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Press Association

June 4, 1995, Sunday

FORMER TERRORISTS AND NEGOTIATORS AT PEACE CONFERENCE

BYLINE: Ian Graham, PA News

SECTION: HOME NEWS

LENGTH: 287 words

Former terrorists and peace negotiators from around the world meet in Belfast next week to share their personal experiences in a bid to reinforce the peace process in Northern Ireland. Representatives from South Africa, the Middle East, Central and South America and Eastern Europe will gather for three days at the first international conference on peace and reconciliation in the province. Up to 300 prominent people from Northern Ireland, including politicians, church leaders and business representatives, are expected to attend the conference in the Europa Hotel between June 6 and 8. High-profile observers from Britain, Ireland and the United States will be at the event which is sponsored by the Ulster University, the United Nations University and the New York-based **Project on Justice in Times of Transition**. Cyril Ramaphosa, Secretary General of the African National Congress and former ANC chief negotiator; Roelof Meyer, chief negotiator for the De Klerk government and currently a South African minister, will take part together with Oscar Arias, Nobel Peace Prize winner and former President of Costa Rica. Politicians from El Salvador, Poland, Colombia and Spain together with Israeli and Palestinian negotiators of the Middle East peace process will participate. The British Government is giving full endorsement to the event by hosting a reception. Paul Arthur, Professor of Politics at the University of Ulster and one of the principle organisers, said today: "We hope that this exercise will allow the citizens of Northern Ireland to gain greater confidence in the process of reconciliation and dialogue, as well as advance the broader goal of a lasting peace in Northern Ireland."

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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