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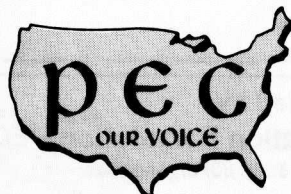
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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 21, Number 6

June 1996

Gerry Adams on the June 10th Talks

(See R&D, Meaningful Negotiations Are Needed)

June 10th: What Will Happen?

For some time now the British, Irish and U.S. governments have been trumpeting as a great achievement, the "firm date" for the beginning of "talks", June 10, 1996. To obtain this break-through, serious concessions were made, of course. Agreement to the silly parallel--but supposedly powerless--elected forum; the precondition of a permanent IRA cease-fire; exclusion of Sinn Fein if the IRA doesn't comply. Some tough bogeys as they say. Ah but it will all be seen to be worthwhile when the great day comes we are told.

But what exactly will happen on June 10th? Well nobody seems to be sure...or at least they're not saying. Given the political exposure of both governments, we are sure of one thing: something will take place. Does anyone believe that all parties will sit down on that date and start real negotiations seeking serious changes in Northern Ireland? Will the talks become immediately log-jammed on the issue of IRA decommissioning? Will everyone even be there? Will Sinn Fein be excluded and, if so, will the SDLP and Irish government proceed without them? Are the British prepared to negotiate in good faith? What role will the elected forum play in the negotiations? The governments say none. If this is true will the unionist parties boycott the negotiations? Will the loyalists stay if Sinn Fein is present? If something does start, are David Trimble and Ian Paisley going to engage positively in the negotiations? Doubtful. Finally and most importantly, even if this unlikely machine does get going and finally ends, will anything serious in the way of change come of it all except further reinforcement of partition?

Maybe the only hope for serious change in Northern Ireland will be if the British and Irish governments go over the heads of the political parties and make a deal (as provided for in paragraph 47 of the Joint Framework Document). But it would have to be a serious deal; not one involving only some cross-border cooperation on minor matters. These are critical times, no doubt.

URGENT: Distribute Our Latest Newspaper Ad

The PEC continued its newspaper advertising campaign to educate the public and influence the presidential candidates by placing a very costly full-page ad in the *New York Daily News* on May 2nd. (See page five.)

The ad, which is reproduced on page 5 of this month's newsletter, highlighted some of the atrocities suffered by the Irish people at the hands of the English, sought to correct misconceptions about the conflict in Ireland and explained why English withdrawal from Ireland is the only solution which will achieve a permanent peace in Ireland.

Please reproduce and distribute this ad right up to the election. We have been informed that this ad has had a significant impact on the public. It is important that you distribute it wherever possible: festivals, dances, concerts, etc., and not only to the Irish American community. Get it out to the general public.

Newsbits by Kathy Regan

Britain should apologize for its misuse of Ireland and the Irish people, a leading Church of England clergyman has said. Launching his book *Pardon and Peace* in Dublin, Canon Nicholas Frayling, Rector of Liverpool, said the British people should be charged with the responsibility of expressing their sorrow, and added that he hoped, from this regret, hope and peace would come. "A peace process which fails to take account of past injustices cannot ultimately deliver peace," Canon Frayling said. "As I have become more and more involved with dialogue with people in Ireland, I have become convinced that Britain must acknowledge its responsibility for the agony there, and apologize to the Irish people." (*Irish Times* 5/1/96)

The commentator, former Labour Party Minister and writer, Dr. Conor Cruise O'Brien, has confirmed he will stand in the May 30th elections. He hopes to be part of the UK Unionist Party representation in the June 10th negotiations. Dr. Cruise O'Brien said he was attracted to the party "because it is unionist and anti-sectarian." Responding to a statement by the Fianna Fail TD, Mr. Ned O'Keefe, yesterday that he welcomed O'Brien's decision to "finally nail his colors to

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OUR VIEW

Public awareness and helping to make sure the Presidential candidates are committed to our important issues are two of the main functions of PEC.

In 1992, during the Presidential election campaign, the PEC ran ads in the New York Times and the Houston Post (on the eve of the Republican Convention in Houston). These ads explained the situation in Northern Ireland and outlined the positions of all the candidates on Irish issues. The ad campaign was very successful and has been cited by many as one of the main reasons that President Clinton has done more on Ireland than any President in US history.

With this in mind, the PEC has once again commenced an advertising campaign to make sure that, whoever wins the next election, our issues will be safe.

