

# IRA guerrilla war escalates

LONDON (AP)—The Irish Republican Army's assassinations of Earl Mountbatten in the Irish Republic and 18 British soldiers in Northern Ireland mark a new and bloody escalation in the IRA's guerrilla war to end British rule in Northern Ireland.

British security chiefs say the guerrillas, the successors of generations of Irish rebels who fought the British, now are better armed and organized than at any time since they launched their campaign in February 1971, with connections to terrorist groups around the world.

### An Analysis

And military intelligence officials warn that the guerrillas are expected to intensify their campaign, including

assassinating prominent Britons and renewing bombing of English cities.

They note the guerrillas may soon beef up their increasingly sophisticated arsenal of weapons with SAM anti-aircraft missiles adding a chilling new dimension to the Irish conflict.

Police in Dublin, Ireland, said Wednesday they were questioning two men in connection with Monday's bombings. Irish police said the men, identified as Thomas McMahon and Francis McGill, had been charged with being members of the Irish Republican Army and appeared Wednesday in Dublin Special Court.

The assassinations made Monday one of the worst single days of violence since sectarian fighting erupted in Northern Ireland 10 years ago, and climaxed months of mounting attacks by the organization's "Provisional" wing and

other IRA factions against security forces and prominent Britons.

So far this year, 50 British regular army troops, militia men and police officers have been killed by the Provisional IRA and its smaller, but deadly, offshoot, the Marxist-oriented Irish National Liberation Army.

Their aim is to horrify British public opinion so that the government will be forced to pull out of the province.

The IRA, formed 70 years ago when all Ireland was ruled by Britain, seeks to end British rule in Northern Ireland and reunite the province with the neighboring Irish Republic.

Mountbatten, a cousin of Queen Elizabeth II and a national hero, was the most prominent Briton to die at the hands of Irish nationalists since 1882, when assassins killed Lord Frederick Cavendish, then secretary of state for Ireland, in Dublin's Phoenix Park.

His death, and those of 18 soldiers in a two-bomb ambush near the border between Northern Ireland and the Republic, underlined the Provisionals' growing expertise.

The current phase in the Provisional IRA's campaign began late last year after the guerrillas completed a major reorganization that security chiefs say made the movement extremely difficult to infiltrate.

The main reason for the reorganization was to tighten IRA security, which until last year had repeatedly been penetrated by British undercover agents and "turned" guerrillas, men captured and induced to become double agents.

Now, what was once a ragtag street army of trigger-happy gunmen armed with World War II weapons has become a tight-knit organization of four-man "active service units." These are led by dedicated guerrillas.

# Amtrak board votes to slice rail system

WASHINGTON (AP)—Amtrak's board, faced with mounting deficits and a congressional mandate, gave up the long fight to preserve its entire system Wednesday and voted to eliminate six well-known passenger trains and to combine some others on Oct. 1.

The action cuts 5,000 miles from the 27,500-mile Amtrak network, but leaves at least one major train running in each section of the country.

Picked for extinction were the National Limited from New York and Washington to Kansas City, the North Coast Hiawatha from Chicago to Seattle, the Lone Star from Chicago to Houston, the Hilltopper from Washington to Catlettsburg, Ky., the San Joaquin from Oakland to Bakersfield, Calif., and the Floridian from Chicago to Miami and St. Petersburg, Fla.

The board voted to combine two New York-to-Florida trains which run through North Carolina, Silver Meteor and the Champion. The trains will operate as one between New York and Jacksonville, Fla., with a Silver Meteor section continuing on to Miami and a Champion section to St. Petersburg.

Also to be combined are the Mount Rainier from Seattle to Portland and the Pacific International from Seattle to Vancouver, British Columbia. The trains will be operated as one on the southbound leg, but will be separate northbound.

Under the plan, Amtrak will inaugurate a new train, the Desert Wind, between Los Angeles and Ogdenville, Utah, probably in October. This route was added by the Transportation Department when it recommended last January that Amtrak slice nearly 12,000 miles.

DOT said the federally subsidized rail system was carrying only one-half of one percent of the intercity traveling public and was costing the taxpayers too much money. Operating subsidies were originally authorized at \$40 million in fiscal year 1971, but they have ballooned and this year will run an estimated \$600 million.

