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Drumcree: summary of International Media Coverage and Reaction

Summary

The standoff at Drumcree and its linkage to the murder of the three Quinn brothers in Ballymoney received huge international attention with front page coverage accompanied by editorial comment which was universally critical of the Orange Order .

Synopsis of Mission reports.

Bonn: All stories comment on the numbers present on both the Orange Order and RUC/Army side and the calls from President Clinton, PM Blair and the Taoiseach for restraint.

Boston: Extensive coverage focussing on the horror of the murders and the fact the Orange marches continued despite calls from political and Church leaders to desist.

Chicago: Critical coverage of the Orange Order decision to proceed with the march in the aftermath of the murders.

London: Media unanimous in the view that the Orangemen should call off their protest at Drumcree. More significantly there has been a definite distancing from the Order by commentators and papers which, in the past have tended to represent the benign side of the Order, as representatives of a British community under pressure, to a baffled if not outrightly hostile British public.

New York: All the major television networks and newspapers reported on the arson attack and funeral and were generally critical of the Orange Order's stance

Warsaw: The Ballymoney murders and the subsequent decision of the Orangemen to continue their efforts to walk the Garvaghy road were extensively covered in the dailies.

Washington: Extensive coverage of the Ballymoney arson attack and funeral accompanied by editorials critical of Orange Order.

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