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American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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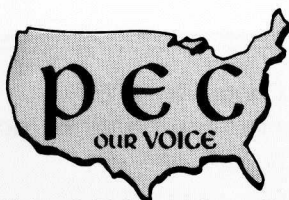
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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 20, Number 6

June 1995

PEC NEARING FINANCIAL CRISIS!

Dear members and supporters,

PEC is fast approaching a crisis situation. The response to our recent fund-raising mailing can only be described as a dismal failure. Also, since the cease fire in Ireland and the start of the peace process there, there has been a significant drop in membership.

Apparently many people have the impression that there is no further need for organizations such as ours. **Nothing could be further from the truth.** The really critical time is ahead if the peace process is to produce meaningful change. It is far from clear that this will be the case. **PEC is more important now than ever!**

We regret having to deliver this hard message to you, our faithful members but we owe you the truth. You know that every penny we get is used to promote a permanent democratic solution. No PEC officer, director or PEC activist is compensated for his or her work, with the exception of two **minimum salaried** part-time employees who are needed to run our day-to-day office operations of which we are proud.

What if the PEC was forced to cease operations? A void would be created **that could not be filled**--a disastrous setback to the cause of a united Ireland. 21 years of vital expertise, experience and wisdom would be gone. American supporters of a united Ireland would have lost their largest and most effective letter-writing/phone-call network.

The truth is the PEC, whose specialized work in the United States is second to none, has never enjoyed generous financial support from the American Irish community. This is why we have had to run continuous fund-raising activities, a heavy burden which detracts from the time and energy available to work on important substantive matters. We have been surviving on membership dues which are minimal. While we appreciate and need your membership, this source of income is now not enough to keep us operating effectively. We must enhance our income or consider a serious cutback in our work. We will be making specific suggestions along these lines shortly.

It is not too late to contribute to our latest special fund-raising request. We need a contribution of \$50 from each of our members and friends if we are to be able to continue our service to the American Irish community. Please send as much as you can. We think the cause of a United Ireland is worth it.

*In unity,
John J. Finucane, National President*

Make checks payable to: American Ireland Education Foundation and mail to PEC-AIEF, 54 South Liberty Dr., Suite 401, Stony Point, NY 10980.

Newsbits by Kathy Regan

President Bill Clinton extended a personal invitation to PEC President John Finucane to attend The White House Conference for Trade and Investment in Ireland. Finucane attended the conference, which took place May 24-26 in Washington, DC. (AIN-PEC, 4/28/95)

We were told for years that violence was the great obstacle to progress. Equality of treatment for the nationalist population and economic regeneration could not take place until the IRA's armed campaign was at an end. Eight months into a total cessation of violence, we can see just how much sanctimonious hogwash the British government has been spouting. The British have no intention of willingly introducing the reforms needed to solve the conflict. Instead, they are still looking for that elusive military victory ... A military victory is now impossible. The sooner the government grasps that fact, the better for all of us. (Andersonstown News, 4/29/95)

The insistence of the British government on the IRA disarming itself has nothing to do with disarmament. It has to do with the last desperate

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OUR VIEW

The British Government is still fuming over the decision by President Clinton to invite Gerry Adams to the White House and lift the fund-raising ban. They are furious that the President has not allowed them to dictate the terms of the peace process. The Brits are responding with their typical dirty tactics. Several British politicians, including former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, have used the tragic deaths of innocent civilians in the Oklahoma bombing to undermine the President and to attack his invitation to Adams. What kind of people would use the mass murder of innocent Americans to make political gains and undermine a peace process? Perhaps the same type of government that caused bombings in Ireland, killing 33 and injuring more than 100, that successfully coerced the Irish government to pass repressive legislation? Perhaps the same type of government that murdered Irish civil rights marchers in Derry, that colluded with British Loyalist Death Squads to murder innocent Irish civilians? Obviously, the British government will stoop to any level for political gain.

