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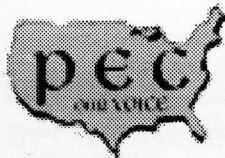


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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 26, Number 11

November 2001

Our View: National Pride Joins Americans

[Editor's Note: We received the following editorial from a Romanian newspaper in the same way we received thousands of words of commentary on the Sept. 11, 2001, massacres in New York, the District of Columbia, and Pennsylvania: via emails forwarded around the world in the various senders' attempts to encourage others to believe that there are good people in the world whose goodness can conquer evil. After thousands lost their lives Sept. 11, the rest of the world fought for the integrity of its soul. We offer the following editorial as a tribute to all Americans who have worked with us through the American democratic process to bring peace with democracy and justice to Ireland. May we prevail yet.]

WHY are Americans so united? They don't resemble one another even if you paint them! They speak all the languages of the world and form an astonishing mixture of civilizations. Some of them are nearly extinct, others are incompatible with one another, and in matters of religious beliefs, not even God can count how many they are.

Still, the American tragedy turned three hundred million people into a hand put on the heart. Nobody rushed to accuse the White House, the army, the secret services that they are only a bunch of losers. Nobody rushed to empty their bank accounts. Nobody rushed on the streets nearby to gape about. The Americans volunteered to donate blood and to give a helping hand. After the first moments of panic, they raised the flag on the smoking ruins, putting on T-shirts, caps, and ties in the colors of the national flag. They placed flags on buildings and cars as if in every place and on every car a minister or the president were passing. On every occasion they started singing their traditional song: "God Bless America!"

Silent as a rock, I watched the charity concert broadcast on Saturday once, twice, three times, on different TV channels. There were Clint Eastwood, Willie Nelson, Robert De Niro, Julia Roberts, Cassius Clay, Jack Nicholson, Bruce Springsteen, Sylvester Stalone, James Wood, and many others whom no film producer could ever bring together. The Americans' solidarity spirit turned them into a choir. Actually, choir is not the word. What you could hear was the heavy artillery of the American soul. What neither George W. Bush, nor Bill Clinton, nor Colin Powell could say without facing the risk of stumbling over words and sounds was being heard in a great and unmistakable way in this charity concert.

I don't know how it happened that all this obsessive singing of America didn't sound croaky, nationalist, or ostentatious! It made you green with envy because you weren't able to sing for your country without running the risk of being considered chauvinist, ridiculous, or suspected of who-knows-what mean interests.

I watched the live broadcast and the rerun of its rerun for hours, listening to the story of the guy who went down one hundred floors with a woman in a wheelchair without knowing who she was, or of the Californian hockey player who fought with the terrorists and prevented the plane from hitting a target that would have killed other hundreds or thousands of people. How on earth were they able to bow before a fellow human?

Imperceptibly, with every word and musical note, the memory of some turned into a modern myth of tragic heroes. And with every phone call, millions and millions of dollars were put in a collection aimed at rewarding not a man or a family, but a spirit which nothing can buy.

What on earth can unite the Americans in such a way? Their land? Their galloping history? Their economic power? Money? I tried for hours to find an answer, humming songs and murmuring phrases which risk of sounding like commonplaces. I thought things over, but I reached only one conclusion.

Only freedom can work such miracles!

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Peace Process Update

September 3

LOYALISTS trying to prevent Catholic children from returning to school clash with police in north Belfast. The British army and the RUC hold back about 200 loyalists. The soldiers and RUC form a pathway for the terrified youngsters and their parents at Holy Cross Primary School in Ardoyne. DUP leader **Ian Paisley** and UUP leader **David Trimble** meet to discuss developing a common strategy on policing. The Bloody Sunday Tribunal resumes.

September 5

Loyalists hurl a pipe bomb and rocks into a street and fire shots in north Belfast as Catholic girls attempt to walk to school. The Red Hand Defenders (RHD) claim the attack.

