

## 10) TROOPS IN

The British government had had enough by **AUGUST 1969**. They demanded reforms and introduced the **DOWNING STREET DECLARATION**- this promised the **same rights for Catholics** and Protestants. It reassured Unionist by suggesting NI position in U.K. Would only change with a vote in NI in favour. It also promised reforms such as a **HUNT report** in to the Police. There were other measures such as to bring in One Man One Vote as soon as possible. And setting up a Housing authority to hand out housing based on necessity rather than religion. The **SCARMAN tribunal** also looked into the causes of the recent violence.

The **BRITISH ARMY** were also sent over in **August 1969** to maintain peace and essentially to protect catholic areas from attacks.

They were welcomed by catholic communities with tea and buns in many areas. However, this was to be a 'honeymoon' period political solutions were needed and quickly



## 9) BELFAST BURNS

Meanwhile in Belfast, many unionists look on at the events in Derry and are determined to strike back. Whole streets of houses were burnt out such as **BOMBAY STREET**. **7 people** were killed in the violence and up to **5%** of Catholics lost their homes.

Makeshift barriers were erected to protect communities. The IRA were criticised by Catholics for their inaction and christened IRA- I **Ran Away** in some areas.



## 8) BATTLE OF THE BOGSIDE

Chichester Clark knew he was in trouble right away. All the tension was building and it was obvious that the marching season would be a real chance for trouble- but he could not ban the marches!

The **APPRENTICE BOYS** march of August 1969 was a chance for real nationalist protest. A dairy was raided for milk bottles and barricades were built. The protestors when the rioting broke out were very well equipped and had the high ground in the imposing flats. Over **50 HOURS** of rioting took place exhausting the police. The **IRISH GOVERNMENT** threatened to intervene and even sent a **field hospital** to the border. This further enraged unionists. It was only the input of a small British army unit that eventually brought the battle of the bogside to an end



## 7) PEOPLES DEMOCRACY MARCH / BURNTOLETT

A new **younger and radical group** mostly made up of students was set up called **People's Democracy**. They were determined to keep marching and to cause as many problems as possible for Stormont. They announced their plans for a **Belfast to Derry** march from 1st to 4th Jan 1969. This was roundly **condemned** by all sides as provocative. It was at a time of high tension and would pass **Unionist and loyalist areas**.

However, the march went ahead led by **BERNADETTE DEVLIN**.. They felt the **five point programme** did not go far enough and demanded further reform.

Towards the end of their 4 day march PD were attacked at a place called **BURNTOLETT BRIDGE** by loyalist protestors. This was filmed and broadcast. It was noted that the police seemed to do little to offer protection. Indeed off duty **B Specials** were seen in the crowd. To enflame things more that night in Derry the RUC raided homes and damaged nationalist areas of Derry.

Nationalists were **outraged** by this. **NICRA** began to march again and tensions were mounting fast.

O'Neill was under intense criticism now from his own party and nationalists. Faulkner criticised his weakness and ability to lead. **12 other MPs** called for him to **resign**. Instead he decided to call a **CROSSROAD ELECTION** to demonstrate support he hoped from Catholics and Protestants.

This was not the election he hoped for. The Unionist vote fell, catholic support did not seem to emerge and O'Neill was even nearly defeated by **Ian Paisley!**

He was eventually forced to **RESIGN** in April 1969 following a bomb at a reservoir. This was thought to be the IRA but was in fact the UVF. O'Neill was **replaced by his cousin James Chichester Clark**.



## 1) NICRA SET UP

This was a non sectarian organisation devoted to achieving civil rights for all in Northern Ireland and gaining this through peaceful means.

They were inspired by the civil rights movement in the USA

They wanted One Man One Vote ; an end to gerrymandering, fair allocation of housing; no discrimination in jobs, an end to the special powers act and B Specials



1967

## 2) CALEDON SQUAT

The first key event for NICRA was in the small **County Tyrone** town of **CALEDON**. The issue was housing. A 19year old single Protestant girl was given a house ahead of a Catholic family of five The Nationalist MP **AUSTIN CURRIE** began a squat in the house. This received media coverage in Britain and was featured on BBC Panorama. The squat was forced to end without result but the **publicity** was highly effective in highlighting discrimination.



1968

## 3) COALISLAND TO DUNGANNON MARCH

Following the success in publicity terms of CALEDON, NICRA decided to march from The nearby towns of COALISLAND to DUNGANNON. This march saw hundreds attend, holding banners with **one man one vote** and singing protest songs like **We Shall Overcome**. The RUC (police) banned the march from the town square but it passed off **peacefully**- perhaps due to this and world events it also received little publicity.. they decided the next march would be bigger and more effective



## 4) DERRY MARCH (Oct 1968)

A march was organised in Derry over the issue of **housing and voting discrimination** (gerrymandering) in the city.

This was **threatened** by a loyalist apprentice boys counter protest which gave the Unionist government the excuse to **ban ALL marches** NICRA however were determined to march. They had only **400** supporters which disappointed them. However, they had **4 MPs** including the nationalist MP **Gerry Fitt**. They also had an RTE TV crew

They **continued with their march despite the ban** and soon ended up in a **confrontation** with the police in which the police are clearly seen using violence against the protestors. This made **headlines around the world** and made civil rights a **huge issue**.

Further marches took place leading to further Counter protests from unionists who claimed the marches were going through their areas and were **provocative** A **spiral of violence** was created



## The Trail to TERROR NI key events 1967-69



## 6) CROSSROADS SPEECH

O'Neill was desperate to rescue to situation. He made a **direct TV appeal** to the people of Northern Ireland. He claimed Northern. Ireland was at a **CROSSROADS** between peace and prosperity and violence and despair.

It appealed to NICRA to stop the marching to allow an opportunity for peace and discussions.

**NICRA did accept this and suspended marching in response.**

However, O'Neill was under **pressure** from his own party over the problems. They believed he was losing control. His own Minister **WILLIAM CRAIG** openly criticised O'Neill leading to him being **sacked but tensions remained**.

## 5) FIVE POINT PROGRAMME

The British government were horrified by the situation in N. Ireland. They demanded reforms from O'Neill and the OUP government. As a result the five point programme was promised.

### WHAT WAS AGREED?

- Extra votes for business owners to be stopped
- Parts of the Special Powers Act removed.
- Council housing was to be based on a points system
- Londonderry corporation was to be replaced by a development agency
- An Ombudsman was to be appointed to look at complaints to ensure fairness.

O'Neill felt these reforms did not go far enough.

Other unionists argued that they had been achieved by force and condemned O'Neill for being **weak** alone allowing the situation to develop to this point. He was under severe pressure from people in his own party- many wanted him to resign.

