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American Irish Newsletter - October 1995

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 20, Number 10

October 1995

Attention Media and Congress: MORE VIOLENCE in NORTHERN IRELAND

Send in Raffle Tickets!
Deadline October 10
Drawing October 14

The month that saw Orange Halls, GAA clubs, and Catholic and Protestant churches burned and vandalized; many Catholics living near loyalists burned out of their homes; loyalists smashing sculptures of "peace" doves; and the RUC injuring nationalists with plastic bullets as loyalists marched through their areas has been described as the 12th month of peace in Northern Ireland. Here, we called it August.

August saw a disabled 79-year-old nationalist man's home attacked by loyalist petrol bombers for the fourth time. His son believed the attack was revenge for a previous attack on a Baptist church in east Belfast, where the man lives.

For a second time, Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams asked Orange Order leader and Ulster Unionist Martin Smyth to meet with him to discuss how to stop the escalating violence. Smyth refused.

Then, loyalist killer Billy Wright told the *Belfast Telegraph* that the Republic of Ireland would be targeted if the ceasefires broke down. "The loyalist guard dog has kept a quiet watchful eye since the ceasefire, but it is not barking and they had better sit up and take notice," he told the paper. Another loyalist said, "as the Republic is the only member of the pan-nationalist front with an exchequer, it would make sense that it would suffer" if the peace process broke down.

Meanwhile, (Protestant) Church of Ireland minister William Hoey of South Belfast referred in his newsletter to Catholic Cardinal Daly as "the red-hatted weasel in Armagh" and criticized Protestant church leaders who, he claimed, were involved in a "false ecumenism" with Catholics and said the watchword for Orangemen and Protestants should remain "no surrender." Smyth supported Hoey's comments.

Clearly, the British and Irish governments have failed to establish the political mechanisms that would make violence unnecessary to the people who feel disenfranchised by the governments' stalling of the peace process.

The frustration pervading republican and loyalist areas bears a frightening similarity to the frustration that caused the conflict between the people and the state in the first place. Responsibility rests squarely with the British and Irish governments, who are joint and equal signatories to the Downing Street Declaration and the Framework Document. In these documents, they said they wanted peace. So, where is it, almost two years after the signing of the Downing Street Declaration?

In the August 15 *Irish Times*, writer John Waters described Dublin's failure to address real political problems 25 years ago in terms befitting the British and Irish governments' behavior today: "For the most part, we began to confine our public utterances on the subject of 'the North' to ritualistic condemnations of violence, as though the conflict had no more to do with us than a pub brawl. And we have yet to begin contemplating the possibility that this act of denial was not, as we imagined, a neutral response, but an active agent in the conflict, and a major contributor to the way it developed....What if, having been deserted by those with whom they believed they held common cause, Northern nationalists [and loyalists] began to feel that they [are] without many options?"

Newsbits by Kathy Regan

"The British government is up to its age-old trick of trying to divide and conquer, as far as Sinn Fein is concerned. Splif the [Dublin]-SDLP-Sinn Fein consensus, and the British will again dictate policy on the Northern question--that's the plan, republicans believe." (*Irish Times* 8/7/95)

Britain's demands that the IRA "decommission"--i.e., surrender--its weapons before talks begin caused the collapse of the Dublin-London summit in Sept. The issue of arms--government and paramilitary--must take place as part of the peace process, not as a precondition to it. (*AIN-PEC* 8/7/95)

The RUC have admitted to firing 273 plastic bullets since the start of the IRA ceasefire, with the British army firing six. The RUC have also admitted to having fired 100 bullets in one day following an Apprentice Boys parade in early August. (*IRIS*, 8/95)

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OUR VIEW

The Campaign for a British Apology for the Great Hunger has gained considerable ground since we launched it with our letter to the British ambassador to the US in July. We asked him to urge his government to apologize for the callous neglect that caused the Great Hunger in Ireland 150 years ago. We said this gesture would further the English-Irish peace process by helping to heal the legacy of pain the Irish people and the Irish diaspora continue to experience.