As we said before, the British have powerful allies in America: some American right-wing radio talk show hosts and government representatives, particularly those in the Republican Party. During the aftermath of the Oklahoma City bombing, many of these people condemned the President for his efforts in support of the Irish peace process and the work he did to help bring about the cease fire.

The British government wants the focus on Gerry Adams and the Irish Republican Army. But that is not what this colonial conflict is all about. It's about the right of the people of Ireland to national self-determination--it's about democracy. We must never allow the public to lose sight of that.

The PEC extends its sympathy to the victims of the Oklahoma bombing and their families. We also extend our thanks to the good Americans, many of them of Irish ancestry, who helped in the rescue effort.

Offensive Situations

by Paul Newman, New York

Many thanks to PEC member Elizabeth Berry of Ardmore, PA for sending PEC truly outrageous St. Patrick's Day Cards manufactured by **Recycled Paper Products**, all of which contained, as usual, references to drinking. Certainly there is more to being Irish than alcohol. Please write the following letter, as is or in your own words, to: Chief Executive Officer, Recycled Paper Products, 3636 North Broadway, Chicago, IL 60613.

To Whom It May Concern:

I take great offense to some of your company's St. Patrick's Day Cards, particularly those that depict the American Irish as silly drunken fools. They are mean-spirited and degrading. I will make a special effort to ensure that my family and friends boycott your products.

Sincerely, →

Political Education Committee (PEC) American Ireland Education Foundation, Inc. *A non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization*

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England's Irish Slave Trade Discussed On WABC Radio

PEC National Director Robert West of Illinois was the guest of WABC talk show host Jay Diamond on April 18. Mr. Diamond contacted the PEC regarding an article Bob West had written in 1985 for this newsletter concerning England's Irish slave trade of the 17th century.

The number of calls and letters PEC received in response to the Diamond-West discussion on Irish slaves was so impressive that we decided to reprint Bob's article as a *Reproduce & Distribute (R&D)* in this newsletter issue. Like our promotion of Ireland's Great Hunger since 1982, this article on Irish slaves will also have an impact on many Americans. We urge you to make copies of this R&D and distribute them widely. This information will win more American support for Ireland's reunification.

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

From the North

by Rev. Des Wilson, *Director, Springhill Community, Belfast*

When human rights demonstrators recently took to the streets in the north of Ireland it was like a rerun of the 1960's. Can the British administration deal with such peaceful protests now the way they did at that time, with massive, brutal police and army intervention?

It is unlikely that it can. Bringing massive numbers of troops back to Ireland is not at the moment practical policy for the British, and the RUC will not be allowed to attack demonstrations as it did 25 years ago. The British must negotiate, however unwillingly.

In other ways, the present situation is uncannily and disturbingly like the 1960s. Thirty years ago republicans were inviting unionists to talks, meetings were arranged between politicians north and south, loyalist military groups talked about shared government.

The then Prime Minister Terrence O'Neill needed reform of the Stormont system, keeping it a one-party state but moderating the persecution of Catholics, because modern trading conditions and the survival of the northern state depended on getting the support of a section of the Catholic population. All that movement towards a new deal ended with burning houses and a revolutionary war which lasted 25 years.

Will the present meetings between politicians north and south, via the **Forum for Peace and Reconciliation**, the attempts to create dialogue between different sections of the population and between the British administration and democrats, end up the same way? Pessimists say it will, optimists say it will not, and both have reasonable arguments on their side.

The optimistic view is that the British administration could not beat civil rights into the ground again, because of world opinion and especially American opinion. It has lost support among British people for doing so. As well, Scotland is moving towards some form of self rule, and the British government admits that the IRA has the capacity and the will to create revolutionary war as long as the British administration is there.

There is also great anger among people at large, an anger which has made it possible for Sinn Fein representatives to reject one British demand after another as they tried to put pre-conditions on talks which were not included in the Downing Street Declaration.