September 6

The RHD issues death threats against the parents of several children attending Holy Cross Primary School. **Philomena Flood** says the RUC has told her loyalists would kill her and three other parents if the loyalists see the parents taking children to school via the Ardoyne Road. Northern Secretary **John Reid** refuses to acknowledge that the loyalist cease-fire has broken down. He says, "While the UDA themselves declare they are on cease-fire, there is increasing evidence that elements of the UDA are on anything but cease-fire," but adds that when there is evidence of a "systematic breakdown," he will take the "necessary action." The State Dept. calls on all sides in north Belfast to show restraint.

September 10

Tabling a motion urging Assembly members to support the right to education of the Holy Cross girls, north Belfast Assemblyman **Gerry Kelly** insists loyalists tried to murder children when a blast bomb exploded as the girls were being escorted to school last week. He says: "If the members of the Assembly are for the rights of the children, they should be united in their call for the blockade to end. Whatever our

differences, we should all be united in calling for face-to-face dialogue in an attempt to resolve the issue." Sinn Fein leader **Gerry Adams** says the SDLP's and Irish government's support for Britain's revised implementation plan for policing reform has "sundered" the consensus among nationalists for meaningful policing reform.

September 12

Parents and children from Holy Cross Primary School say prayers and hold a minute's silence for the victims of the atrocities in the US. American special envoy **Richard Haass** meets with the North's political parties and says the US remains "fundamentally optimistic" about the prospects for peace in the North--if the parties have the will to make the process work.

September 18

John Hume quits as leader of the SDLP. Citing his age and the party's need for change as factors, SDLP deputy leader **Seamus Mallon** says he does not wish to lead the party. The resignation—expected for some time—follows the results of the Westminster and local government elections, which saw Sinn Fein outstrip the SDLP as the largest nationalist party in the North.

September 19

Following an hour of talks at Downing Street, Reid, British Prime Minister **Tony Blair**, and Irish Premier **Bertie Ahern** agree that the Weston Park package they announced in July remains the way forward. Reid, in consultation with the Irish government, must decide the future of the Assembly if new first and deputy first ministers are not in place by midnight, Sept. 23. Reid must decide whether to allow fresh Assembly elections to take place or to suspend the institutions for one day or longer, thereby allowing for a review of the Mitchell Agreement. It is thought the British and Irish governments have discounted the Assembly election option because it would most likely

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American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC

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From the North: Britain, Unionists Conspire to Stop Democracy

By Robert Heatley, *co-founder of the campaign for Democracy,
a predominantly Protestant organization, Belfast, Northern Ireland*

BRITAIN and the unionists are straining to the limit the patience of nationalists. We have seen one attempt after another of Britain and the unionists to rewrite the Mitchell Agreement and nullify election results favoring Sinn Fein in an attempt to preserve unionist control the North.

On Oct. 15, **David Trimble's** UUP ministers in the Assembly will resign. DUP leader **Ian Paisley's** two DUP in-and-out members will follow suit. This move follows the failure of unionist motions in the Assembly to exclude Sinn Fein ministers.

Why did they want Sinn Fein kicked out? Ostensibly because the IRA had failed to decommission its weapons in a way and at a time stipulated by them and—it should never be forgotten—by their prompter, Britain. In reality, unionists want to destroy the Mitchell Agreement.

Never mind that the decommissioning of all paramilitary weapons is a matter delegated to the independent international decommissioning commission. Ever since the Mitchell Agreement was signed, Britain and the unionists have treated it as their sole property to deal with as they like.

Never mind that IRA guns have been silent for more than seven years, albeit with one short break resulting from a double-dealing British attempt to exclude Sinn Fein from otherwise comprehensive negotiations.

The UUP and the DUP put their motions for Sinn Fein's exclusion before the Assembly on Oct. 8. Two days earlier, the unionist paramilitary UDA held a huge march through a flash point area of Belfast. Masked men in military uniforms led the march.