The British government has failed to respond to our correspondence, in which we suggested discussing the matter with them. They have exhibited the same callousness as their political precursors 150 years ago. They are ignoring us in the same way they are ignoring the Irish people's demands for permanent peace. Indeed, the British government is ignoring Ireland's hunger for peace in the same way they ignored their hunger for food a century and a half ago.

This is why it's very important that you respond to our Great Hunger appeal, which you recently received in the mail. Your continued financial and moral support will help keep the spotlight of responsibility on the British for bringing trouble and violence to Ireland. By reminding the world of Britain's neglect of the Irish people 150 years ago, you highlight the trend of neglect running through 800 years of British policy toward Ireland.

Britain must initiate inclusive political talks. Inclusive dialogue is essential to the peace process. Britain mustn't sideline democracy with silly stalling tactics that turn the peace process into a talking shop about the decommissioning of IRA arms. The paramount issue is the political cause of violence--not the violence.

This month's Newsletter includes analyses of current events in Northern Ireland, loyalist and nationalist opinions, and Great Hunger commemoration events as well as our usual features. We have tried to include a variety of very different opinions because inclusive dialogue is essential to peace.

Please support the Great Hunger Apology campaign, which will, indeed, further the English-Irish peace process. This project not only teaches people about Ireland's colonial past and present but also draws attention on Britain's responsibility for the current political crisis in Ireland. It will also gain support for the Irish nationalist position. As Thomas Gallagher, author of Paddy's Lament, said, remembering the nightmare of history "will help prevent it from happening again."

Offensive Situations

by Paul Newman, *New York*

Again it has become a prerequisite to include alcohol when talking about anything Irish. Last month, the PEC reported that members of the Briarcliff Manor, New York, community had said Tara Circle, the American-Irish cultural group, would bring alcohol abuse and noise to their village if they were allowed to establish a cultural center there. Then, in the August 7, 1995 edition of *Adweek*, there is a picture of the

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American Ireland Education Foundation, Inc.

A non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization

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GREAT HUNGER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR: Frank Morris, Jr., 821 Briarwood Ln, Camp Hill, PA 17011-(717) 737-7013

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

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moon and a bottle of **Murphy's** Irish stout with the Irish flag sticking out of it.

There is a caption alongside the picture stating, "The campaign is well-suited to run in both Britain and Ireland, since the Brits enjoy mocking the Irish and the Irish aren't supposed to mind mocking themselves." The not-too-subtle premise of this ad is that nothing of importance comes from Ireland except alcohol. Please write the following letter in your own words or as is to: Mr. Michael Foley, Chairperson, Heineken USA, 50 Main Street, White Plains, NY 10606.

Dear Mr. Foley:

I write to you to express my disgust at an ad campaign your company is running to promote Murphy's stout in Ireland, England, and the US. This ad promotes an insulting stereotype of the Irish as drunkards and of Ireland as an exporter of drinking. Please stop this nonsense immediately.

Sincerely,

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

From the North

by Robert Heatley, *Co-founder of Ireland's Campaign for Democracy, a predominantly Protestant organization*

On August 31, the IRA's ceasefire was one year old. In a review of Britain's performance over this year of ceased military hostilities, Ireland's *Sunday Business Post* summarized the current state of affairs here. The paper said that, other than enhanced Republican status, "[P]recious little else has changed. A few soldiers have been removed to England, some border roads have been reopened, patrolling has been stopped in some districts. But the progress to date has been pitiful, and if the peace process cannot develop some new momentum now, it will be a decade before the prisoners are reunited with their families, regardless of other political developments (if there are any)." (August 27, 1995)

In short, what the British government has done during the year of peace, when it has not been downright provocative, has been widely regarded as minimal.

Given a cessation of Republican paramilitary action, the British had promised that they would respond with "generosity and imagination." For them, like Humpty Dumpty, words seem to mean what they want them to mean, though.

Michael Ancram, the British minister for political affairs in Northern Ireland, has claimed that Sinn Fein, who cooperated with the former Fianna Fail-Labor government and the SDLP in delivering the peace, has "given nothing." Unionists are notorious for their convoluted thinking, and this is a classical example of it. The colonialist British government and its Northern Ireland Office believe the rest of us are incapable of comprehending reality. *They call the ceasefire "nothing."* These games with language have stalled the peace process.