The department estimated that if the system were not reduced, operating subsidies would exceed \$1.4 billion in five years.

Amtrak fought in Congress to retain the full system

and was helped in May and June by the fuel crunch and long gas lines that sent rail-passenger travel to record levels.

In compromise actions, both houses of Congress passed bills that would reduce the Amtrak system by about 18 percent, instead of the 43 percent recommended by DOT. Both bills set a fiscal year 1980 operating deficit of about \$550 million and specified that if a train is to continue to exist, it must average 150 passengers per mile and lose no more than seven cents a mile.

In drawing its new route system, Amtrak took the basic network recommended by DOT and added the trains which met the congressional criteria.

Trains saved by the economic criteria included the Montrealer from Washington to Montreal, the Southern Crescent from New York to New Orleans, which stops in Greensboro, and the maintaining of one of the two routes between New York and Florida and of the combined route involving Portland, Seattle and Vancouver.

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## News In Brief

### Pope to visit U.S. in October

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope John Paul II will make a whirlwind tour of six cities in one week when he visits the United States in early October, the Vatican announced Wednesday. It disclosed at the same time that the pontiff considered but then dropped the idea of visiting embattled Northern Ireland. The pope will still make his planned visit to the Irish Republic on his way to the United States.

The Vatican announcement said Pope John Paul flies to Ireland Sept. 29 for a "pastoral visit" to Dublin, Drogheda, Galway, the shrine city of Knock, Maynooth and Limerick. He flies to Boston Oct. 1.

A joint announcement here and by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, D.C., said the pope, after leaving Boston, will travel to New York, Philadelphia, Des Moines, Iowa, Chicago and Washington.

### Fewer boat people fleeing Vietnam

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—A sharp drop in the number of "boat people" fleeing Vietnam indicates Hanoi is trying to keep its pledge to halt the exodus, some Southeast Asian officials say.

But the flow into Hong Kong has picked up in the past two weeks mostly involving ethnic Chinese from northern Vietnam—and a piteous sight of rescues of Vietnamese in the South China Sea over the past few days shows that the flight of seaborne refugees is not over.

The office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees announced that 2,458 boat people arrived in Southeast Asian countries during the first two weeks of August, as compared with 50,110 in all of May, 56,200 in June and 27,400 last month.

### Soviets say Godunov lured to U.S.

MOSCOW (AP)—Bolshoi Ballet defector Alexander Godunov was lured away from his homeland "by a whole team of instigators promising him mountains of gold and a sea of free whiskey," a Soviet newspaper charged Wednesday. But in New York, the dancer told a different story.

A prominent weekly said the plan by U.S. "provocateurs" worked "and on Aug. 23, Godunov disappeared without saying a word to his ballerina wife, Ludmilla Vlasova."

But Godunov himself said Wednesday his defection was a spur-of-the-moment affair. He said he went to American authorities after missing a curfew for the ballet troupe. He said he knew his tardiness would mean he would not be free later on to approach U.S. officials.

### Second union joins rail strike

CHICAGO (AP)—A second union on Wednesday joined the clerks' strike against the Rock Island Railroad and industry specialists said a prolonged walkout could have a serious impact on the shipment of record crops and other products throughout the Midwest.

Grain elevators are filling up from a bumper crop and some factories said they might have to shut down if they can't ship their goods.

About 2,500 members of the United Transportation Union joined the picket lines with 1,800 members of the Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks, putting about half of the Rock Island's workforce on strike.


### Chinese cheer Mondale

XIAN, China (AP)—More than 100,000 cheering, clapping Chinese welcomed Vice President Walter Mondale to this ancient capital city Wednesday in the warmest reception ever given an American leader in China.

Neither Richard M. Nixon nor Gerald Ford received anything approaching Mondale's welcome in their 1972 and 1975 presidential visits to China, in the days when the United States and China did not have full diplomatic relations.

The Chinese hierarchy was pleased by the results of the Mondale mission in Peking and Senior Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping took the unusual step of accompanying him to the airport.

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