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## American Irish Newsletter - June 1994

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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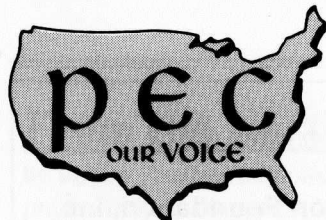
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### Recommended Citation

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - June 1994" (1994). *American Irish Newsletter*. 96.

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# AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 19, Number 6

June 15, 1994

## SUPPORT OUR 1994 RAFFLE

### Every Member Is Asked To Support This Raffle

Enclosed with this newsletter is a book of six raffle tickets. The tickets cost \$3 each (six tickets for \$15). The drawing will take place on Saturday, September 24, 1994. Winners will be announced in the newsletter.

The prizes are: 2 Round-Trip Tickets to Ireland from New York or Boston or \$1,000 cash, and 5 \$100 consolation prizes. Please return the stubs with your check payable to PEC-AIEF in the enclosed envelope.

### Volunteers Are Needed To Sell Tickets

To order extra books of raffle tickets call 800 777-6807 or write: PEC-AIEF, 54 South Liberty Drive, Suite 401, Stony Point, NY 10980. Please specify how many books you want. Your help is important to maintaining our operations. (Purchase of tickets is not necessary to enter raffle.)

## Nebraska Adopts MacBride

On April 20, 1994 Nebraska Governor **Benjamin Nelson** signed into law the MacBride Principles, making his state the fourteenth state to do so.

**Larry Doyle**, Nebraska State Director of the PEC-American Ireland Education Foundation (PEC-AIEF), said the passage of the MacBride legislation marked the successful completion of a five year campaign. In the end it took some parliamentary slight of hand to achieve victory. The MacBride legislation was attached as an amendment to a bill repealing sanctions against South Africa.

The MacBride campaign in Nebraska could best be described as a David vs. Goliath battle. Nebraska is hardly a hotbed of Irish American activism. Over the years the PEC's pro-MacBride activists spent less than one thousand dollars, while the British Government spent well over \$20,000 in lobbyist fees and importing witnesses as part of its anti-MacBride efforts. The British also had the state's largest newspaper, the *Omaha World Herald* in their corner. According to Doyle, "You don't have to be fancy, just persistent."

Doyle, who headed Nebraska's MacBride campaign since its inception in 1989, had high praise for Omaha State Senator, **Tim Hall**, who picked up the ball for MacBride last year and took it all the way. Doyle also praised Omaha State Senator **Ernie Chambers**, the sponsor of the South African sanctions repeal Bill, who supported the MacBride amendment which was crucial to this success. Doyle also noted a special thank you was due to PEC member **Jim Birkel**, a constituent of Senator Hall, who persuaded the senator to sponsor the MacBride legislation.

The PEC-AIEF congratulates all involved in this major success. PEC-AIEF activists have played a leading or prominent role in many of the MacBride successes.

## Newsbits by Kathy Regan

Loyalist paramilitaries have stepped up their campaign against Catholics in Northern Ireland. The Ulster Freedom Fighters, whose leader has been identified as a former British soldier, warned that the British government is preparing for a united Ireland, "Putting the structures in place so that, when it eventually comes about, it will not seem like a big step... Our enemy is coming from three fronts, Sinn Fein-IRA, the Irish government and the SDLP.

Anybody...who aids and abets them will be targeted." The Ulster Defense Association will continue its activities, "even if the IRA were to lay down its arms permanently." Both say that their days of reacting to IRA violence are over and that they will now be proactive in taking their fight to Sinn Fein and its supporters. (Irish Post, 4/23/94)

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The new Parliamentary Select Committee on Northern Ireland, established to watch over the Northern Ireland Office and the work of the Secretary of State, will have a built-in unionist majority. Conservative and unionist parties will fill ten places, the Labour Party gets two and the SDLP, representing the minority community in Northern Ireland, will get one...The SDLP with 23.5% of the vote in Northern Ireland gets the same representation as the

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## OUR VIEW

**I AM IMPORTANT!** That's right! You are very important in the democratic campaign to bring peace with justice to Ireland, regardless of where you live. The most important thing you can do is write letters and educate others in your community, including non-Irish. If you write the letters we request in the newsletter and/or distribute the R&Ds, you are making a world of difference -- you are communicating and educating. Our problem has been that the vast majority of Irish Americans don't write letters or educate themselves, or others, on this issue.