Why do the British governing classes behave in this way with regard to Ireland? While the easement of immediate hardships and repressions is critically important, we must remember these are symptoms of the overall

political problem, not the causes. The solution lies in the sphere of politics. The British, probably believing that it was not going to happen, encouraged the IRA to cease its military campaign by promising that, if it did so, the republican movement would be able to pursue its aims through the political process. In the year since the guns fell silent, the British, with typical perversity and mendacity, have clutched at every straw to prevent this from happening.

Their latest gambit--which preempted the September peace process summit-- is the issue of only the IRA decommissioning weapons. Yet, the real issue is not decommissioning but total demilitarization. Another word game. Decommissioning is merely a blocking gambit the British have employed to prevent inclusive talks. Northern Ireland is a military and bureaucratic travesty of what democracy should be. *This is the real issue.*

With respect to decommissioning, the British would like us to believe the majority's perception of how to resolve the problem is wrong and that only their perception is right. So Ancram chose to interpret President Bill Clinton's statement to former Congressman Bruce Morrison that he "would expect all-party talks to address policing, prisoner releases, decommissioning of weapons, and other issues" to suit British policy: no talks until the decommissioning issue is resolved.

Why are the British behaving so ridiculously? The answer is quite simple. With respect to Ireland, they are unreconstructed colonialists. They see the peace process as a means of pacifying Ireland and as a strategy for attempting to achieve a victory which they could not achieve in 25 years of intense military repression.

If they were to go down the road suggested in President Clinton's letter, the one supported by the Irish side, they would be in mortal danger of having to deal with the substantial political

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matters which are at the root of their ever-present difficulties in the north.

The "and other issues" part of President Clinton's letter could put an end to Britain's stratagem of having to ultimately concede *institutional* changes in the north in exchange for *constitutional* changes by the Republic--i.e., to silence Ireland's claims to the north in exchange for a modified administration of Northern Ireland.

But what about the sensitivities of Northern Ireland's unionists on all these matters? Their sensibilities are largely a cultural creation of the British mass-media and education system. No doubt, given a change of British intentions in a reasonably short time, they could be made to see the good sense of democracy--that is, self-government through Irish unification.

As things are at the moment, the unionists' main use for the British is as pawns to do things that the British would rather not do themselves and to say things which promote British policy objectives--e.g., "We won't talk to Republicans prior to the decommissioning of IRA weapons--and maybe not even then."

Tara Thanks PEC

Last month, we asked members to write letters of support to Tara Circle, an American-Irish cultural group trying to establish a center in Briarcliff Manor, New York. Tara has been facing anti-Irish bigotry from many members of the community there. Tara President Edward Sheeran writes:

Dear Mr. Finucane:

Thank you and all the members of the PEC for your letter and your support in urging all federal and state authorities to conduct an immediate investigation into civil rights violations in Briarcliff Manor. It has been very effective in helping to bring national attention to this issue....

We truly appreciate your support, and thank you and your membership....

Newsbits *cont. from page 1*

A federal judge has declared the US foreign extradition law unconstitutional. The 148-year-old law requires a US court to rule on whether someone can be turned over to a foreign government but leaves the final decision to the State Department. The judge determined that the State Department's power was an improper executive branch review of a court decision. No one had ever challenged the law on separation of powers grounds and no court had raised the issue. It remains to be seen whether this ruling has any implication for four Irishmen fighting extradition to England. (*IRIS*, 9/95)

As time goes on, it will be more expensive to discriminate against Catholics and others. Every time a job is refused to someone because he or she is not a member of a secret society or church, a penalty of some thousands of pounds may have to be paid. The victim will not get the job, but somebody will have to pay the penalty. As it becomes more expensive to give out jobs to people through the secret societies, the Orange Order will lose power and influence. Business people are becoming impatient with the Orange Order because it is helping to prevent what they see as the stability necessary for business. (*Andersonstown News* 8/12/95)