We cannot stress the importance of this campaign enough. For example, Republican candidates Bob Dole and Pat Buchanan, who had been silent on the peace process, both came out in support of President Clinton's Irish peace policies less than one week after the PEC placed a primary week ad in the Manchester Union Leader (New Hampshire's largest paper). The PEC also placed a primary week ad in Georgia's Savannah Morning News.

Our latest full-page ad, which is reproduced on page five, ran in the New York Daily News, May 2, 1996 (total readership 3.1 million). This ad outlined some of the atrocities that England has committed against the Irish people throughout the centuries and the fact that the only way that peace will be achieved in Ireland is for England to leave.

While this ad generated exceptional interest, it did not garner significant financial support. Unfortunately, due to the large expense in running these ads, our financial reserves have been depleted. We urge you to respond generously to our current fund-raising drive so that we can continue our newspaper advertising campaign right up to election day.

Offensive Situations

by Paul Newman, New York

We want to thank the many PEC members who have taken the time to alert this column of offensive anti-Irish situations best described as "not very nice."

Members should only send in offensive situations that are national in scope. For example, offensive articles or remarks published or aired by major newspapers, magazines or TV and radio networks, such as CNN, NBC, CBS, ABC, etc. Another example of "national in scope" is offensive advertising, or products distributed, by major corporations. Local situations should be taken care of by the local PEC community. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

**Send Offensive Situations to: Paul Newman,
9 Deltec Road, New City, NY 10956**

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NATIONAL ORGANIZER: Pete Foley, 3177 Villa Ave. #3H, Bronx, NY 10468-(718)933-7196

**Supported in part by the Emerald Society
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Nationalist Campaign Targets Bruton

Nationalists living in Northern Ireland have begun a letter writing campaign to the Taoiseach John Bruton demanding that he live up to his constitutional responsibilities under the Irish Constitution and that he use every international channel open to his government to get the British government to accord full legal recognition of their identity as citizens of the Irish nation and to provide to the community of Irish nationals within the state full political, social, economic and cultural equality.

The campaigners also warn Bruton that if he does not live up to his constitutional obligations to secure and guarantee these rights for Irish nationalists, they will institute legal action against him in the Irish High Court.

**The PEC fully supports this campaign. Please
turn to action request #2 on page 6.**

From the North

by Robert Heatley, *co-founder of the Campaign for Democracy, a predominantly Protestant organization in the North that supports a united Ireland*

Following the visit of President Clinton to Northern Ireland, there were gigantic street demonstrations demanding that the parties to the conflict immediately begin negotiations. The pan-nationalist alliance had no difficulty with this demand. It saw the Downing Street Declaration and the Frameworks for Agreement document as a basis upon which to negotiate. It wanted what the demonstrators wanted: immediate negotiations without preconditions.

The president's visit should have consolidated the peace. The ceasefires had been in place for a good many months. Had the government begun a demilitarization program, the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons could most likely have followed as a matter of course. In any case, it was hoped, the Mitchell Commission would get around the stumbling blocks to talks which had been erected by the British and the unionists. The people were sensing an end to the 27 year long nightmare.

There was still a certain amount of reservation. The British government had reneged on its promise to bring Sinn Fein into the political process, given an IRA cease-fire. The British/Unionist alliance had managed to defer talks through a series of preconditions. Still, it was hoped, the Mitchell Commission would clear away the obstacles. The speed with which the Commission was getting down to its task showed that it, at least, was conscious of the urgency. **It is interesting to note that neither the British nor the unionists said that they will not talk with representatives of the pro-British paramilitaries, even though their cease-fires are conditional (i.e. not permanent) and they have not undertaken to decommission.**

The British Prime Minister's response to the Mitchell Report was extraordinary - though not a surprise to the more perceptive among the population of the North, especially those supporting pan-nationalism. That is the pan-nationalism comprised of the Fianna Fail led coalition government, the SDLP and Sinn Fein. It had become clear that, from the beginning of the IRA's ceasefire, the British government was pursuing a different objective from that of the Irish side. What it had been unable to achieve through military

repression, the retrieval of ground lost by unionism over 27 years of civil rights agitation followed by paramilitary campaigning, it was now seeking to realize with the aid of political strategy.

