

20,000 Rally in Dublin for Peace in North and Against I.R.A. Killing

By James F. Clarity

March 29, 1993

An estimated 20,000 Irish men and women rallied today in favor of peace in Northern Ireland and against the Irish Republican Army, whose bombs eight days ago in Warrington, England, killed two children.

Since Monday, throngs have come to downtown Dublin to sign condolence books and leave gifts of teddy bears and bouquets in memory of the two boys, 3-year-old Jonathan Ball and 12-year-old Tim Parry. The successive demonstrations, including the one today, have been the largest and most intense public expression of anger at the I.R.A. and of demands that politicians work harder for a peaceful settlement of the Protestant-Roman Catholic conflict that has killed 3,053 people since 1969.

There have been larger demonstrations here against British actions in the North, but none that called for peace or was directed against the I.R.A.

Since the boys were killed, Protestant paramilitary forces in the North have killed six Catholics, including an acknowledged I.R.A. member, and that violence has also been condemned. Today's rally was held outside the General Post Office, a symbolic temple for the I.R.A. because it is the site of the 1916 Easter Rising against colonial Britain. 'Make It Stop!'

At today's rally, many people said they hoped that the demonstration was the start of a new peace movement, a new turning for the people in the Irish Republic, who usually accept or ignore the killing in the North and in England with quiet resignation.

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