Charles Fried, architect of the US extradition treaty with Britain that sent Joe Doherty and others back to British prisons, has won a seat on the Massachusetts Supreme Court. Although Fried's legal writings have been antagonistic toward civil rights, unions, and working people, he had the support of Mass. Governor **William Weld**, who vetoed MacBride in 1994 and 1995, and Senator **William Bulger**. Bulger supported Boston College's plans to give Margaret Thatcher the Ignatius Medal for humanitarianism [which the PEC prevented BC from presenting]. (*Boston Globe* 8/31/95 and *Boston Herald*, 8/25/95 and 8/31/95)

The Irish in America before the Great Hunger

by Kevin P. Murphy, *Massachusetts*

It is a common misconception that America was free of Irish influence until the 1840s. However, the facts state otherwise. Early Irish immigrants to America worked hard to help form what has become the United States.

The first recorded opposition to British rule in America came in 1660, when Irish-born Teague Jones refused in Yarmouth, Massachusetts, to take an oath to the British crown. He was fined and jailed.

Irish immigrants also helped start many settlements. In 1657, Thomas Lewis of Belfast settled in what is now Albany, New York, as a carpenter. He eventually became a top aide to Dutch Governor Stuyvesant. Charles McCarthy of Cork led a party of 48 Irish immigrants to found East Greenwich, Rhode Island in 1677. In 1678, 100 Irish families escaped slavery in Barbados to settle in Virginia and the Carolinas.

Andrew Mead of Kerry settled Nansemond County, Virginia in 1690. His great-great-great-grandson, General George Mead of the Union Army, was victorious at Gettysburg during the American Civil War. In 1696, Irish families from Waterford settled Burlington County, New Jersey.

Not all Irish immigrants to America were free from persecution, though. In 1688, Irish native Anne Glover, whom Cromwell sold into slavery and sent to Barbados, was executed as a witch in Boston. One of

her offenses was "speaking in tongues." She was speaking in Irish.

Many early Irish-American settlers promoted religious tolerance and justice. William Penn's friend, James Logan, a native of Armagh, became Mayor of Philadelphia in 1699 and allowed Irish immigrants to "freely practice their faith."

In 1688, Charles Carroll of Maryland became Maryland's first attorney general. His grandson, Charles, signed the Declaration of Independence.

Daniel Dulany, born in Ireland, arrived in Maryland in 1703 as an indentured servant. He went on to become a judge. He wrote the first anti-British pamphlet, "The Rights of the Inhabitants of Maryland." His son, Daniel, Jr., became a leading patriot in Maryland.

Many other Irish exiles fought for America's independence from England. In 1770, Irish native Patrick Carr was killed by the British in the Boston Massacre.

In 1775, weeks before the battle of Lexington and Concord, Daniel Boone, along with Irish-born explorers named McGrady, Harland, and McBride, established the first settlement in Kentucky.

Thus, historical facts show that the American Irish were a part of this nation nearly two centuries before the Great Hunger of the 1840s.

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DAILY @ NEWS

NEW YORK'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 1995

Great Britain should apologize to the Irish

By Albert Doyle, *Vice-president, American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC*

President Jacques Chirac of France recently admitted the complicity of the Vichy French government in the Nazi persecution of Jews. Even Japan's prime minister has apologized for Japanese atrocities during World War II.

Now it is time for another historic apology for another historic offense: Great Britain should apologize for its conduct during the Irish famine.

The perfect occasion is at hand: Today marks the beginning of the commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the famine. That tragedy--also known as the "Great Hunger" or the potato famine--is deeply burned into the souls of millions of Irish, many of whom owe their dispersal all over the world to this terrible event.

This commemoration will last five years--the length of the famine itself. Significantly, it begins while the British-Irish peace process is struggling forward to the general approval of the world.

The catastrophe of 1845-1850 caused the death of well over one million people and the scattering of an estimated two million more. Britain ruled Ireland at the time of the famine, and contemporary historians recognize that Britain's misguided laissez-faire economic policies and undemocratic political organization of Ireland converted the potato blight into a tragedy. After all, the same blight also struck potato crops throughout Europe, yet only in Ireland was there a famine. British political leaders of the time deliberately limited relief efforts in Ireland under the assumption that the

workings of the market and private charity would fill the gap.