That Britain had been opposed to **this** peace process all along has now been confirmed by a new book written by journalists with no republican axe to grind, Eamonn Mallie and David McKittrick. According to their research, the Downing Street Declaration proved to be acceptable to the IRA as a political development justifying a ceasefire and was derived from the Hume/Adams Agreement. When the then Irish Prime Minister, Albert Reynolds, put the Hume/Adams document up to Mr. Major, the latter flew into a rage and snapped his pencil. Nevertheless, under pressure (probably including American) the British government, after injecting clauses more palatable to unionism and transforming it into the Joint Declaration, sullenly agreed to go along with it. When the amended document still proved acceptable to the IRA, the British government was thrown off balance.

The subsequent seventeen months of stalling is thereby explained. So too is Mr. Major's misuse of the Mitchell Report, which led to the IRA ending its ceasefire. Major ignored what the people of Ireland wanted as expressed by their public demonstrations - immediate all-party talks - and went on stalling. If talks were to begin, then colonialist unionism would have to face up to the core issues of the problem and compromise could mean only a loss of ground for it. In the absence of talks, what unionism had, it held.

Major hatched a scheme which would add a further five-month delay to the seventeen which had already passed since the beginning of the IRA ceasefire: a scheme which would by no means **guarantee** inclusive talks at the outcome. He decided to call the election which would concede to the unionists the six county internal forum for which they had been asking. Contravening the Mitchell Commission's recommendation that there would have to be **broad acceptability** for elections, Major over-rode at least forty percent of the people in Northern Ireland, and went ahead with his plan.

He made a lame attempt to justify this strategy on democratic grounds. Linking it with the negotiations, he claimed it was necessary in order to determine who the negotiators should be. But everyone knew who they **had** to be. Major then devised a bizarre electoral system and compiled a list of permitted candidates designed to get the results he required. The forum would be dominated by unionists. What would be its role? To date the British government has kept this a secret. Will all the elected parties be at the negotiations? Not necessarily. If the IRA renews its ceasefire will Sinn Fein be there? There's a problem. If Sinn Fein is there, the unionists parties might not attend. One of them wants the negotiations to be about the IRA's decommissioning. Another will not be there unless the IRA disbands. Mr. Bruton has tried to reassure the northern democrats that, in the event of a resumption of the IRA ceasefire, inclusive talks will start and they will not be limited to a unionist agenda: that their forum will not have any control over the actual negotiations.

However, journalists say that the British are not pleased with Bruton's reassurances. In view of Bruton's past record of not being able to control Mr. Major, northern democrats would prefer to have their reassurances from London.

Another snag! Despite the good intentions of the Mitchell Commission, it has to be remembered that the remit for all-party talks, at the insistence of the nationalists, is that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. How then can a staged decommissioning of paramilitary (i.e. IRA) weapons during talks be plausible when there exists a built-in incentive for the British and unionists to collapse the talks at some final stage, thereby nullifying all previously arrived at agreements? Colonialist unionism could, by this method, achieve decommissioning while exiting from the failed talks with its constitutional status intact.

All democrats want a society free from paramilitaries and illegally held arms, but the question is: how can that objective be achieved? Unlike the USA for instance, Northern Ireland has never been a democratic society in which the legitimacy of the state is upheld by all. The history of Ireland shows that, when democracy is denied, popular resistance will take a militarist form. The resolution lies in curing the causes, not in attempting to repress the symptoms.

Newsbits *cont. from page 1*

the mast," Dr. Cruise O'Brien said he had never hidden his support for unionism. Mr. O'Keefe said O'Brien's decision to represent the "hardline integrationist UK Unionist Party" would certainly open the eyes of any readers of the Independent newspapers who still thought they might be getting an objective political commentary on the North or Irish politics from "the Cruiser". (*Irish Times* 5/3/96)

Despite the regrettable end to the 17 month old ceasefire in Northern Ireland, the Administration has made remarkable strides in the pursuit of a lasting peace in that region. As we pursue that peace, our focus must be on strengthening the economy and the opportunities that will lead to greater equality in Northern Ireland and closer business ties between the United States and Ireland. I urge you to include the MacBride Principles in this year's bill and to demand that the International Fund for Ireland focus on those projects that hold the greatest job creation potential and which can bring about true equal opportunity for the Irish people. (*Statement to House Appropriations Subcommittee by Rep. Nita M. Lowey* 4/25/96)