Who is more effective: one person who writes to President Clinton asking him to become involved in bringing peace to Ireland (one letter to the President represents the views of 1,000 people), or a group of 75 informed people at a meeting talking to themselves about the importance of Clinton's involvement, but who don't write to him? Obviously the letter writer is more effective because they are communicating their opinions to the President. And that is what counts. The group of 75 is not effective because nobody outside the meeting room learns of their views -- they are not communicating.

The same holds true with the distribution of information. One person sending our R&D's to influential people in their community is much more effective than 75 informed people discussing the English-Irish conflict among themselves. The distributor of information is educating others.

Anything you do to inform someone about this issue is effective. Whether you write letters, or give information to friends, relatives, business associates, etc., or you pass out hundreds of pieces of PEC materials to fellow Irish Americans at Irish festivals, dances, concerts, etc., or to the public at train stations, colleges, etc., your efforts are very important. You are communicating our message and in doing so you are educating others. It is your efforts that make the PEC-AIEF successful. You are advancing the prospects for peace in Ireland.

And peace with justice is closer today than ever before. For the first time a US President has peace in Ireland on his agenda. Why? Because you and people like you have taken the time to write letters and/or educate others. **YOU ARE MAKING THE ISSUE!**

## Use The PEC Telephone Hotline (914) 429-7849

Letter writers should call the *Hotline* which is a 24-hour, 7-day a week service. We provide the name, address (sometimes a phone number) of a person to write concerning the English-Irish conflict. We also provide a sample letter. This brief message is repeated.

## Political Education Committee (PEC)

### American Ireland Education Foundation, Inc.

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

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## Attention New Jersey Residents

A MacBride Principles contract compliance bill has been introduced in New Jersey by State Senator **Henry McNamara** and State Assemblyman **John Kelly**. Contract compliance bills penalize companies that do business with the state that have operations in Northern Ireland and do not comply with the MacBride Principles of Fair Employment in Northern Ireland.

Please write or call your state senator at Senate Majority Office, State House, CN099, Trenton, NJ, 08625 and Assemblyperson at Assembly Majority Office, State House, CN098, Trenton, NJ, 08625. Urge your senator to support Bill #331 and your assemblyperson to support Bill #2867. Be sure to mention the MacBride Principles and the name of the appropriate Bill sponsors above in your letter.



## From the North

by Robert Heatley, co-founder, *Campaign For Democracy, Northern Ireland*, a predominantly Protestant organization that supports a united Ireland

For long periods during the past 25 years, the British newsmedia, meeting the needs of Britain's political establishment, has tried to portray the on-going Anglo-Irish conflict - centered on the north east of Ireland - as being one of **violence** essentially. Furthermore this violence has been one-sided, emanating from the Irish, those in the north-east particularly, who are against all reason and standards of modernity, locked in an out-dated internecine sectarian religious squabble.

The chief culprits, according to the British, have been "gunmen" from the Catholic side. Protestant (their word for it ought to be Loyalist) violence is "reactive" and that for which the armed-forces of the British state is accountable has been necessary to deal with the Republican bad guys, the criminal chief culprits and then to keep the two sides apart. Another much loved British word in this context is "tribes".

But those Catholics who call themselves Republicans, should not be regarded as having a **political** motive for their depredations. That is only a cover for their anti-Protestant sectarianism and their actual criminality. Thus has gone the British presentation of the issue up until very recent times when, despite all their propagandistic efforts, they have been increasingly forced to admit that the struggle is, in reality, a political one.

And just what is this political struggle about? When all the propagandistic dross has been removed, the issue is quite simple. Those who call themselves, and who genuinely are, Republicans believe that the Irish people, Catholic and Protestant, have a right in confraternity to rule themselves free from the interference of England. Furthermore, they believe that, once free from this outside interference, the Irish people are quite capable of fashioning, by discussion, agreement and consent, indigenous State structures to accommodate all the varieties of

Irishness quite regardless of religious and other kinds of distinctions.

This state would most probably be secular and pluralist. Within its boundaries it would have all-Ireland institutions genuinely democratically accountable to its electorate enabling self-government. This new departure would replace the presently existing military and bureaucratic British state in the north-east which, for over seventy years, has relied on state granted religious discrimination in order to preserve England's sovereignty there.

