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Notes in Brief

Trimble falsehoods

One of the assurances given to the electorate, just before the referendum on the "Peace Agreement", by Mr. David Trimble MP, leader of the Ulster Unionist party and Northern Ireland's First Minister, was that the North/South Council would be fully accountable to the Northern Ireland Assembly. Unionists are fearful that such a body would become an embryo government of a united Ireland. Trimble's assurances did much to allay those fears and gain sufficient unionist votes to get a majority in the referendum. Now it turns out that such an assurance was a falsehood. Yet another in the dirty tactics employed by Trimble and Blair in the battle to coerce Ulster into an acceptance of the fraudulent "Peace Agreement." Confidential papers, handed to the Democratic Unionist party by Political Development minister Paul Murphy's officials, reveal that the Council will be able to operate virtually without recourse to the Assembly.

Sinn Fein will not hand over illegal drugs to police

The depths of republican bitterness are seen in the refusal of the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, to hand over a quantity of Ecstasy tablets to the police. Despite their oft-repeated claims of being a democratic party, Fra McCann, a Sinn Fein councillor in Belfast, refused to hand over 250 tablets which he had put on display at a press conference. Instead, he said that he planned to hand them over to a republican organisation set up supposedly to deal with the drugs problem. Since the IRA has long been very active in drugs trafficking, it would not be hard to guess where those tablets will end up!

IRA terrorists compensated for being hindered from escaping from jail

It could only happen in the political fairyland that Northern Ireland has become. The Government has paid over £76,000 to IRA inmates, inconvenienced by the security measures taken during the abortive prison escape some 18 months ago. The payments, some as much as £1000 and one for £3,100, were for slippers, pyjamas, and personal effects. Peter Robinson, DUP deputy leader, has contrasted the payments with the "pittances" paid to the relatives of terror victims and has asked how it is that a convicted terrorist could have over £3,000 worth of personal effects in his cell. Why anyone would wish for an early release from the paradise, that the Maze Prison has become, is hard to understand.

IRA's intimidation induces "Real IRA" to call a ceasefire.

For an organisation which has supposedly eschewed violence and become totally democratic, the IRA was strangely able to convince their erstwhile compatriots, who were responsible for the Omagh bombing, to call off their campaign of terror. They were told that should they not heed the warning then the leadership of the "Real IRA" would be shot. In taking up this offer that could not be refused, the "Real IRA" have shown that they, at



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least, do not believe the propaganda about the IRA giving up violence!!