The new Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin has expressed surprise at being asked by the media since his election if "the Church of Ireland is the Unionist Party at prayer." The Most Rev. Walton Empey said, "Those of us who live in the state love our country, warts and all, and that point needs stressing again and again. Apart from some extremists who are always with us, we are accepted as loyal citizens of this State who are not looking backwards wistfully to a time that was." (*Irish Times* 5/7/96)

The British government has announced that it will finally give in to pressure and transfer terminally ill prisoner Patrick Kelly from Maghaberry Jail in Northern Ireland to Portlaoise Prison in the South. Kelly, who is dying of skin cancer, has requested the transfer so he can be closer to his family. (*AIN-PEC* 5/13/96)

New York Publication in anti-Irish attack on Great Hunger Event

On April 18, 1996, the American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC was made aware, by PEC member John Caffrey, of a vicious anti-Irish article in a New York publication, *Democracy in Action*.

The article entitled, "History or Hysteria," derided an educational program on the "Great Hunger" held in Woodside, NY as "an assembly designed to whip up anti-British sentiments." The article attacked the speakers at the event, including "Great Hunger" expert Ursuline Sister Ann Dillon, as Brit-bashers and suggested that the event was designed to foment hate.

The article didn't stop there. It also attacked local politicians, Representative Thomas Manton and Assemblyman Joe Crowley, for attending the event and equated their attendance to support for recent IRA bombings. Another Irish American politician who was not in attendance, Councilman Walter McCaffrey, was also attacked.

The PEC responded to this outrage by contacting the media, members of the local community and the newspaper's advertisers. We alerted them to the outrageous anti-Irish articles in the paper. We urged the public to boycott the paper and asked the advertisers to withdraw their advertising.

According to the *NY Times*, May 12, 1996, the PEC was able to get one-third of the paper's advertisers to pull their ads from the paper. Local politicians, including US Rep. Tom Manton, have also refused contact with the paper since the PEC contacted them about the articles. In the latest issue of *Democracy in Action*, the publisher Richard Brummel went even further by not only reiterating his previous anti-Irish statements, he further claimed that his advertisers had been threatened with violence if their ads were not removed.

Mr. Brummel's statements were found to be blatant lies when the *New York Times* interviewed some of the businessmen who pulled their ads. According to the *Times*, "advertisers interviewed last week said there was no overt pressure. They did not threaten my employees or anything," one merchant stated.

The PEC followed up by contacting those merchants who still advertise in the paper, again urging them to withdraw their advertising. Members of the local community are also boycotting the paper and urging the paper's remaining advertisers to cancel their advertising -- not to sponsor the anti-Irish bigotry of *Democracy in Action* through their advertising.

CBS BOYCOTT REVISED

The PEC has decided to revise the boycott of CBS television. Since our greatest problem with the network is its biased coverage of the news coming out of Northern Ireland and its failure to accurately report on the Irish peace process, we are now calling for members to boycott the *CBS Evening News with Dan Rather* and the *CBS Weekend Edition*. We believe this limited boycott will be much more effective. Please enforce this boycott in your home and encourage others to get involved. We can be very effective with a little sacrifice.

We urge members to continue to call and write CBS. Tell them that *you are joining the boycott of CBS Evening News With Dan Rather and the Weekend Edition, because of their pro-British coverage of the news coming out of Northern Ireland and the Irish peace process*. Call CBS at (212) 975-4321 and write to: Mr. Peter Lunt, CBS President, 51 W 52nd Street, New York, NY 10019.

Meaningful Negotiations Are Needed

by Gerry Adams, *President of Sinn Féin*

Sinn Féin participated in the election of May 30th to reiterate its democratic mandate and to assert the right of its electorate to be fully represented in any process of negotiations. It is the responsibility of the two governments to recognize and acknowledge the rights of all sections of the electorate. However, we should not lose sight of the fact that the immediate and urgent priority facing all of us is the restoration of the peace process.

Sinn Féin is working on a daily basis to restore the peace process but that is not our responsibility alone.

Four weeks ago in his Finglas speech the Taoiseach John Bruton sought to address the doubt and uncertainty and apprehensions within nationalist Ireland that June 10th will see the commencement of real negotiations. I welcomed his remarks. But I also pointed out that it is crucial that the British government outline its attitude to all these matters in a clear and unambiguous manner.

In the lead up to the IRA cessation in August 1994, the British government made public commitments that negotiations would begin. Those commitments were subsequently broken. What is required therefore is that the British government give absolute and cast-iron guarantees that negotiations will be meaningful and comprehensive. I assume that the Irish government has sought such guarantees from the British government.