Pessimists however say that since the British do not have a modern democratic form of government at home, they cannot create one in Ireland. That, however, is a problem which can be solved by negotiation and the north of Ireland can be represented to the British at home as a "special case" which should have no bearing—although it will have, of course,—on Scotland, Wales or even the north of England. In other words, if the will is not there, it will not. In the 1920's the British government knew that if it was seen to be losing Ireland, it would lose the Empire, and yet they made a settlement which involved physically leaving most of Ireland.

Nowadays, staying put and beating all opposition into the ground is inhibited by another factor, the ability of the media to read the situation accurately, unlike what was happening in the 1960s.

Today the world press is more aware of what is really happening in Ireland, although still in some countries unwilling to betray the interests of the British government. They know it is not a problem of community relations. They are able to see it as a problem of the military and economic needs of Britain and Ireland and of the refusal of successive British governments to grant democracy to its people. It is being recognized more and more that Britain

Wisconsin MacBride Bill

PEC State Director Nancy Love advises us that Wisconsin State Senator Brian Burke will shortly introduce a MacBride Principles Bill in the State Legislature. Wisconsin-based members are asked to help make this Bill a success. Members will be needed to contact their State representatives urging that they support this legislation. **To help in this campaign, contact Nancy Love at: (414) 792-3685 days or (414) 542-4767 evenings.**

itself is not a modern democracy and that the Irish situation is more subtle than government press handouts admit. That the media view of Ireland has changed considerably is due to the constant and consistent information campaigns waged by individuals and groups, especially in the United States, who did the often discouraging work of supplying editors with real information to counteract government fantasies.

The success of talks will depend not on government good will, which cannot be presumed to exist, but on two important factors: 1). the ability of Sinn Fein, SDLP and the general democratic public to remain as determined and firm as they have been so far, and 2). continual monitoring of negotiations by human rights groups, especially in the United States, and accurate international media coverage of the negotiations.

PEC Telephone Hotline (914) 429-7849

Often issues covered by our *Hotline* are timely and require immediate member action. For example, a recent bill tying IFI funding with the MacBride Principles needed quick member response. Members who use the *Hotline* were able to urge their US Representatives to support the bill. The *Hotline* is a 24-hour, 7-day-a-week service. Messages change every Sunday night.

Newsbits *con't from page 1*

struggle of the British regime to try to prevent Catholic democrats in Ireland from having a real or effective vote. If Sinn Fein disappeared tomorrow, they would stop talking to the SDLP ... This is not simply hatred of Irish democrats or Catholics. It runs deeper than that. The British regime does not recognize the right of its own people in Britain to have representatives who can act freely in their interests. Not a single bill approved by the House of Commons will become law unless it is approved by the House of Lords and then the royals ... If the Irish are able to do what they want to do, set up a democratic parliament in which the will of the people will be able to make laws and other decisions, the English, the Scottish and the Welsh will demand the same.

(Andersonstown News, 4/22/95)

In the middle of a housing crisis in West Belfast, the Housing Executive demolished prime housing stock rather than renovate the houses and allocate them to Catholic families.

(Andersonstown News, 4/8/95)

The government plans to invest £1.2 million in an area where "half the homes have been deserted." Community groups claim the government is building up small unionist communities while doing nothing in neighboring nationalist areas.

(Andersonstown News, 4/29/95)

At yesterday's [May 10] landmark session of talks with British government ministers at Stormont, Sinn Fein demanded an early meeting between the party's president Gerry Adams and the Northern Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew. Martin McGuinness, who led the Sinn Fein delegation in their first direct ministerial-level contact with the British in 23 years, has deferred a decision on a further meeting with the Northern Minister of State, Mr. Michael Ancram, pending a response to their demand. (*Irish Times*, 5/11/95)

Irish Media Incompetency Addressed

DUBLIN -- In a critical appraisal of the Irish media, the northern editor of the *Irish Press*, Ms. Anne Cadwallader, addressing the Irish National Congress, said the media generally ignored the underlying cause of violence in the six counties of Northern Ireland and always concentrated on the violence itself.

