

# The “Troubles” Begin

1 Long-Term conflict began to break out in Northern Ireland during the autumn of 1969.

2 In August 1969 fierce rioting broke out during an annual Unionists march through the Catholic Bogside area of Derry city. When the RUC tried to enter the Bogside, people set up barricades and pelted the police with stones and petrol bombs.

3 The RUC responded with armoured cars and immobilising CS gas. The struggle lasted two days and was called “The Battle of the Bogside”.

4 The trouble soon spread to Belfast, where Catholic youths began rioting. Unionist mobs, supported by the RUC and B-specials, then invaded Catholic areas. More than 150 houses were burned and six people were killed.

5 By the end of 1969, more than 30,000 Northern Nationalists had fled to the Republic because of sectarian attacks against them. (Sectarian attacks are those carried out by the members of one religion against members of another).

6 In 1969 the IRA split into two groups, a new organisation was set up called the “Provisional IRA”. The Provisional IRA embarked on a violent campaign to destroy British control by shooting policemen and soldiers. Also bombing premises in Northern Ireland and England, leading to significant loss of life.

7 Extreme Loyalists set up paramilitary (Armed) groups such as the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) who shot Catholics and bombed Catholic-owned businesses.