The British government approach to the peace process can only be judged against a background of 18 months of bad faith.

Clearly, it is in everyone's interest that we have substantive peace negotiations leading to an agreed settlement. It is equally obvious that any process which excludes a significant section of opinion will not work.

While it is unrealistic to expect the chasm of distrust, particularly between Irish republicans and the

British government, to be bridged easily or in the short term, it is absolutely critical that the process of negotiations is spelt out with a clarity which builds confidence among those whose recent experience of the British government can only have increased their mistrust and suspicions.

The Irish government has endeavored to provide assurances of its intentions. London must do so also. In fact, as the government with jurisdiction in the north, this is essential.

John Major's refusal to engage in the peace process over an 18 month cessation led to its collapse. The reconstruction of the peace process requires a focussed British response which accepts the imperative of honest dialogue and an inclusive agenda, containing no actual or potential stalls. London must acknowledge that no outcome to the negotiations is predetermined or excluded; that nothing is agreed until everything is agreed and that there will be a fixed time-frame to create a successful dynamic for negotiations. There must be no possibility that talks can be blocked on day one by the Unionists using decommissioning to destroy the momentum towards real all party talks.

We need a process of negotiation which effectively tackles the causes of conflict and delivers the essential promise of constitutional and political change.

It is this potential for real change which frightens the unionist and loyalist leaderships. They are opposed to any change. It is this unionist agenda, of retaining the status quo, of blocking change and preventing negotiations and of returning to unionist domination, which lay behind unionist demands for an election, a forum and more recently the threats from loyalist death squads.

No one should be in any doubt what the consequences for nationalists in the north will be if there is any capitulation to the narrow, sectarian

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unionist agenda. It would mean more inequality; more discrimination; more threats of, and actual sectarian violence; more orange marches through nationalist areas; a reentrenchment of everything that is wrong with this statelet. An effective peace process cannot be based on a one-sided agenda. This must not be allowed to happen.

Making peace or creating the conditions for making peace challenges all of us. It challenges me but it also challenges John Major and Ian Paisley and David Trimble.

How do we meet this challenge? For our part Sinn Féin is committed to rebuilding a credible peace process which can solve problems democratically and on the basis of equality and understanding. We are a republican party. Our objective is to replace the British jurisdiction in Ireland with a new and democratically agreed Irish jurisdiction. We have demonstrated our preparedness to enter into dialogue, to take risks for peace. Over the last numbers of years we have sought, with honesty and integrity, to construct a peace process which reaches out to, and embraces, everyone on the basis of equality. Our commitment to the search for a lasting peace will stand even the most skeptical scrutiny.

In this election we will stand on this significant record of achievement. We will provide strong decisive leadership. We offer a way forward which I believe the electorate will recognize as fair and holding out the best chance for success.

People want peace -- a permanent peace. A peace process is a means to that end. A new negotiated democratic settlement is attainable. It will require courage and vision and a willingness on all sides to step out of the trenches. Sinn Féin is determined to pursue that goal whatever the obstacles.

For further information contact:
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200 Years of English/Irish History: From Disenfranchisement to Genocide

by Frank Morris, Jr., *Great Hunger Awareness Campaign Director*

In 1641 the Irish rebelled against the English who had colonized (possessed) their land and were immediately caught up in the English civil war between parliament and the king. In 1649 Oliver Cromwell landed in Dublin with an army of 12,000 men; he was joined by the 8,000 strong parliamentary army. Cromwell successfully laid siege to the town of Drogheda, and on his orders the 2,699 men of the royalist garrison were put to death. Townspeople were also slaughtered.

Large-scale confiscation of land followed. The owners were driven off eleven million acres of land and it was given to Protestant colonists. "Irish landowners found east of the river Shannon after 1 May 1654 faced the death penalty or slavery in the West Indies and Barbados." The expression "To Hell or Connaught" originated at this time. Those who did not leave their fertile fields and travel to the poor land west of the Shannon were put to death. It is said that Cromwell exterminated almost half of the then Irish population -- some 700,000 Irish people -- and sent another 100,000 off to the colonies as slaves and servants.

