Wednesday, January 03, 2007 Weather:

Hi: 11°C / Lw: 5°C



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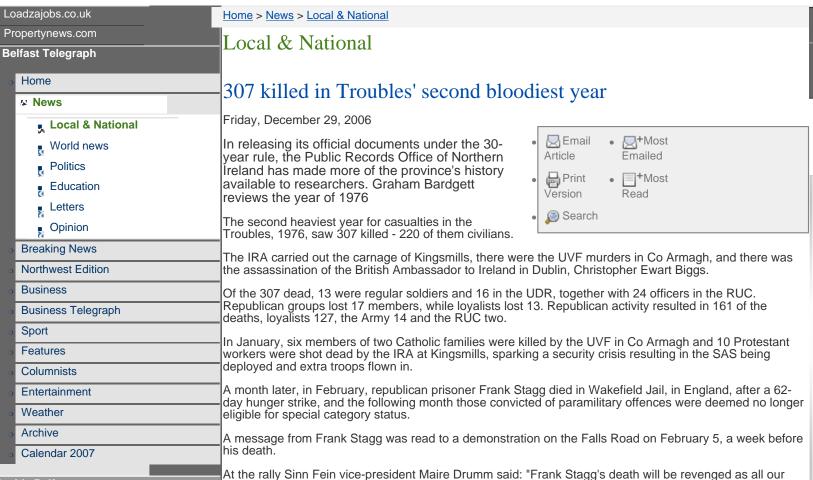
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martyrs' deaths have been by the soldiers of Oglaigh na hEireann. If they send Frank Stagg home in a coffin I would expect the fighting men of Crossmaglen would send the SAS home in boxes. If Frank Stagg lives or dies the fight goes on. England is still the hangman of the world."

Maire Drumm was subsequently murdered by loyalist gunmen while a patient at the Mater Hospital.

After a brief recall of the Convention lasting only days, March witnessed its dissolution amid rowdy scenes at its final meeting.

July 1976 saw the IRA murder in Dublin of the British Ambassador to Ireland, Christopher Ewart-Biggs, and through the summer months, the UUP was criticised by other unionists for holding talks with the SDLP.

August was the month that the Peace People emerged following the deaths of the three Maguire children during an incident in west Belfast.

They died when a car driven by an IRA man who had been shot by soldiers careered into them.

The movement attracted tens of thousands of supporters at peace rallies.

That summer, Lord Faulkner announced his retirement from political life. Roy Mason replaced Merlyn Rees as Northern Ireland Secretary of State in September and the first IRA man sent to the Maze after the ending of special category status refused to wear prison uniform.

In November, Peace People leaders Mairead Corrigan and Betty Williams were awarded the Nobel Prize for their work in trying to end the violence that was to continue for almost three decades to come.

That autumn, Kenneth Newman took over as Chief Constable of the RUC, with Jack Hermon as Assistant Chief Constable. There was systematic interrogation of terrorist suspects at Castlereagh and security policy dominated the agenda with police primacy over the Army coming to the fore.

The year closed, in December, with the Fair Employment Act being passed making it an offence to discriminate in employment on religious or political grounds. There were also strong words from the new Secretary of State Roy Mason, urging local politicians not to let devolution slip from their grasp.

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