Because almost all the famine victims were Gaelic Catholic peasants who did not own the land they farmed, the political system deprived them of any voice in government. Religious and economic discrimination left leadership in the hands of a landlord class that had nothing in common with the victims--except, in many cases, mutual hostility.

These peasants had been able to subsist on the potato in better times. In fact, Ireland had always produced exportable foodstuffs, but these were used during the famine to pay rent to alien landlords.

Knowledge of this has fueled the resentment of the Irish against Britain over many years and in many countries. Britain must accept the burden of responsibility. Recognition of that burden, however, need not be the source of more English-Irish bitterness. Rather, it can be an opportunity for healing and a furtherance of the peace process.

The American Ireland Education Foundation, through its Political Education Committee, a New York-based organization, has started a campaign to seek British recognition of their historic responsibility for the excesses of the famine.

This is the moment

There will never be a better time for this apology. If it comes, perhaps then it will no longer be necessary to remind Britain of the infamous comment in The Times of London at

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the height of the famine exodus:

"They are going! They are going! The Irish are going with a vengeance! ... Law has ridden through Ireland; it has taugh with bayonets, and interpreted with ruin. Townships leveled to the ground, stragglng columns of exiles, workhouses multiplied and still crowded, express the determination of the legislature to rescue Ireland from its slovenly old barbarism and to plant there the institutions of this more civilized land."

It is time to put the spirit of that quote behind us. How about it, Great Britain?

[Reprinted with permission of Daily News L.P.]

Please write the following letter to British Ambassador John Kerr, 3100 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20008.

Dear Ambassador:
Please commemorate the 150th anniversary of Ireland's Great Hunger by urging your government to apologize to the Irish people for this calamity. This apology will assist the peace process by helping to heal the legacy of pain the Irish people still experience.
Sincerely,

For more information, contact:

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

[Editor's Note: Although we do not endorse the loyalist political position, we are publishing a loyalist opinion here so our readers will have a first-hand account of the current loyalist point-of-view.] More than a year into the IRA ceasefire, the people of Northern Ireland have adapted rapidly to the relative peace in our country. The loyalist paramilitary truce also passed its one-year hurdle. Many people, who are relieved that the killings have stopped, are asking the question, "Will it hold?" While the peace is still a very tender plant, I believe that the war is over and I would be optimistic for the future.

A LOYALIST PERSPECTIVE ON THE YEAR OF PEACE IN IRELAND

by Sammy Douglas, Team Leader of East Belfast Development Agency

After 25 years of conflict, both communities are enjoying a return to normality, free from the threat of bombs and bullets. Business confidence is booming, the soldiers have disappeared off the streets, and their places have been taken by tourists who have flooded back. On the political, economic, military, and paramilitary fronts, no one can be in any doubt just what changes have taken place.

In late May of this year, President Clinton, who played a key role in creating the conditions for peace in Northern Ireland, convened an historic three-day Conference for Trade and Investment in Ireland in Washington, DC. During the conference, there was a recognition that the hundreds of redundant paramilitaries roaming the streets of Northern Ireland must benefit from any peace dividend and that the best cement for peace is to get people working.

During a year of relative calm, people have been edging out of their sectarian bunkers and religious ghettos, crossing boundaries that were formerly too dangerous. My mother, who was raised in west Belfast, recently returned there for the first time in many years. As a Protestant, she felt safe to visit these areas which at one time would have been "no go" for members of the unionist tradition.

In Belfast in early September, the names of the 3,173 victims of violence were scrolled across an electronic screen, a poignant remembrance of the horror of the Troubles.

Most people, including the paramilitaries, want the ceasefire to hold and do not want to go back to those dark days of misery and fear.

Yet, while the guns are silent, it is acknowledged that peace is still very fragile and, like the experience of other countries in conflict, an agreed political accommodation will take time. The first twelve months of peace may well turn out to be the easy ones as the peace process becomes a bitter unarmed struggle. Creating the right atmosphere for lifelong protagonists to sit down and work out entrenched differences will take much longer.

Gerry Adams, in a *Belfast Telegraph* interview on September 6, 1994, said, "Republicans have often claimed that in the event of a new situation developing in Ireland, we would prove to be generous. That situation has now arrived."