In the 1690s the Penal Laws, designed by Britain to repress the native Irish, were introduced. The first law ordered that no Catholic could have a gun, pistol, or sword. Over the next 30 years other Penal laws followed:

Irish Catholics were forbidden to receive an education, enter a profession, vote, hold office, practice their religion, engage in trade or commerce, purchase land, lease land,

receive a gift of land or inherit land from a Protestant, rent land worth more than thirty shillings a year, own a horse of greater value than five pounds, be the guardian of a child, educate their own children or send a child abroad to receive an education.

Stripped of their own land, the Irish became disenfranchised non-persons in their own country. They worked the farms for the absentee English landlords and rented small plots of ground where they could grow potatoes, a crop that could sustain their families. In 1845, when blight struck the potato crop, the Irish were faced with starvation. Although other crops and livestock in the landlord's fields were abundant, these Irish grown foodstuffs were exported to England under the protection of the British army. As many as 2 million died as a result of this so-called "famine." Millions migrated. Thousands died on "coffin ships" bound for America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The population of Ireland (over 8 million in 1840) was cut in half within five years from starvation, hunger caused diseases or migration. It was the most devastating event to visit Europe in the 19th century.

Was this so-called "potato famine" genocide?

Here is what Dr. Charles E. Rice, Professor of Law, at the Notre Dame Law School replied to a Great Hunger committee:

You asked my opinion on whether the Irish Famine [Great Hunger] was genocide. In my opinion it was genocide.

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The Genocide Convention, Article II, provides:

- (a) Killing members of the group;
- (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;
- (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;
- (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;
- (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group

The actions of the British government during the Great Hunger clearly demonstrated the requisite intent and clearly fit within the criteria at least of subdivisions (a), (b) and (c) of Article II.

Ireland's Great Hunger provided a model for the many and varied episodes of genocide which followed over the succeeding 150 years. And we are not done with the pattern of genocide yet. If the people of the world are to reverse that pattern, an important first step will be for the world community to condemn the engineered oppression of the Irish people by the British government during the Famine. The British policies with respect to the Famine reached a height, or depth, of deliberate indifference to innocent life, which is utterly reprehensible and not exceeded in any subsequent genocide.

For further information contact:

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New York Daily News -- May 2, 1996

“England seized Ireland for its own military benefit; it planted Protestant settlers there to make it strategically secure; it humiliated and penalized the native Irish and their Catholic religion. And then, when it could no longer hold on to the whole island, kept back part to be a home for the settlers’ descendants....”

John Austin Baker, *former chaplain to the Speaker of the British House of Commons*

While the majority of the English people applauded the Reverend Baker’s honesty and candor, one can only wish he had brought to their attention that through the years his government had more than just “humiliated and penalized the native Irish.”

Two examples:

- . During the mid-1600’s English troops under Oliver Cromwell killed 700,000 thousand Irish men, women and children -- almost half of the then population -- with another 100,000 sent into slavery and penal servitude in the colonies;
- . During the Great Hunger “Potato Famine” of 1845-50, while two million Irish were being starved to death, English landlords in Ireland were shipping food to England. E.g.; during the winter of 1846-47 alone, 17 million pounds (more than 80 million dollars) worth of Ireland’s grain, cattle, pigs, flour, eggs and poultry were shipped to England.

This, of course, does not even mention centuries of repressive legislation that outlawed such things as Irish education, the Irish language, and the Catholic religion. Nor does it take into account that more Irish people have been forced into exile than any other race in history.

One of History’s Greatest Holocausts

The past 800 years of systematic genocide of Irish men, women and children by the English is surpassed only by the genocide of Jews under Hitler and Ukrainians under Stalin.

Terrorism: Both Sides

Through the media, the words “IRA” and “terrorism” have become synonymous. And, like any sane individual, we deplore violence. But we feel compelled to point out that during the past 25 years, more “native Irish” have been killed or injured by “settlers” and British troops, than “native Irish” have killed or injured “settlers,” British troops, or people in England. And this does not include the thousands maimed and crippled by British bayonets, plastic bullets or clubs. Nor does it include the inhumane treatment of those imprisoned in the infamous H-Blocks, or the hellish tortures in the lesser-known Girdwood Barracks where suspects had their minds reduced to vegetative states through sensory deprivations and their bodies racked in agony from the selective use of electric wires. (No, these are not paranoid imaginings; these atrocities have been documented in court records.) Is it any wonder the British government has been repeatedly condemned by Amnesty International, Helsinki Watch, the European Community and other independent human rights groups? England has the worst human rights record in the European Community.

