

Madine back in Down ranks

SPORT: BACK PAGE



SCENE rounds up the year's best movies... and the ones to avoid



SAVING YOUR BACON

Why one of your rasher decisions just got a little healthier

NEWS: P2



MARIE LOUISE McCONVILLE
bids farewell to 2017

P28

Paisley 'sought arms from Israeli envoy'

■ UVF warned Haughey: MI5 asked us to kill you
■ RUC 'inner circle' collusion fears raised by ministers
■ Adams rumoured to have set up IRA Loughgall ambush

Ed Carty and Eamon Phoenix
newsdesk@irishnews.com

THE Israeli ambassador to the UK claimed former DUP leader Ian Paisley contacted him "to obtain arms", declassified state papers reveal.

The claim, which prompted surprise from the Irish government, is contained among hundreds of previously confidential files published in Dublin and Belfast today.

The documents from the late 1980s and early 1990s also reveal that:

■ The UVF told then taoiseach Charlie Haughey that an MI5 officer had asked it to "execute" him.

■ Claims of an RUC 'inner circle' involved in collusion were raised at a meeting of Irish and British ministers.

■ The Irish government was told by Fr Denis Faul of rumours that Gerry Adams had 'set up' the IRA gang gunned down by the SAS in an ambush in Loughgall.

The claim that Mr Paisley – who died in 2014 – asked the ambassador about arms is included in files released by the

National Archives of Ireland.

In June 1985, Noel Dorr – Ireland's ambassador in London – wrote to his boss in Dublin about the conversation he had at a function.

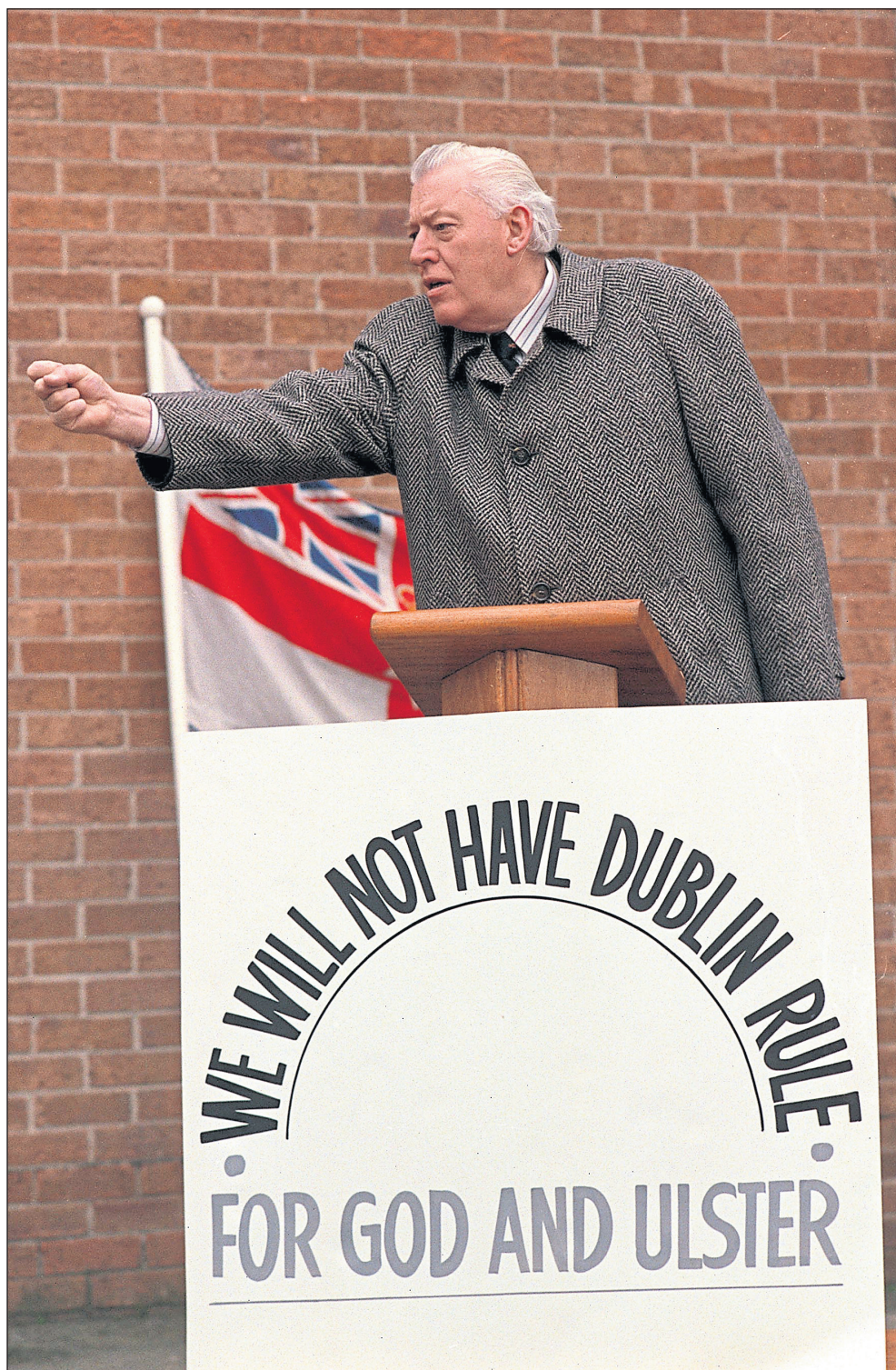
"I expressed surprise at this since I thought it unlikely that Paisley would leave himself open on something like this," Mr Dorr wrote.

The Israeli ambassador, Yahuda Avner, said Mr Paisley was talking about "border protection".

"I said I presumed that the emphasis was on surveillance equipment rather than on arms but the ambassador did not elaborate further on the detail of the request," Mr Dorr said.

"I would assume that what happened is that Paisley may have written to the ambassador to seek a meeting in regard to 'border protection'. The ambassador possibly interpreted this general phrase as referring to weapons rather than technology."

The ambassador told Mr Paisley that "these things" could only be dealt with between governments.



■ **REQUEST:** Ian Paisley in 1992. In 1985 the Israeli ambassador, Yahuda Avner, said Mr Paisley contacted him "to obtain arms" for "border protection"

➤ **Full reports** ➤ P8-13,15,16