This is not the only occasion in

recent times on which this organization has taken the streets to itself. It has been responsible for, or associated with, another loyalist terror group, the LVF, in bombing Catholic homes and premises and in recent assassinations, most notable among them that of prominent journalist Martin O'Hagan.

The only paper to mention the UDA march was the *Irish New*, the editorial policy of which is only slightly nationalist. If the unionist media and its bedfellows in Britain could hardly mention it on the same day that unionists and their British mentors were attempting to exclude Sinn Fein from the Assembly on the grounds that the IRA had not turned in its guns.

The latest proconsul, **John Reid**, under pressure to declare the UDA's cease-fire over, declared instead that he would monitor UDA behavior.

What came afterwards was the killing of O'Hagan, reportedly by the UDA's associates, the LVF. Meanwhile, the UDA has been seen intimidating Catholic girls on their way to primary school in north Belfast.

Notwithstanding all of that, Trimble, winner of the Nobel peace prize, is intent on withdrawing his ministers from the Executive. His stated intention is a suspension of the Assembly and a review of the Mitchell Agreement. In other words, he wants it rewritten so that he can bump Sinn Fein off it. That would give the unionists a majority on the Executive. The potential for democratic reform embodied in the Agreement would be as good as buried. *That is precisely what the manufactured hysteria over IRA decommissioning is about.*

Already, the unionists have taken an important step toward that goal in

getting the SDLP to nominate representatives to the emasculated Police Board. As Prof. **Brendan O'Leary** of the London School of Economics points out, in this case the British have deployed the d'Hondt procedure specified by the Agreement to produce cross-community representation to produce a result in which nationalists are a minority. In the press, the SDLP has been trying to convince people that they have high hopes for the potential of this development—even though the UUP and the DUP have been conspiring to buttress a watered-down version of the Patten report.

Commentators suggest that, with the UUP's walkout from the Executive, Reid has no choice other than to suspend the Assembly, this time indefinitely, and then institute a review that would change the Mitchell Agreement to permit Sinn Fein's exclusion. This, even though in the last elections Sinn Fein emerged as the majority party representing the voice of Northern nationalism.

O'Leary argues that this is not Reid's sole option. He could do what he did in the case of the Police Board. He could deploy the Agreement's d'Hondt procedure (designed to make walkouts unattractive). Nationalists would then constitute a majority on the Executive—but what is good for the goose ought to be good for the gander. Otherwise, he could call a new election.

It is likely Reid will suspend the devolved institutions, as he has done before at Trimble's behest—just as he has allowed Trimble to illegally bar Sinn Fein ministers from attending meetings of cross-border bodies. The prospect of democracy disagrees with Reid as much as it does with Trimble.

Newsbits

LOYALISTS shot dead Irish journalist Martin O'Hagan close to his home in Lurgan, County Armagh, tonight. O'Hagan, who worked for the Northern edition of the popular Dublin-based *Sunday World*, was walking home from the local pub with his wife when he was murdered. O'Hagan and other *Sunday World* journalists have received loyalist death threats as far back as 1992. There was speculation tonight that the loyalist paramilitary UDA and/or the LVF might have been responsible for the murder. Under the cover name the Red Hand Defenders, the UDA and LVF are escalating a campaign of violence to destroy the 1998 Mitchell Agreement. O'Hagan was a key witness in a court case concerning the book and television documentary *The Committee*, which uncovered evidence that prominent unionist figures, members of the British forces, and loyalists were involved in a long-running secret campaign of violence against nationalists. O'Hagan had interviewed loyalist **Jim Sands**, whose allegations formed the basis for the documentary and book by **Sean McPhelimy**. (RM Dist. 9/29/01)

The Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland has upheld a complaint against the RUC linked to an attack that led to the death of a Derry man more than 32 years ago. The events surrounding the assault on the Samuel Devenny household on April 19, 1969 cast a long shadow. Sammy Devenny, a father of nine, was kicked and beaten about the head and body. He died three months later after suffering a heart attack. He is often listed as the first victim of the Troubles. The Devenny family's complaints were ignored for decades following the RUC attack. **Nuala O'Loan**'s recent report officially acknowledges this. Her office has upheld the Devennys' complaint that the RUC never communicated to them

directly about the events of April 19, 1969. Central to the new investigation was a report written by Metropolitan Police Chief Supt. **Kenneth Drury** in 1970 after he was called in to conduct an independent inquiry. His findings have only now been released to the family, 31 years after they were made available to then-RUC Chief Constable **Arthur Young** and members of the British government. The current RUC were unable to furnish a copy of the Drury investigation to the ombudsman in the course of this investigation, claiming not to have retained a copy of the very first investigation to be carried out by an outside force, Scotland Yard, into serious misconduct by members of the RUC. The Drury report was able to establish that the attack on the Devenny family had been carried out by RUC officers but it was unable to identify those officers, the ombudsman's office disclosed. Thirty-two years on, she said the death of Devenny could not now be proved to have been caused by the assault, and no action could be taken against the RUC men involved. (RM Dist. 10/03/01)

Several Northern Ireland political parties have welcomed British government plans to introduce legislation that would make sectarianism a crime. SDLP minister **Brid Rodgers**, the Alliance Party, and the Workers Party praised the move. Northern Ireland Secretary **John Reid** told the Labor Party Conference the North's image had been "tarnished" by the "disgusting spectacle" of loyalist protests against Catholic primary school children and their parents in north Belfast. (IAIS 10/03/01)

An independent inquiry into the 1974 Dublin and Monaghan loyalist bombings that killed 33 people is being

"seriously jeopardized" by British authorities, Irish Labor Party leader **Ruairi Quinn** has claimed. Quinn said he has now written to British prime minister **Tony Blair** urging him to ensure a "definitive" response to a request for full cooperation made 18 months ago. On May 17, 1974, three car bombs exploded in Dublin, killing 26 people and injuring more than 200. Ninety minutes later, a car bomb in Monaghan killed seven and injured more than 40 people. It has been alleged that British security forces colluded with loyalists in the attacks. An independent private inquiry into the bombings was established in 1999, initially under **Liam Hamilton** and then, following Hamilton's death, **Henry Barron**, a former Supreme Court judge. In his letter, Quinn said: "I understand the commission has made significant progress but that further work is being held up by the delay in the British authorities' responding to a request for full cooperation with the commission." Though the search for the relevant information was "time-consuming," Quinn added, "It is now more than 18 months since the matter was raised with the British authorities, and the delay in responding is now seriously jeopardizing the work of Mr. Justice Barron. The trauma of those who lost relatives or suffered serious injury in these outrages has been significantly compounded by the failure to bring anyone to justice, the failure to establish beyond doubt who was involved, and the failure to deal with the many questions that remain unanswered." The Justice for the Forgotten campaign group describes the bombings, the single greatest loss of life in any one day of the Troubles, as the biggest unsolved murder case in the history of the Irish state. (IAIS 9/10/01)

Letters to the Editor

Tell Truth About Great Hunger

WRITING on New York State's Great Hunger curriculum Aug. 4, PEC member **Paul McGuigan** urged New York Gov. **George Pataki** to ensure that public schools tell the truth about Britain's responsibility for the Great Hunger. He writes:

To exclude from the public school curriculum an exploration of the English government's role in Irish deaths as a result of [the Great Hunger] would be akin to excluding a discussion of the German government's role in Jewish deaths during the Holocaust. An oft-quoted maxim states, "Those who do not understand history are doomed to repeat it"....