The Protestant community has yet to see such generosity. Instead, all they see are: Republicans continuing to target loyalists; joint statements emanating from Sinn Fein, SDLP, and the Dublin government with the apparent approval from the US Administration, Republican fire bomb attacks on Protestant churches and halls belonging to the Orange Order (which have actually increased since the IRA ceasefire) and an orchestrated campaign to ban traditional loyalist marches.

It is incumbent on the republican movement to allay the genuine fears of Protestants who feel a growing sense of alienation and who see themselves in retreat on a number of

fronts. Many Protestants are fearful that the present peace process is a one-way street to an all-Ireland solution that has often been associated with a religious, cultural, and national identity alien to our community. Twenty-five years of militant republicanism has done nothing to dispel this notion.

When John Major stated in the Downing Street Declaration that "Britain has no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland," it brought home to many people within the unionist family that our special relationship with Britain has changed forever. Britain wants out of Northern Ireland, if only we damned loyalists would allow them! Many Protestants are now willing to seriously question our "blind allegiance" to Britain when clearly we are not wanted, and to look at imaginative ways of solving our ancient quarrels.

I believe that the majority of the unionist community, particularly the Protestant working-class, does not want to go back to the old days of dominance when a small unionist elite, the aristocracy and title-holders held and manipulated their power and used it as a sectarian tool against the Catholic community. There is a genuine desire within our community for the ceasefire to continue and to set in place political structures in Northern Ireland that reflect the ideas and concerns of both communities, and where equal rights for all are guaranteed.

We are willing to acknowledge the injustice, hurt, and injury that we have inflicted on fellow Irishmen and women, and to strive for mutual understanding and a desire to face the future together. Peace will then become not just an absence of violence but a normal, everyday experience for everyone in Northern Ireland, Protestant, Catholic, and dissenter alike.

For information, contact:

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Senator Bob Dole: What's His Position on the Peace Process?

Senator **Bob Dole's** press office has told the PEC it could not provide a statement of the senator's position on the English-Irish peace process because they "don't think he has put out a press release [on Ireland] in the past year."

Even though the loyalist and republican ceasefires have been in place for a year and the peace process presents the greatest opportunity for Irish unity, freedom, and self-determination in 800 years of English-Irish politics, Dole remains silent.

Press officer Jeremy Wallison told the PEC he "wouldn't interpret [Dole's] silence as saying [the peace process] is not an issue. There are so many issues," Wallison said, that Dole "is not able to speak on all of them."

Nonetheless, Dole took the time to thank former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher for her endorsement of his campaign for the Republican Party's presidential nomination. Yet, Thatcher's bigotry, injustices, and human rights abuses in Northern Ireland have been well-documented throughout the world.

Wallison told the PEC, "We'll have to pin [Dole] down eventually and get a statement" of his position on the peace process. PEC assured Dole's offices this issue will be a primary consideration for voters concerned about peace in Ireland.

We must maintain pressure on Dole to publicly support the English-Irish peace process. Last month, we asked members to write to their senators who are supporting Dole's campaign for the Republican Party's presidential nomination and encourage them to pressure Dole to support the peace process. This month, we're asking members whose representatives are listed below to write and encourage these men and women to pressure Dole to publicly support the peace process also. (Their address is: House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.)

If your representative is not listed below, please write to Dole's office again, asking him to support the English-Irish peace process and reminding him that this is a serious concern for you as a voter. Tell Dole and his supporters you are also writing to Senator **Phil Gramm** of Texas with the hope that he will endorse the peace process. Gramm is a potential contender as the Republican Party's presidential candidate. *We must act now to ensure that US participation in the peace process is continued.*