At long-last the spokespeople for Britain's political establishment are admitting that what has been described here as the principles of Irish Republicanism are "legitimate" and perfectly permissible. And why wouldn't they be? Are they not the same as those upon which the USA was founded? When, in October 1791, a group of people (everyone of whom was a Protestant) met in Belfast to found the Society of United Irishmen, it was to the American and the French revolutions that they looked for their inspiration.

In the intervening years, England has used her colonialist might to frustrate these democratic aspirations of generations of Catholic and Protestant Irish people. She has used her superior resources to misrepresent the Irish cause and to present it as a squalid sectarian squabble originating from among the Irish themselves.

If behavior such as this has caused some sections of the Irish to respond in a militaristic fashion, then whatever one may think of such a response, it is clear that England has, in very large measure, only herself to blame. One would hope that, in developments which have been taking place recently, signs are beginning to emerge of a change in England's misguided historical strategy of divide and rule in Ireland.

## How You Can Help

### New Self-Mailer Membership Brochure

We now have available a one-piece self-mailer membership brochure. All you have to do is affix a 29 cent stamp to the brochure and mail it to people you believe will share our views. You can also hand them out. To order the brochures free of charge call 800 777-6807 or write. Please specify amount needed.

### PEC Information Table

You can easily set up a *Northern Ireland Information Table* at events in your community -- Irish festivals, concerts, dances, etc. All you have to do is make copies of articles from newsletters, particularly *Reproduce & Distribute* articles, and lay them out. We still have available past copies of newsletters for this purpose. If you would like some copies for distribution drop us a line or give us a call.

### National Telephone Chain

We are in the process of expanding our National Telephone Chain. The chain will be used only in urgent situations. For example, during the successful effort to win a visa for Mr. Gerry Adams, we activated the chain to get members to call the White House in support of the visa.

If you would like to be on the National Telephone Chain send us your name, address and phone numbers (daytime and evening numbers) or you can call them in.



### Newsbits *con't from page 1*

Ulster Popular Unionist Party with 2.5% of the vote. The committee has been opposed by Labour and the SDLP as strengthening the union between England and Northern Ireland. As the Ulster Unionist Party stated, it is "the first positively unionist move by a British government since 1979." Labor Party spokesperson on Northern Ireland, Kevin McNamara, claimed the new move will damage the prospects for peace, "Ulster Unionists have always managed to secure a large measure of their integrationist agenda. As a result, there has been no incentive for them to compromise or accept a form of government with adequate recognition of national rights and aspirations." (Irish Post, 4/9/94)

\*\*\*\*

Sometimes one could be forgiven for believing that there are people out there who wouldn't want peace if it was handed to them on a silver platter. The IRA was never going to declare an unconditional end to hostilities... Yet the public response from the British and Unionists to the three-day IRA ceasefire has been depressingly predictable. One wonders if the reaction could have been any more hostile had the IRA, instead of inviting progress by laying down its arms for 72 hours, dismissed all talk of peace and asserted that military force alone will get the British out of Ireland. (Andersonstown News, 4/9/94)

\*\*\*\*

When people who have been discriminated against take their cases to court, they may get some money, paid for out of public funds, but they will not get jobs. As long as employers can find the money to pay for compensation, they will not worry too much about fair hiring practices. Queen's University laid aside enormous sums of money in case it had to pay compensation for unfair hiring. However, money is not given to universities to fight cases brought by people claiming to have been unfairly treated by them. It is given for education and research... Money should not be spent for purposes other than those for which it was given... The time has come for a public demand that money paid to public bodies for health, welfare and education should be used in that way and in no other. Fighting cases which should not have been allowed to arise does not come under the heading of any of them. If that demand is made, then a parallel demand should be made - that in future all payments of compensation for unfair employment must come out of the pockets of those people directly responsible for it. (Andersonstown News, 4/9/94)

## Clinton Special Envoy Resolution Update!

Although in its early stages, the grassroots drive to get states, municipalities and organizations throughout the country to adopt the Clinton Special Envoy Resolution is meeting with good initial success.

This activity is encouraging, but there is still much more to be done to bring the issue of the north of Ireland, specifically President Clinton's promised peace envoy, to the fore in American consciousness.

If you are willing to get the Clinton Envoy Resolution adopted by your state, a municipality or organization, you can obtain a copy (with instructions) from the PEC-AIEF at 800-777-6807.

Copies of approved resolutions must be sent to President Clinton, your US Senators, your Congressional Representative(s) and the PEC-AIEF.

