

Car bomb kills top lawmaker

British Parliament member may have been target of IRA

By EDITH M. LEDERER
Associated Press Writer

HANKHAM, England — A bomb hidden beneath a car exploded yesterday, killing a top Conservative Party lawmaker who was on an Irish Republican Army hit list, police said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Ian Gow, chairman of the Northern Ireland committee in the House of Commons, died a few minutes after the bomb exploded outside his home, said Inspector Mike Alderson of the Sussex police. No one else was injured.

Scotland Yard's chief anti-terrorist officer, George Churchill-Coleman, said the attack appeared to be the work of the IRA.

Gow had been warned he was on a list of one-hundred lawmakers, judges and civil servants found in an IRA bomb factory in south London in December 1988, Churchill-Coleman said.

Friends and neighbors in Hankham, on England's southeast coast, said Gow had taken few precautions. "It would be easy for terrorists to get him," said Jane Birch, a neighbor.

It appeared that a device packing about five pounds of explosives was placed underneath the driver's seat of Gow's car and exploded as soon as the car was turned on, Churchill-Coleman said.

"My impression is that it was some sort of tilt switch. Once you turn it on, it explodes immediately," he said.

Gow, 53, was Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's parliamentary private secretary from 1979 to 1983.

But he resigned from a ministerial post in her government in 1985 to protest an Anglo-Irish Agreement that guaranteed Ireland a say in the province's affairs. Gow thought the accord undermined British authority in Northern Ireland.

Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey and Britain's Roman Catholic Cardinal Basil Hume joined politicians in condemning the attack, the fourth slaying of a British lawmaker since 1969.

Gow's killers were "plain, common murderers," Thatcher said after spending nearly an hour with Gow's wife, Jane, at the couple's home near Eastbourne, 60 miles southeast of London.

Thatcher said the Gows and their two sons had spent some Christmases with the Thatchers and the two families were close.

The prime minister viewed Gow's car, with its roof on the driver's side peeled back and all the glass blown out.

The prime minister, who narrowly escaped an IRA bombing that killed five at a hotel in Brighton during a Conservative Party meeting in October 1984, said public officials should take all precautions suggested by Scotland Yard.

"Most (members of parliament) want to lead an open life, but I must renew the plea in view of what happened here in a quiet village — every-



Ian Gow

one must have regard for their own safety and the safety of their staff and family," Thatcher said.

In Washington, the State Department condemned the killing and offered condolences to Gow's family. "We hope that the perpetrators of this terroristic act will be apprehended and brought to justice," the statement said.

Nearly a dozen bouquets of flowers were placed near the gate to the drive. The large brick house stands behind a high wall across the street from a primary school, closed for summer vacation.

"I think if Ian had been here he would have been the first to say, as he did on countless other occasions when such atrocities occurred, we should not give in to intimidation," said Conservative lawmaker Charles Wardle. "It is vitally important that nothing should change people's minds — no atrocity, no murder, no bullying."

Neil Kinnock, leader of the opposition Labor Party, called the slaying "a terrible atrocity against a man whose only offense was to speak his mind."

Last Tuesday, after an IRA bomb killed three police officers and a nun in



The crushed remains of Conservative Party lawmaker Ian Gow's car stand near his Hankham, England home. Gow was killed yesterday when a bomb exploded, with him in the car.

Northern Ireland, Gow expressed his anger at IRA tactics.

"These murders are as odious as they are futile," he said. "Once again, wives have been turned into widows and children into orphans, and for what purpose?"

In a June 28 issue of *Republican News*, the weekly newspaper of the

IRA, a leader said the group was determined "to hit the enemy on as many fronts as possible and to stretch their resources and nerves."

"England is the 'belly of the beast' and that is where it hurts most," the unidentified IRA leader said.

The IRA has claimed responsibility for a series of bombings in England,

including one on May 16 that killed Sgt. Charles Chapman at a British army recruiting office.

Other recent targets have included London's Stock Exchange, the Carlton Club, a traditional Conservative Party watering hole, the Stock exchange and a Royal Air Force base in northwest London.

Soldiers storm church; 600 refugees killed

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Loyalist soldiers of President Samuel Doe burst into a church compound yesterday and massacred at least 600 civilian refugees, including many children, witnesses said.

A spokesman for Doe denied the allegations. In a telephone call to the British Broadcasting Corp. in London, the spokesman said rebels wearing government uniforms killed the civilians in the early morning raid.

Witnesses said most victims were children and women, some with babies strapped to their backs and others cowering in the corners. They had been seeking refuge from the civil war, which began in late December when rebels invaded from neighboring Ivory Coast in a bid to oust Doe.

People who said they escaped the attack alleged about 30 soldiers blasted the church door down with machine guns. They then opened fire on an estimated 2,000 people from the Gio and Mano tribes who had taken refuge there.

Government troops have killed hundreds of Gios and Manos, whose tribes have supported the rebels seeking to overthrow Doe and speak a different language than Doe's loyalists. Most of Doe's troops are from his Krahn tribe and the Mandingo tribe.