William Barrett (NE)	Herbert Batement (VA)	Douglas Bereuter (NE)
Michael Bilirakis (FL)	Peter Blute (MA)	Sherwood Bochlert (NY)
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Bill Emerson (MO)	Mark Foley (FL)	Michael Forbes (NY)
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Benjamin Gilman (NY)	Rod Grams (MN)	Amo Houghton, Jr. (NY)
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Susan Molinari (NY)	John Myers (IN)	Sue Myrick (NC)
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Jack Quinn (NY)	Jim Ramstad (MN)	Ralph Regula (OH)
Frank Riggs (CA)	Pat Roberts (KS)	Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (FL)
Dan Schaefer (CO)	Steven Schiff (NM)	Clay Shaw, Jr. (FL)
Joe Skeen (NM)	Olympia Snowe (ME)	Gerald Solomon (NY)
Floyd Spence (SC)	Craig Thomas (WY)	Todd Tiahrt (KS)
Peter Torkildsen (MA)	James Walsh (NY)	J. C. Watts (OK)
Edward Whitfield (KY)	William Zeliff (NH)	

See Action Request on Page Six

Irish Brigade Monument at Antietam

The efforts of **Jack O'Brien**, PEC's Maryland State Director, have helped win the National Park Service's final approval for the construction of the Irish Brigade Monument at Antietam National Battlefield in Maryland. The monument will honor Irish soldiers who fought and died in the battle of Antietam Creek during the Civil War.

"Americans of Irish heritage are delighted that, after a 133-year lapse in historical memory, the accomplishments of the Irish Brigade at Antietam will forever be recognized in stone," Jack said.

Two bronze sculptures will be embedded in a piece of granite from Ireland. The front will depict a battle scene, and the back will be a bust of the Brigade's Commander, Thomas Francis Meagher.

The monument will stand near the observation tower at "Bloody Lane," where more than 500 Irishmen from the brigade were killed or injured in the bloodiest one-day battle of the Civil War.

How to Participate in the Peace Process

At upcoming dances, concerts, festivals, and so on, you can:

- distribute PEC membership information and *Reproduce & Distribute* articles;
- get British Apology petitions signed;
- set up information tables.

Send PEC *Reproduce & Distribute* articles to your local media and tell them to contact the National Office for more information about the Great Hunger Commemoration and the English-Irish peace process.

For more information, contact:
**American Ireland
Education Foundation-PEC
54 South Liberty Drive
Stony Point, NY 10980
(914) 947-2726**

Action Requests

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

1. Hon. Phil Gramm
370 Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-4302

Message: I respectfully urge you to publicly support the English-Irish peace process by endorsing our government's Irish peace policy. This is an important concern for many American voters.

2. Hon. Bob Dole
141 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510-1601

Message: I respectfully urge you to respond to American voters who have been asking you to publicly endorse the English-Irish peace process. Please support the process by pressuring Britain to begin all-party talks immediately.

3. Don't forget!
Please send a
monthly donation
to support the PEC.

GREAT HUNGER BUMPER STICKER

Ireland's Great Hunger, 150th Anniversary

Pay tribute to the millions of Irish who died or fled Ireland during the Great Hunger of the 1840s by displaying this bumper sticker on your vehicle. You'll also be reminding friends, family, and passersby that it's time to commemorate Ireland's Great Hunger. **\$2.00 ea.; 6 or more, \$1 ea.**



RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Outlines in Irish History, Seamus P. Metress

Using an easy-to-follow question-and-answer format, Professor Seamus Metress explores the major events and personalities of Irish history, beginning with pre-Celtic times and continuing to the present ceasefire. The book provides a panoramic view of the Irish that still contains an in-depth treatment of Irish nationalism. Lists references for further study. Paperback, 176 pages **\$8.95**

Song of the Silent Harp, B.J. Hoff

Song of the Silent Harp begins the story of two Irish families trying to survive and hold on to their faith in God during the Great Hunger of the mid-1800s. This is a novel about deep spiritual struggle and commitment against a political background of the Young Ireland rebels and merciless absentee landlords. Paperback, 414 pages **\$9.95**

The Story of the Irish Race, Seumas MacManus

MacManus presents the whole saga of the Irish from the earliest times to our own. He gives not only facts, dates, and names but also a real sense of the temperament of a people, their way of life, ideals, and an understanding of their culture. Hardcover, 737 pages **\$18.95**

Make checks payable to the AIEF-PEC. New York state residents add sales tax.
Add \$2.50 postage and handling for the first item and 50 cents for each additional item.

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Members receive the monthly *American Irish Newsletter*.

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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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