I have earned five university degrees, yet I was more than 40 years old before I learned the following:

—from 50,000 to 100,000 Irish people were taken in chains to the New World as slaves—not indentured servants—following the Cromwellian invasion of Ireland;

—from 40 to 50 percent of George Washington's troops were Irish, and what we now call the American Revolution English politicians of that time often referred to as the "Irish Rebellion in the Colonies;"

—thirty-seven Irish regiments fought with Union troops in the Civil War, and many of these troops fought...under their own flag..., the only foreign flag ever flown over troops that fought on US soil to preserve this nation; and

—more than 50 percent of Medal of Honor recipients have been Irish.

[Americans have a right to know their history.] No foreign government, or the academics fostered by such a government, should be permitted to corrupt or distort history as a political tool....Among the things that the British government does not want the public to know are the following:

—until 1864, Gaelic-speaking people in Ireland ("Catholics") were not permitted to record their births, marriages, and deaths. Hence, the potato blight that hit all of Europe between 1845 and 1850 had a much greater death toll in Ireland than British statisticians have admitted;

—[Catholics in Northern Ireland] were not allowed to attend college until the passage of the 1947 Education Act;

—fair employment legislation in the North did not prohibit racial discrimination until 1997; and

—[most people in the North under age 50] are Catholic.

[Britain's war in Northern Ireland is, in essence a war against the children of the Catholic community to prevent their becoming a majority in the North. The primary weapons of this war are employment discrimination, death squads, and propaganda.]

You have the choice of allowing the truth to be told about Ireland's history or to be involved in a cover up. The truth about Ireland will bring more attention to Britain's past and present in Ireland and continue to put more pressure on Britain to end discrimination, to stop the death squads, and to encourage Britain to admit its shameful...role in Ireland. (See Action Request, Page 8).

Bush Must Keep Campaign Promises

PEC member **Ed Walsh** is concerned the Bush Administration is not living up to its campaign promises on Ireland. He writes:

I think it's time to remind *Newsletter* readers of the Republican party's promises and contrast that with the reality of the issue's now being in the bottomless-pit of the State Dept. and Bush's saying again he will defer to [British Prime Minister] **Tony Blair** and just wait for his guidance and his phone call about Northern Ireland.

We need to get readers to flood the White House with communications that we won't tolerate this mistreatment. The [Republicans] need to do what they said they would (See Action Request, Page 8).

[Editor's Note: In the Republican Party's 2000 campaign platform, it called "for the full and fastest possible implementation of [the Mitchell Agreement's] terms." The party called for the "complete implementation" of the Patten Commission's recommendations for policing reform. It also called for fair employment and opportunities for all. The platform promised: "The next president will use the prestige and influence of the US to help the parties achieve a lasting peace. If necessary, he will appoint a special envoy to help facilitate the search for lasting peace, justice, and reconciliation."]

Correspondent Sends Support

ROBERT HEATLEY, the PEC's Northern correspondent, sends condolences to the Emerald Society and to the New York Fire Brigade, both of which suffered terrible losses from the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist massacre.

Nationalists Fear Britain Will Topple Agreement

AFTER Northern Secretary **John Reid** suspended the Executive and the Assembly for 24 hours Sept. 23, nationalists fear that Britain will soon topple the Mitchell Agreement.

The Stormont institutions now face complete collapse following Ulster Unionist leader **David Trimble's** latest threat to withdraw his three ministers from the North's power-sharing Executive.

The move has bolstered the arguments of republicans who believe that Trimble has set his face against the Mitchell Agreement and is attempting to block all political progress in the North.

Sinn Fein has accused the British government of fuelling unionist

ultimatums while toying with the political process. "Both Reid and Trimble know there is no basis under the Agreement for the exclusion of Sinn Fein," said party chairman **Mitchel McLaughlin**.

"The British government has a responsibility to defend the Agreement. Once again, they have stepped outside the Agreement under the threat from unionists to walk away," McLaughlin said, adding, "It is time for the British and Irish governments, as the guarantors of the Agreement, to make it clear that boycotting and collapsing the institutions are clear breaches of that Agreement."