Earlier yesterday in Washington, White House deputy press secretary Stephen Hart said U.S. Embassy officials had confirmed Liberian troops slaughtered at least 200 people at the Lutheran church compound in Monrovia. There was no independent confirmation of the 600 dead figure.

The White House condemned the massacre as a "senseless act of terror" but had no plans to send in troops. "At this point we don't believe that would be a prudent course of action," Hart said.

Witnesses said soldiers broke into the church compound at about 2 a.m. when the refugees were asleep. There was no telephone, so victims had no way of calling for help.

Bodies of some people apparently killed while trying to flee were hanging from the window frames of the church building, said one person who visited the camp. "I saw dead bodies all around," the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Other witnesses who refused to give their names said they saw women with their heads smashed open or blown to pieces by bullets.

Thousands of refugees fleeing the civil war are crowded into refugee camps in the capital. Their numbers have swelled recently as rebel troops have stormed into the city.

The survivors said that after the soldiers had riddled the refugees on the ground floor with bullets they went upstairs and attacked a second group, of 1,000, sleeping there.

"We thought they had come to ask us questions. Then they started killing, and everyone began screaming and trying to hide," said one man who claimed he hid on the roof of the church.

The soldiers were from Doe's Krahn tribe, said the survivors.

The floor of the church was covered with blood stains yesterday. Bodies were huddled under the pews where people tried to hide and lay draped across the church altar. More bodies were huddled in the corner of the dark building.

The bodies of women were strewn on the floor with children still wrapped in shawls on their backs. The ceiling was riddled with bullet holes.

"My people, help me. My son, where is my son? I beg you, don't leave me," pleaded an injured

woman on the church steps. A man nearby, his neck slashed, called out for water.

The church compound was filled with the bodies brought outside after the massacre. People passing the church appeared numb at the sight of rows of corpses.

People who survived the attack were seen yesterday afternoon being rounded up by government soldiers. The soldiers ordered the survivors away from the building and shot into the air to make them move, said the witnesses, who declined to be named.

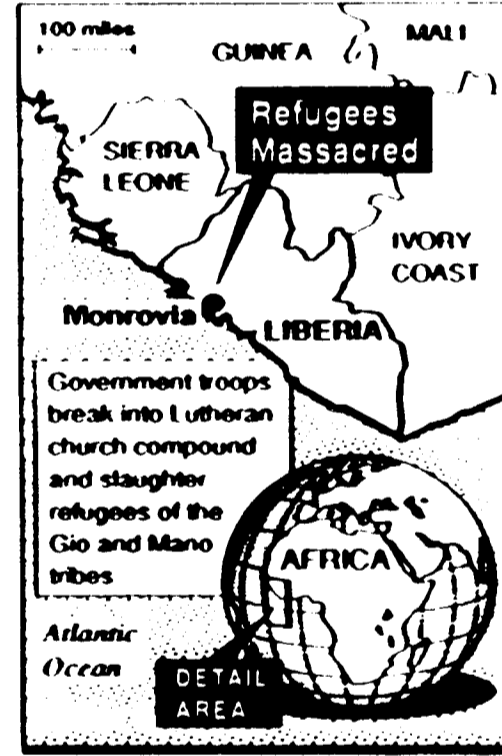
Refugees had sought protection at the church in late May after government soldiers attacked them at U.N. headquarters in Monrovia. The soldiers killed an unarmed security guard and abducted about 30 civilian men. Many of their bodies were later discovered outside the capital.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar withdrew all U.N. staff from Liberia in protest, halting an emergency program to aid war refugees. Perez de Cuellar said in New York that he reacted "with horror and dismay" to yesterday's massacre.

The war has grown to include tribal warfare between the Krahns, Mandingos, and Gios, and both the government and rebels are accused of civilian slayings.

The government of neighboring Guinea has accused fighters of rebel leader Charles Taylor of crossing into its territory and slaughtering Krahns and Mandingos.

Meanwhile, Taylor's men are engaged in battles with followers of a rival rebel leader, Prince Johnson. Johnson split with Taylor months ago, and his fighters invaded the capital last week and



advanced to within a mile of the presidential mansion.

Taylor has offered to pardon Johnson if he joined in the struggle to topple Doe.

Johnson indicated yesterday he had no intention of working with Taylor.

Soviets, Albania to renew relations

By BRIAN FRIEDMAN
Associated Press Writer

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union and Albania agreed yesterday to end their nearly three-decade estrangement by restoring diplomatic relations that were severed over the Kremlin's ideological quarrel with China.

The agreement to re-establish ties and reopen embassies was reached during talks that were held in Sofia, Bulgaria, on June 29-30 and in Tirana, the Albanian capital, on yesterday, the official Soviet news agency Tass said.

The decision marked the latest step by Albania, Europe's last bastion of hard-line Communism, to emerge from its long postwar isolation.

For nearly 25 years, the Soviet Union has been making overtures to Albania to normalize relations that Albania broke off in 1961 during Moscow's split with China, then an Albanian ally.

Kremlin leaders, however, could not overcome the deep distrust of the Soviets that was instilled by Communist Albania's founding father, Enver Hoxha, who died in 1985.

