublin, lists "10 good reasons" for a restored IRA ceasefire.

Dublin Forum for Peace and Reconciliation suspended pending restoration of the ceasefire.

APRIL

- 2 Fianna Fail wins by-elections in Donegal NW and Dublin W.
- 3 "Adare" meeting in Dublin.
- 3 Secretary of State for Northern Ireland participated in debate at Trinity College Dublin.
- 13 Anthony Duncan extradition hearing collapses over "fundamentally flawed" papers. Irish initially blame Scotland Yard but subsequently admit errors by Gardai.
- 16 Northern Ireland (Entry to negotiations, etc) Bill and "Groundrules" for negotiations published.

- 21 Bertie Ahern's Arbour Hill speech commemorating the 1916 rising partly blames Mr Bruton for collapse of IRA ceasefire.
- 29 British/Irish Interparliamentary Body Plenary Session opens in Limerick. Tanaiste calls for a "fourth strand" on decommissioning.

MAY

- 2 Taoiseach criticises Ahern's Arbour Hill speech as "one sided".
- 9 Home Secretary agrees to transfer Patrick Kelly to Portlaoise Prison.
- 10-11 Democratic Left Party Conference, Dun Laoghaire.
- 11 Manchester United win FA Cup Final.
- 16 Article by Mr Major published in Irish Times.
- 20 Gerry Adams announces acceptance of the six Mitchell Principles.
- 21 Brendan Dowd transferred to Portlaoise Prison.
- 22 Anglo/Irish Conference meeting in London.
- 28 "Adare" meeting in Dublin.
- 30 NI Forum elections.

JUNE

- 4-6 President Robinson's official visit to UK.
- 4 Taoiseach visits Bonn.
- 4 John Dew leaves Dublin on completion of tour as DHM.
- 5 UK and Irish Governments reach agreement in London on ground rules for NI talks and role of the independent chairman.
- 6 Mr David visits Dublin to discuss EU issues.
- 7 Garda McCabe murdered by IRA unit in Limerick.
- 10 NI political talks opened by Taoiseach and Mr Major.
- 15 IRA bomb in Manchester.

- 17 Visit of Select Committee on European Legislation.
- 20 Gardai discover IRA bomb factory at Clonaslee, Co.Laois.
- 26 Veronica Guerin shot in Dublin. Government responds by a series of measures designed to curb organised crime.
- 26 Taoiseach sets out Irish Presidency priorities in the Dail ("secure jobs, safe streets, sound money and a peaceful Europe").

JULY

- 1 Irish take over EU Presidency.
- 7 RUC block Orange march down Garvaghy Road, Portadown.
- 9 Richard Clarke arrives in Dublin as DHM.
- 10 Visit to the Curragh of the Chief of Defence Staff.
- 10-11 Informal Social Welfare Council in Dublin.
- 11-12 Informal Social Affairs Council in Dublin.
- 11 RUC reverse decision and allow Garvaghy Road march.
- 12 Taoiseach criticises British Government handling of Garvaghy Road situation in BBC interview.
- 12 50th Anniversary Celebrations of Irish Navy. HMS Manchester in Cork.
- 13 First Sea Lord in Cork.
- 17 Tanaiste outlines Presidency priorities at the European Parliament in Strasbourg.
- 18 Anglo/Irish Conference meeting in London.
- 19-21 Informal Environment Council in Dublin.
- 29 NI talks adjourn for the summer.

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

- 5 "Adare" meeting in Dublin.
- 7-8 Informal EU Foreign Ministers' meeting in Tralee.
- 9 NI talks resume.
- 10 British and Irish governments rule that PUP and UDP did not breach Mitchell principles and could remain in the talks.
- 10 Visit to Dublin of Mr Nicholas Soames, Minister of State, Armed Forces.
- 11 Taoiseach addresses joint session of US Congress and calls for an IRA cessation of violence that will hold in all circumstances.
- 12 President Robinson visits Belfast.
- 15 Michael Ancram attends all-Ireland Gaelic Football Final in Dublin and meets the Taoiseach.
- 18-19 EU Trade Ministers' Seminar in Dublin.
- 20-22 Informal Ecofin Council in Dublin.
- 22-25 Informal Agriculture Council in Killarney.
- 23-25 British/Irish Interparliamentary Body Plenary Session in Bath.
- 25 Irish political correspondents meet Mr Major at Downing Street.
- 26-27 Informal Justice Council in Dublin.

OCTOBER

- 1 Cardinal Cahal Daly announces retirement as Primate of All-Ireland.
- 2-3 Chancellor Kohl visits Dublin to discuss EU matters.
- 2 Gardai find 21 mortars on farm near Hackballscross, Co.Louth.
- 4 Diarmuid O'Neill (IRA man shot during police raids in London on 23 September) buried in West Cork.
- 5 European Council meeting in Dublin ("Dublin I").

- 7 IRA bomb at Thiepval Barracks.
- 9 Taoiseach, in the Dail, compares IRA to the Nazis.
- 10 Tanaiste addresses Oireachtas Joint Committee on Foreign & Commonwealth affairs on the Presidency's approach to the IGC.
- 15 Minister for Agriculture announces beef export deal with Russia.
- 25 Sir Patrick Mayhew visits Dublin to address Association of European Journalists, attend a debate at UCD and meet the Taoiseach.

NOVEMBER

- 3 Dr Sean Brady succeeds Cahal Daly as Head of Catholic Church in Ireland.
- 6 16 high security prisoners released and re-arrested after discovery that their cases had been heard by Judge Lynch, whose resignation from the Special Criminal Court had been accepted without him being informed. This prompted calls for resignation of Minister of Justice.
- 7 200th anniversary of the Four Courts. The Lord Chancellor, the Lord President of the Quarter Sessions, the Lord Chief Justice and the Lord Chief Justice of Northern Ireland participated in the celebrations.
- 14 Government wins Dail vote of confidence over the Judge Lynch affair by 79-70.
- 20 Anglo/Irish conference meeting in Belfast.
- 22-23 Progressive Democrats Party Conference, Bunratty, Co.Clare.
- 28 Referendum approves Constitutional amendment to allow tougher bail laws.
- 30 Michael Lowry, Minister for Transport, resigns following reports that he received £208,000 from Ben Dunne. He is succeeded by Alan Dukes, a former leader of Fine Gael.

DECEMBER

- 9 Taoiseach and Tanaiste visit London as part of pre-European Council tour of EU capitals.
- 13-14 European Council meeting in Dublin ("Dublin II").
- 18 GOC Northern Ireland lectured at the UN School at the Curragh
- 18-20 ASEAN/ASEM meeting in Dublin.
- 31 Irish EU Presidency ends.