Eager to stop political progress, the DUP and the UUP worked on motions to be tabled in the Assembly to exclude

Sinn Fein from the Executive.

Nonetheless, unionism has never been more united. DUP leader **Ian Paisley** said Sept. 23: "On this issue we're all united. Get the IRA/Sinn Fein [sic] out of this building and out of the government of Northern Ireland." Both motions received unionist support but failed without nationalist support.

Trimble has said he will remove his ministers from the devolved government, and Paisley has said he would join Trimble by withdrawing ministers. In the absence of cross-community support, and with international attention diverted by events in the US and the Middle East, the Agreement could be destroyed.

Trimble said the IRA's handing in weapons could prevent his

Mitchell: Political Will Can End Sectarianism

(New York – Sept. 11) MITCHELL Agreement talks chairman **George Mitchell** has expressed confidence in the Northern Ireland peace process but has warned all sides that they must exhibit political leadership.

The former senator is confident there is a will among the people of Northern Ireland not to return to conflict but says he has seen the protests in Ardoyne, north Belfast, and warns there is still a deep well of sectarian hatred.

Mitchell, who earlier this year wrote a report outlining a path to peace in the Middle East, says he does not see any desire to return to conflict, however. He says, "I do not think there is a widespread disposition to return to full-scale conflict, and I think most people in both communities want their difficulties sorted out by peaceful, democratic processes, not by bombs and bullets."

The former senator emphasizes that the Agreement is a complete package: "Integral to the premise of the Agreement was that it be

implemented in full. It was not a selective agreement. There are three major issues: decommissioning of weapons, policing, and demilitarization. There has to be progress on all of them. People do not want to go back, but they do not want to give in. The challenge for all political leaders is to reconcile these conflicting demands."

With regard to decommissioning, Mitchell says: "The negotiations were based upon a report which I and two other international representatives authored. It required all of the political parties to commit themselves to it. Those principles stated clearly and explicitly total disarmament of all paramilitary organizations."

Mitchell says although the **Bush** administration had come into office with a hands-off approach, he believes it will help "as appropriate" in Northern Ireland. "My hope is that [President Bush's adviser on Northern Ireland, **Richard Haass** and Secretary of State **[Colin] Powell** and others who are very much aware of the situation will continue the policy of involvement to the extent that is justified," he says.

withdrawing ministers, but republicans see this call as a ruse to deflect blame for wrecking the Agreement.

Sinn Fein president **Gerry Adams** said Trimble's latest ultimatum to the IRA makes a weapons hand-over less likely. He said: "If you ask me what are the possibilities of getting the IRA to put weapons beyond use, I can only say that task has been made much more difficult."

He added: "If those who are against the [Mitchell] Agreement think they are going to break or bend the will of Irish republicans, then they are mistaken. I am making it clear that Sinn Fein will not and cannot be excluded from this process."

Adams said his party would continue

trying to sort out policing, demilitarization, judicial reform, and the integrity of the North's institutions but said he has reservations about the future of the peace process. He said: "Even if progress is achieved on IRA weapons, the institutions will still face collapse because the unionists are not prepared to commit wholeheartedly to them and because the British government is not really committed to deliver on the issues that underpin the Agreement."

Sinn Fein chief negotiator **Martin McGuinness** has said that people must remember that the current crisis in the peace process is the result of Trimble's resigning as first minister: "If the unionists had been sensible and recognized that the IRA initiative was a huge development, we might have

been farther down the road of armed groups putting weapons beyond use."

McGuinness criticized Reid's handling of the peace process. The latest suspension of the institutions prevented the operation of the North-South Ministerial Council, which he said was of vital concern to nationalists.

"Reid should have called a review of the Agreement while ensuring that the political institutions remained in place. That review should have centered on the unlawful actions of David Trimble in collapsing the institutions," McGuinness said.