The Tass dispatch, which was also read on Soviet television and radio, said the Soviet Union and Albania were guided in their decision to re-establish ties "by a mutual desire to develop the relations of friendship and cooperation on the basis of sovereignty, equality and non-interference in each other's internal affairs."

Moscow and Tirana pledged to expand contacts in the political, economic, scientific, technical and cultural areas, it added.

When the Soviet Union and Albania severed diplomatic relations, China became Tirana's chief Communist ally.

Albania left the Warsaw Pact in 1968 after the Soviet-led invasion of Czechoslovakia.

The Balkan nation then broke with China in 1978 and established a course fiercely independent of both military blocs. It claimed to be the only nation practicing true communism, and it criticized the Soviet Union, China and other East bloc countries as the "gravediggers of the revolution."

It prided itself on being self-reliant, and its population of 3.2 million has been virtually cut off from the outside world since 1944.

Former Soviet leader Leonid I. Brezhnev made the first attempt to re-establish relations with Albania at a Communist Party congress in 1966, and similar attempts were made again in 1971 and in 1976.

During a visit to Bulgaria in 1984, Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev also mentioned normalizing relations.

In recent weeks, Albanian citizens demanding change forced their way into foreign embassies in Tirana and were allowed to leave the country.

Photographer disturbed over removal of his nude photos

HARRISBURG (AP) — A photographer whose work of female nudes was removed from an exhibit at Temple University's Harrisburg Center said he is disturbed by increasing amounts of censorship in society.

Local photographer Cecil Brooks had three works removed from his show after a number of people complained that the photographs exploited women,

The *Patriot News* reported in yesterday editions.

The photographs were images of the female body reminiscent of landscapes, Brooks said. All three showed public hair.

Brooks said the photographs created "an abstraction from the normal figure study."

"I think it's certainly sensual," he

said. "I don't really see it as prurient or obscene in any way."

"I feel disturbed at the increasing censorship that we're seeing of the arts by a minority in the society," Brooks said. "If a few people object to something, everyone is deprived."

The photographs were included in an exhibit in the lobby, classrooms and hallways at the Temple Center. The

exhibit, which also includes sculpture, started July 13 and runs through Aug. 24. Brooks' three photographs were removed July 20 or July 23.

Brooks said Temple officials did not tell him about the move. He said learned of the action when he visited the center Friday.

Deborah White, director of the center who removed the photographs, said she

received a number of complaints.

"I can't tell you the numbers," White said.

White said she had not formed a personal opinion on whether the works were exploitative. She said most of the complaints were from women.

Other photographs by Brooks of breasts and a nude self portrait were not removed from the display.

Souter defended two critical abortion decisions in N. H.

By JOHN KING
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As New Hampshire's attorney general in 1976, Supreme Court nominee David Souter submitted a brief in which the state argued against paying for Medicaid abortions and referred to abortion as "the killing of unborn children."

In an earlier case, argued in 1972 when Souter was the state's deputy attorney general, New Hampshire defended its strict anti-abortion law against a constitutional challenge by arguing: "The maintenance of an unborn child's right to birth is a compelling interest which outweighs any rights of a mother to an abortion except when necessary to preserve her life."

In both cases, the briefs apparently were written by other men and the extent of Souter's personal involvement is unclear. And from neither — one argued before and one after the U.S.

Abortion-rights activists dismayed with rulings

Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe vs. Wade* decision legalizing abortion — is it possible to determine his personal views on abortion, an issue likely to play a major role in his September confirmation hearings.

New Hampshire's attorney general is appointed by the governor and by law represents the governor and other state officials in court cases. The state's governor when both abortion cases were argued was Meldrim Thomson, a conservative abortion foe.

Abortion-rights supporters expressed unease with yesterday's development, just days after anti-abortion activists showed dismay that Souter had been on the board of a New Hampshire hospital and at a meeting when it voted to allow abortions at the facility.

Senators on both sides of the abortion issue have promised to raise the subject during Souter's September confirma-

tion hearings. Souter is due back in Washington today for more meetings with senators who will consider his nomination to succeed retired Justice William J. Brennan, a strong supporter of abortion rights.

Souter's involvement with the briefs, even if tangential, could provide a way for members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to raise the abortion issue without asking him questions about how he would rule on specific cases.

"Clearly the Senate should ask Judge Souter to address himself to this document at his confirmation hearings," said Arthur J. Kropp, president of the liberal group People for the American Way. Kropp, whose organization on Monday released copies of New Hampshire's filings in the 1976 case, said the language in them "suggests a clear sympathy for an anti-abortion viewpoint."

Kate Michelman, executive director of the National Abortion Rights Action League, said the "use of rhetoric commonly used by anti-choice extremists is profoundly alarming." She called anew for tough questions on the abortion issue during confirmation hearings.

At the White House, deputy press secretary Stephen Hart said he did not know if Bush had been told about the 1976 case. "What's important is the president supports his nominee," Hart said.

Bush, in remarks to the Youth Leadership Coalition, did not address the issue, saying merely of his selection of Souter: "I am very happy with the way the choice has been received across the country. . . . It is moving in the proper direction and I probably won't have too much more to say about it."

In the 1976 case, several pregnant women receiving Medicaid help chal-