Ms. Cadwallader stated: "Guns, spies, secret meetings, the IRA Army Council -- these were all 'sexy' stories, but civil rights, miscarriages of justice, unemployment levels, RUC behavior were all deemed non-sexy and uninteresting and largely ignored. Irish people had a fear that any criticism of unionism or the British might appear sectarian. Irish people seemed to be like an abused child or a raped woman, blaming themselves instead of being honest and blaming the responsible party, the British, for what was happening in Northern Ireland."

She herself, being English, with both parents members of the Conservative Party, was not afraid to criticize her government.

"Arguably, the entire story of the last 25 years has been missed by the Irish media. They did not realize what was happening within Sinn Fein, who were being depicted as a bunch of fanatical, blood-thirsty militarists with little to contribute to the debate. When Sinn Fein's annual conference was held in Dundalk in 1993--at which a change in tactics was signaled--only two reporters covered it. In contrast, last year's conference in Dublin attracted hundreds of media people, simply because by then the media began to wake up to the fact that something was happening within the Republican movement," said Ms. Cadwallader.

She asked, "How many newspaper editors and news editors have spent any time talking to ordinary people in the North? My own experience is that out of three Dublin editors, only one has spent any time in the north and not one of the news editors has." Ms. Cadwallader lives in West Belfast among the people she covers. (*Irish American Information Service*, 5/11/95)

Rep. Funderburk's Misplaced Loyalties

by Paul Newman, *New York*

The extent of Anglophilia in the US never ceases to amaze me. During the March 1995 visit of British Prime Minister John Major to Washington, US Representatives **Joe Scarborough** (R-Fla) and **David Funderburk** (R-NC) of the International Relations Committee apologized to PM Major for President Bill Clinton's allowing Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams to fund-raise in this country. That's their prerogative. But Rep. Funderburk went even further. He is quoted by the *Irish Voice* as telling Mr. Major, "I am more British than you are."

As Rep. Funderburk is a member of the International Relations Committee, which deals with American foreign policy, we are concerned as to where his loyalties are. Will he promote policies favorable to the English or to his fellow Americans?

Please write the letter below, in your own words or as is, to: Honorable David Funderburk, House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515, or call him at (202) 225-4561:

Dear Mr. Funderburk:

I am concerned about your March 1995 statement to British Prime Minister John Major that you are more British than he is. I question what you are doing representing American citizens. I also question your even-handedness when it comes to foreign policy such as Northern Ireland.

Sincerely,

England's Irish Slaves

by Robert E. West, *PEC Illinois State Director*

Records are replete with references to early Irish Catholics in the West Indies. Gwynn in *Analecta Hibernica*, states: "The earliest reference to the Irish is the establishment of an Irish settlement on the Amazon River in 1612." Smith, in *Colonists in Bondage*, reports: "a Proclamation of the year 1625 urged the banishing overseas of dangerous rogues (Irish Political Prisoners); kidnapping (of Irish) was common."

Condon states that the first considerable emigration from Ireland to the southern latitudes of America was to Guiana in 1629. Newton declares that Antigua and Montserrat were occupied as early as 1632 and that many emigrant Irish came out among the early planters and servants in these is-lands. Dunn, in *Sugar and Slaves*, asserts that, in 1636, Ireland was already a prime source of supply for servants: as early as 1637, on Monserrat the Irish heavily outnumbered the English colonists, and 69 percent of Monserrat's white inhabitants were Irish. Lenihan writes: in 1650 "25,000 Irishmen sold as slaves in Saint Kitt's and the adjoining islands, petitioned for a priest..."