The negotiator said the onus is on British Prime Minister **Tony Blair**, despite global events, to ensure the full implementation of the Agreement.

(continued from Page 2)

result in substantial gains for Sinn Fein and possible gains for the anti-Agreement Democratic Unionist Party.

September 20

The IRA confirms that its representative will intensify engagement with the Independent International Commission on Decommissioning "with a view to accelerating progress towards the comprehensive resolution of [the decommissioning] issue."

September 23

Reid suspends the Northern institutions for 24 hours, and Trimble tables a motion to have Sinn Fein ministers ousted from Stormont. Adams says the possibility of the IRA's handing in weapons is becoming less and less likely with every move Trimble makes.

September 24

Unionists agree to take their seats on the policing board. The SDLP has already agreed to take seats on the board. Reid restores power-sharing and says the IRA must move on arms. Sinn Fein's **Gerry Kelly** accuses Reid

of ignoring the Mitchell Agreement. Kelly says: "Suspension is not under the Good Friday Agreement. It's the British government and John Reid trying to focus all attention on arms when they need to look at why these institutions are being brought down."

September 28

Reid stops short of declaring that the UDA has broken its cease-fire; he says he will give the UDA "one final chance" to end its street violence." Reid says he has been informed "...that the leadership of the UDA had accepted the damage their violence is doing both to individuals and to the general peace process and has decided to call that violence to a halt."

October 1

A unionist bid to oust Sinn Fein ministers from Northern Ireland's power-sharing government gathers momentum when DUP leader **Ian Paisley** and deputy **Peter Robinson** receive the 30 signatures necessary for debate in the Northern Assembly.

October 2

Loyalist attacks on nationalists continue

despite Reid's warning about the UDA's cease-fire.

October 5

In an Appeal Court ruling in Belfast, Lord Chief Justice **Carswell** upholds a judgment earlier this year that Trimble acted unlawfully in preventing Sinn Féin ministers from attending meetings with their Dublin counterparts.

October 8

Incoming SDLP leader **Mark Durkan** affirms his party's opposition to the exclusion motion against Sinn Fein but says, "I do believe if the IRA makes a serious move on arms under the auspices of General **John deChastelain** [head of the decommissioning body], that would be interpreted as a worthwhile and positive move."

October 9

After two motions to exclude Sinn Fein from the Executive are defeated, Trimble confirms that his ministers will boycott cabinet meetings from this week and will resign in two weeks. Trimble says this action will bring about the suspension of the Assembly.

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Action Requests

Please take the actions recommended below. Mention that you are a PEC member.

Contact: **Gov. George Pataki**, State Capitol, Albany, NY 12224; email gov.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us
(INCLUDE YOUR HOME ADDRESS WITH MESSAGE)

Message: I urge you to ensure that New York's public school curriculum on Ireland's Great Hunger explore the role of Britain's economic policies in causing that catastrophe and Britain's failure to ameliorate the suffering in Ireland at that time.

Contact: **President George Bush**, The White House, Washington, DC 20500; tele. 202-456-1111; fax 202-456-2461; email president@whitehouse.gov

Message: I urge you to make good on your presidential campaign promises concerning Northern Ireland. Appoint a special envoy to the North, pressure Britain to fully implement the Patten Commission's recommendations on policing reform, and see that the terms of the Mitchell Agreement are fully implemented.

Troubled Images Opens in Belfast

THE LINEN Hall Library in Belfast announces *Troubled Images*, a multimedia project reflecting the Northern people's experiences during the Troubles. *Troubled Images* includes a poster exhibition at the library, a 124-page book and a CD-ROM. The CD-ROM includes 3,500 posters and artifacts with commentary from the library's Northern Ireland Political Collection. Contact Yvonne Murphy, at the Linen Hall Library at 028-9032-1707 or via email at troubledimages@linenhall.com.

the PEC
remembers
member
John Coughlin
a police officer
who is among
the missing
at the
World Trade Center