Information, Misinformation, Disinformation

If you haven’t been aware of some of this, you can look to the fact that virtually all news coming out of the “Northern Ireland” statelet is controlled by the British Foreign Office. And, unfortunately, this information, misinformation and disinformation -- like that from John Major’s government in London -- is parroted here in the United States by our Anglophilic media establishment. [Presently a boycott of CBS *Evening News with Dan Rather* is underway because of its pro-British coverage of the Irish peace process.]

Why England Must Leave Ireland

The only way permanent peace can be established and maintained in Ireland is for England to leave and Ireland to become one nation once again. We, as a non-sectarian American organization, are dedicated to this withdrawal and re-unification through peaceful means only, and have been since 1975. (President Bill Clinton is publicly committed to finding a permanent peace. We must influence Senator Bob Dole to make a similar public commitment.)

Our work of making the American people, our Presidents and government representatives aware of the facts has been instrumental in building the current pressure on England to end its colonial rule. However, this work is not finished, and as a non-profit organization, we can only continue it through donations. That is why, if you, too, feel that all of Ireland should be free again, we ask you to help us in this cause. No donation is too small and all donations are tax-exempt.



American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC
 54 South Liberty Drive, Suite 401, Stony Point, NY 10980
 Phone# 1 (800) 777-6807 * Fax# (914) 947-2599

John J. Finucane, National President

Action Requests

Write the letters below (or call), preferably in your own words, or as is. Be courteous. Have friends, organizations, business associates, etc., do the same.

1. Honorable Bill Clinton
The President
White House
Washington, DC 20500
Ph# (202) 456-1111
Fax# (202) 456-2461

Message: It is of the utmost importance that your administration plays a central role in the June 10th negotiations in Ireland. You must keep the pressure on the British government to negotiate in good faith and to bring about a permanent democratic solution to the conflict. Without your continued involvement in the peace process, it is doomed to fail.

2. Taoiseach John Bruton
An Taoiseach
Upper Merrion Square
Dublin 2, Ireland

Message: We in Irish America fully support the demands of the "citizen of the Irish nation" campaign. Please recognize the rights of all Irish people to full rights of citizenship in the Irish nation.

Dublin/Monaghan Bombings: Justice Denied

The highest death toll for any one event in the conflict in Ireland came on May 17, 1974. On that day three car bombs exploded in Dublin at the height of the afternoon commute. Twenty-six people were killed and 253 were injured. Ninety minutes later, a car bomb exploded in Monaghan town killing another seven people.

The questions still remain. No one was ever questioned, charged or convicted of the bombings. British Intelligence has always been suspected of being behind the bombings.

The bombings came during the Ulster workers strike in protest of the Sunningdale Agreement that gave Dublin its first say in how the affairs of the North were run through the Council of Ireland. Harold Wilson (he proposed a united Ireland within 15 years) had returned to power and it is believed that British intelligence feared a move towards a united Ireland. Two weeks after the bombings, Sunningdale collapsed.

In 1993 Yorkshire Television produced a documentary, revealing dramatic new evidence that points the finger at British intelligence in both the bombings and the subsequent cover-up.

The program claimed that the identities of eight of the UVF bombers were known to the Gardai within days of the explosion. All were members of the UVF's mid-Ulster brigade and well known figures in the UVF such as William "Frenchy" Marchand, Billy Hanna and Harris Boyle. Also named were officers in the elite British Army Unit 'Four Field Survey Troop', Lieutenant Robert Nairac and Captain Tony Ball.

The allegations of involvement by British intelligence centered on an SAS training facility on a farm in County Armagh. Yorkshire Television spoke to police, military and loyalist sources who claimed a link between these British Army officers, loyalist terrorists and the RUC Special Branch.

Former SAS Captain Fred Holroyd, who was military intelligence officer in Portadown where the suspects were based, said that in the investigation: "I wasn't asked once by anyone to question my sources or to try to find out any information about this whatsoever. At the time and immediately afterwards, there was no interest at all. It was quite some time after that my Special Branch colleague told me in fact who the Portadown men were who were involved in this and where the cars had come from" (Holroyd sent the names of the bombers to the Gardai in 1987).

Even now, Irish Minister for Justice Nora Owen has told the Dail that, while they are still investigating the contents of the Yorkshire program and a subsequent program on Irish television entitled *Friendly Forces*, there isn't ample evidence for any prosecutions.

So the conspiracy continues and justice is denied for the families of those slaughtered.

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Name of your Congressman/woman _____

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