In 1641, Ireland's population was 1,466,000 and in 1652, 616,000. According to Sir William Petty, 850,000 were wasted by the sword, plague, famine, hardship and banishment during the Confederation War 1641-1652. At the end of the war, vast numbers of Irish men, women and children were forcibly transported to the American colonies by the English government. These people were rounded up like cattle, and, as Prendergast reports on Thurloe's State Papers (pub. London, 1742), "In clearing the ground for the adventurers and soldiers (the English capitalists of that day)... To be transported to Barbados and the English plantations in America. It was a measure beneficial to Ireland, which was thus relieved of a population that might trouble the planters; it was a benefit to the people removed, which might thus be made English and Christians... a great benefit to the West India sugar planters, who desired men and boys for their bondsmen, and the women and Irish girls... To solace them."

J. Williams provides additional evidence of the attitude of the English government towards the Irish in an English law of June 26, 1657: "Those who fail to transplant themselves into Connaught (Ireland's Western Province) or (County) Clare within six months... Shall be attained of high treason... Are to be sent into America or some other parts beyond the seas..." Those thus banished who return are to "suffer the pains of death as felons by virtue of this act,

without benefit of Clergy."

The following are but a few of the numerous references to those Irish transported against their will between 1651 and 1660.

Emmet asserts that during this time, more that "100,000 young children who were orphans or had been taken from their Catholic parents, were sent abroad into slavery in the West Indies, Virginia and New England, that they might lose their faith and all knowledge of their nationality, for in most instances even their names were changed... Moreover, the contemporary writers assert between 20,000 and 30,000 men and women who were taken prisoner were sold in the American colonies as slaves, with no respect to their former station in life." Dunn claims in Barbados the Irish Catholics constituted the largest block of servants on the island. Higham estimated that in 1652 Barbados had absorbed no less than 12,000 of these political prisoners. E. Williams reports: "In 1656 Cromwell's Council of State voted that 1,000 Irish girls and 1,000 Irish young men be sent to Jamaica." Smith declares: "it is impossible to say how many shiploads of unhappy Irish were dispatched to America by the English government," and "no mention of such shipments would be very likely to appear in the State Papers... They must have been very considerable in number."

Estimates vary between 80,000

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and 130,000 regarding the amount of Irish sent into slavery in America and the West Indies during the years of 1651-1660: Prendergast says 80,000; Boudin 100,000; Emmet 120,000 to 130,000; Lingard 60,000 up until 1656; and Condon estimates "the number of Irish transported to the British colonies in America from 1651-1660 exceeded the total number of their inhabitants at that period, a fact which ought not to be lost sight of by those who undertake to estimate the strength of the Celtic element in this nation..."

It is impossible to ascertain the exact number of those unfortunate victims of English injustice during this period, but we do know the amount was massive. Even though the figures given above are but estimates, they are estimates from eminent historians.

The flow of the Irish to the American colonies throughout the remainder of the 17th century was large and continuous, but not nearly as massive as between 1651 and 1660. Some of the many statements by historians give evidence of this Irish tide. Higham reports that in 1664 the Irish took the place of the French on St. Bartholomew's. Smith claims that during the four years leading up to 1675, already 500 Irish servants were brought to Jamaica by ships from Bristol, England that stopped in Ireland for provisions. During 1680 on the Leeward Islands, Dunn posits: "with so many Irish Catholic servants and farmers... The English planters became obsessed with the fear of popery." Dunn also states that in Jamaica in 1685 the 2nd Duke of Aberlmarle, after his appointment by James II, a Catholic, mustered his chief support from the Irish Catholic small planters and servants and that the indentured servants who constituted the island militia were mainly Irish Catholic. In reporting on Father Garganel's statements, Lenihan claims: "in 1699 Father Garganel, S.J., Superior of the island of Martinique, asked for one or two Irish Fathers for that and the neighboring isles which were 'full of Irish' for every year shiploads of men, boys and girls, partly crimped, partly carried off by main force for the purposes of slave trade, are conveyed by the English from Ireland."

