

# The End of the Troubles

1 By 1997, almost thirty years of violence were coming to close. The IRA and some Unionist paramilitaries had already agreed a ceasefire and the time seemed ripe for a peace agreement.

2 This agreement was eventually agreed between the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern and Northern Ireland's main Unionists and Nationalists parties.

3 The agreement signed on Good Friday 1998-proposed to set up, an elected Assembly (Parliament) in Northern Ireland, an Executive (Government) in which power would be shared between the Democratic Unionists, Sinn Fein, the Ulster Unionists and SDLP and for Cross-Border bodies to encourage co-operation between North and South.

4 The Good Friday Agreement eventually led to Peace and Power-Sharing in Northern Ireland.

5 In 2007, Ian Paisley of the DUP became First Minister of the North's new power-sharing executive; Martin McGuinness of Sinn Fein became Deputy First Minister. The "Troubles" were over.