Smith has recorded that "Servants sailed from every port in the British Isles,

but by far the greater number came from London, Bristol, Liverpool, Dublin and Cork, and, doubtless, it was principally the merchants of Bristol, Whitehaven and Liverpool which conducted trade with Ireland." Emmet clarifies Smith's statement in detail by asserting: "the early and continued emigration of the Irish to this country during the 17th century has been lost sight of in consequence of this change to English surnames and from the fact that no vessel was knowingly allowed to sail from Ireland direct, but by law was obliged first to visit an English port before clearance papers could be obtained. Consequently, every Irish emigrant (slave, servant, etc..) crossing in an Irish or English vessel from either England or Ireland, appeared in the official records as English, for the voyage did not begin according to law until the ship cleared from an English port, and all passengers on arrival in this country (American Colonies) were rated as English."

It is also of importance to be aware of the fact, as Dunn confirmed, that "Most population lists for Barbados, Jamaica and the Leeward Islands concern only parish registers of the Church of England, all other people were essentially ignored in the head count."

The English government variously referred to Irish to be transported as rogues, vagabonds, rebels, neutrals, felons, military prisoners, teachers, priests, maidens etc. All historians call them servants, bondsman, indentured servants, slaves, etc., and agree that they were all political victims. The plain facts are that **most were treated as slaves**. After their land was confiscated by England, which drove them from their ancestral homes to forage for roots like animals, they were kidnapped, rounded up and driven like cattle to waiting ships and transported to English colonies in America, never to see their country again. They were the victims of what many called the immense "Irish Slave Trade."

All writers on the 17th century American colonies are in agreement that the treatment of white servants or white slaves in English colonies was cruel to the extreme, worse than that of black slaves; that inhuman treatment was the norm, that torture (and branding FT, fugitive traitor, on the forehead) was the punishment for attempted escape. Dunn stated: "Servants were punished by whipping, strung up by

the hands and matches lighted between their fingers, beaten over the head until blood ran,"--all this on the slightest provocation. Ligon, an eyewitness in Barbados from 1647-1650 said, "Truly, I have seen cruelty there done to servants as I did not think one Christian could have done to another."

It is a matter of great importance to realize that most of the white slaves, servants and small farmers abandoned the West Indies for the mainland colonies in America. Dunn reports: "Between 1678 and 1713, Leeward sugar planters became more rich and powerful and controlled all local councils and assemblies so white servants and small farmers abandoned the Leeward Islands." Craven said that between 1643 and 1667, about 12,000 left Barbados for other plantations and Dunn said the white population of the Leeward Islands was reduced by 30 percent between 1678 and 1708. According to Craven, in *Colonies in Transition*, prior to the 1680's, the hopes which sustained the Carolina venture continued to depend chiefly upon the migration of settlers from the older colonies, especially from the West Indies. Smith asserted that after 1670, the emigration of whites from the smaller islands at least equalled the immigration. Condon declared: "In course of time many of those who had been transported to the West Indies in this manner found their way to the colonies on the continent, in search of greater freedom and a more healthful climate."

All writers on the 17th century history agree that between one-half and two-thirds of white immigrants in the British West Indies and mainland America were servants, most of them severely mistreated. Most all Irish immigrants were 'servants.' Irish were almost exclusively Catholic (at least they were when they left Ireland) and most were of ancient Irish families even though they appeared in English records as English, if recorded at all.

After 20,000 Puritans arrived in the American colonies from 1630-1640, migration of English colonists all but subsided. Some writers say after 1640 only a trickle of English colonists arrived. In 1632, many Irish were on Antigua. In 1637, 69 percent of whites on Montserrat were Irish. In 1650, 25,000 Irish were on St. Kitt's and Nevis and some were on other Leeward islands. In 1652, prior to

the wholesale transportation of Irish, most of 12 thousand political prisoners on Barbados were Irish.

From 1651 to 1660, between 80,000 to 130,000 Irish were transported. From 1660-1700, there was a large steady flow of Irish immigrants. Most whites, especially servants, slaves and small farmers went to the American mainland for more freedom, a healthier climate and economic betterment.

There are no verifiable records on the white population of all the American colonies in the 17th century. Some estimates include blacks, some do not. Some list only members of the Church of England. Estimates are made for Barbados for a certain year while estimates are made for the Leeward Islands for other years. The same applies to Jamaica and the mainland colonies. One estimate for the mainland colonies, white and black included, was given at 204,000 in 1689.

In the absence of reliable records, I believe it is necessary to take the following into very serious consideration: migration trends, prolificness of people of varying national origin, laws in effect in the country from which people migrated; the prevailing conditions in the country undergoing emigration; the amount of control the emigrating people had over their own destiny; and the fact that all American colonies both mainland and the West Indies were very intertwined.

Well over one-half of white immigrants to the West Indies during the 17th century were Irish Catholic servants, most who, in the course of time, abandoned the West Indies for the mainland American colonies.

Wanted!

No nonsense people who are willing to write letters and/or make phone calls to our government's leaders in support of a united Ireland. If you are one of these special people, please contact:

**American Ireland
Education Foundation-PEC**
54 South Liberty Drive, Suite 401
Stony Point, NY 10980
(914) 947-2726

Published June 1995 by AIEF-PEC

British Loyalists Draw Guns On Visitors

by Sandy Carlson, reporting from Ireland

How fragile is the peace process? The loyalist paramilitary Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) drew weapons on members of the *Between* organization and the lord mayor of Cork, who were all visiting Belfast in April.

At the end of a social function in an Orange Hall off the Shankill Road in Belfast, the UVF men entered the hall and read a statement saying they had streamlined their units and obtained more and better weapons. The UVF said they had infiltrated the republican Ardoyne area in north Belfast and the Falls Road area in West Belfast and were prepared to hit hard when the cease fire broke. They said they were trying to infiltrate other republican areas, as well. After reading their statement, the UVF men approached the visitors from Cork and chanted, "We are the men of the UVF."

Between is a Cork-based charity that has been providing week-long holidays in Cork for the mothers and children of political prisoners and other hard-hit fatherless families in both loyalist and republican areas of the north. The group was visiting Belfast to commemorate the organization's 25th anniversary of voluntary community service. *Between's* Cork members and the lord mayor were invited to the Orange Hall by one of the organization's

loyalist members.

Following the incident, *Between* secretary Criostior de Baroid told the media that neither he nor the members of his organization were intimidated by the UVF's actions. He said that he and the other members accepted the invitation to the Orange Hall in good faith and had to accept that these kinds of morale-boosting exercises were part of loyalist culture. Although he said he had

difficulty hearing the UVF message, other committee members, who have asked to remain anonymous, have said the message was perfectly clear. The lord mayor of Cork refused to comment on the incident.

This incidence of sectarian intimidation must be considered frankly--as frankly as the sectarian message delivered. The bitterness, brutality, and, indeed, the danger to life this message represents is no contribution to any peace process. We must ask: Why are loyalist paramilitaries planning a murder campaign at the same time their political representatives are demanding the IRA turn in its weapons before dialogue begins? Why are loyalists so openly hateful at the most optimistic moment in the past 25 years? Indeed, the discovery, at the same time, of UVF arsenals in County Down and in England, raise questions about the integrity of the peace process.

Make Your Opinions Count!

Join The PEC National Telephone Chain & Respond To Our Action Requests

As the peace process progresses, the importance of grassroots communications to our political and media leaders, such as letter-writing/phone-call campaigns, will become a top priority. We urge you to **participate in our National Telephone Chain (NTC)** and to **respond to our newsletter's Action Requests** (see page 6). Your participation in these effective programs will determine whether the peace holds and what solution our government leaders will support.

Personal communications, such as letters, faxes, E-mail and phone calls, are so much more effective than pre-messaged postcards or form letters.

The effectiveness of our National Telephone Chain, the only one of its kind available to supporters of a united Ireland, is significant and grows stronger everyday as we add new participants.

How the National Telephone Chain works.

When an urgent situation arises, that requires immediate pressure on an elected official, PEC will contact all National Telephone Chain participants. We will explain the situation, tell you who to call, provide the phone number and a message--and fax number if available.

To join NTC, call (914) 947-2726 or fill out and mail the NTC application below to AIEF-PEC. If you call be sure to provide us the information requested in the application below. **Participation in NTC is FREE.**

So Join NTC & Respond To Our Action Requests

National Telephone Chain Application

1. My phone number(s): Days _____
Evenings _____
2. Will you get other people in your community or state to call, such as family members, relatives, friends, etc.?
[] YES [] NO
3. Will you call family, relatives, friends, etc., in other states? [] YES [] NO
NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/TOWN _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____
Who is your representative in the U.S. House of Representatives? _____

Action Requests

Write the letters below, preferably in your own words, or call. Have friends, organizations, business associates, etc., do the same.

1. Honorable Newt Gingrich
Speaker of the House
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Phone# 202 225-3121

Request: As the third most powerful person in our government, you can do much to advance the Irish peace process. Please end your silence and intercede to influence the British government to stop stalling the peace process.

2. Your two US Senators
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Phone# 202 224-3121

Request: Please oppose the Omnibus Counterterrorism Act of 1995. The proposals in this Bill, unnecessary to combat real terrorism as admitted by FBI officials, would seriously affect the rights of Americans to dissent from policies of our government and move the U.S. down the road toward a true police state. The Oklahoma City bombing must not be used as a pretext to erode traditional American values.

MacBride Makes It To Congress

On May 15, 1995 the House International Relations Committee (IRC) voted 32 to 8 to approve **Rep. Benjam Gilman's** bill # 1561, which includes a \$29,600,000 grant to the International Fund for Ireland (IFI), as requested by President Bill Clinton. Most importantly, the Gilman bill requires that the economic assistance to the IFI be **consistant with the MacBride Principles** and that the money be used to create employment opportunities in the areas of Northern Ireland suffering the highest rates of unemployment. The Bill must go to the House for a full vote and on to the US Senate.

Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-Ind) had planned to amend the bill by removing "consistant with the MacBride Principles." The MacBride Principles section, according to Gilman's office, was also opposed by the British and Irish governments. **PEC was prominent in the lobbying effort.** PEC activated its *National Telephone Chain* (to Indiana members only) and *Telephone Hotline* to pressure Hamilton to back off on his amendment. Hamilton acknowledged the calls he received during the debate. PEC also lobbied members of the IRC requesting they support Gilman's Bill. Be ready for more battles on HR 1561. Congratulations to **Rep. Gilman**.

Schumer's Omnibus Counterterrorism Act Would Terrorize The American Irish

The Reagan-Bush "anti-terrorism" legislative proposals have resurfaced, this time promoted by President Clinton through US Representative Charles Schumer (D-Bklyn). The proposed laws would allow our government to crack down on anyone who dissents on a foreign policy issue, as we often do on Irish matters. Opposition to the bill has been raised by both sides of the political spectrum, civil libertarians and conservatives, but in the atmosphere created by reaction to the Oklahoma City bombing, it may nevertheless pass.

Go To Action Request #2 On This Page

Help Sell PEC Raffle Tickets

All members will receive a book of five chances (\$15) with the July newsletter. Volunteers are needed to help sell extra books. To order books of chances, drop us a line or call: 914 947-2726.

To Join Or Renew Your Membership PEC-AIEF

[] New Membership \$25 [] Membership Renewal \$25
[] Senior Citizen \$20 [] Student \$10
[] Additional Donation \$ _____
[] Donation Only \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Members receive the monthly *American Irish Newsletter*.

Name _____

Address _____

Town/State/Zip _____

Phone number () _____

Name of your Congressman/woman _____

Make checks payable to PEC-AIEF and mail to 54 South Liberty Drive, Suite 401, Stony Point, NY 10980. For information call 914 947-2726.

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