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### Look Who Has Already Adopted the Clinton Special Envoy Resolution

(and sent a copy to the PEC-American Ireland Education Foundation.)

- . The Incorporated Society of Irish/American Lawyers, Michigan Chapter, proposed by secretary **James McCann**
- . The Legislature of Rockland County, New York proposed by legislators **Patrick Moroney** and **John Murphy**
- . The Bronx Gaelic League, proposed by member **Kathy Regan**
- . The Bronx County Board of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, proposed by member **Mary Holt Moore**
- . The Bronx County Board of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, proposed by member **Thomas McGrath**

## *Gilman Language In State Department Bill Urges U.S. To Aid Peace Process In Northern Ireland*

WASHINGTON -- The House on Thursday, April 28 adopted language by Congressman Benjamin Gilman that calls on the US to assist in the peace process in Northern Ireland.

Gilman, ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, added the language at a House-Senate conference on the State Department Authorization Bill for fiscal years 1994 and 1995.

The Senate earlier had adopted language saying that the US should "strongly encourage all parties to the conflict in the North to renounce violence and to participate in the current search for peace in the region."

Gilman added language to the measure that calls on the US to also "assist in furthering the peace process where appropriate."

By adopting this language, Gilman said, "the Congress has confirmed the important role the US government must be ready and willing to play to assist the peace process in Northern Ireland, especially when it stalls."

Gilman also reiterated his call for President Clinton to implement his promise to appoint a special peace envoy for Northern Ireland to help facilitate the process.

# *Ireland's Partition:*

## **A Policy That Should Never Have Been Implemented**

by Tony McCabe

*Co-director, Spring Hill Community Center, Belfast, Northern Ireland*

"The sole question before the nation, Dail Eireann, and the delegation was how is it possible to effect an association with the British Commonwealth which would be honorable to the Irish nation."

Erskine Childers...Treaty Debates...1921

Childers' reflection in 1921 is as relevant today as it was then. The relationship between Ireland and Britain still revolves around what arrangements Ireland and Britain come to that give Ireland the dignity of a sovereign nation.

The acceptance by Dail Eireann of the terms imposed by the Anglo/Irish Treaty in 1921, when the Free State government acquiesced to British demands for the partition of the nation, ensured that Ireland would never achieve her full independence from the British Empire. Not only was Ireland to be denied the right to unification and the ability to control her own destiny, the partitioning of the industrial sector from the rest of the nation also ensured that Ireland would be subservient to the wishes of the British government and the British economy. For many of the men and women who had fought for the ideals and vision of an Irish Republic, the partitioning of their country and denial of Ireland's rights to be a true, free and independent nation was unacceptable and their rejection led to an open breach between fellow Irishmen and ultimately to the tragedy of the Civil War.

For the twenty-six counties of Ireland that achieved some measure of independence from Britain, the partition of the country has still left an indelible legacy. The resulting Civil War still mars Irish politics to this very day. Ireland has never truly emerged as an independent nation, her economy has been controlled and her only real fiscal policy was to encourage her young people to emigrate.

But, if partition was to inhibit the growth of the people of the twenty-six counties, it was to plunge the remaining six counties into a state of virtual siege. Within the six counties, two differing traditions lived, those who wanted the unification of Ireland and those who

wanted union with Britain. These traditions became further complicated when those of the differing political aspirations also had different religious beliefs.

Northern Irish nationalists became virtual prisoners in their own country. In Ireland as a whole they constituted a majority. Within British-created Northern Ireland they represented a minority. For them, the political, religious and economic equality granted to fellow Irish people in the 26 counties, and to the rest of the citizens of Great Britain, was denied. Nationalists were denied political representation, equality in the workplace, equality in the allocation of homes and a denial of their ability to express their national identity. Coupled with these forms of oppression was the use of the Special Powers Act, an integral piece of legislation that gave the Northern Ireland state the powers to arrest and detain anyone without the right to trial, the powers to prohibit the right to protest and the power over life and death.

But, despite the oppression, the Irish nationalists in the six counties still maintained their dignity and ability to demand their freedoms. They were not subdued or cowed, and this ability to overcome the adversities placed on them by the state served to reinforce the insecurities felt by the State and her supporters.

In reality, even those who gained economically from partition have always had the sense that democracy is one day

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going to supersede them and their privileged position will someday erode. This fear and insecurity have developed into abject paranoia and have been the main driving force behind all opposition to any liberal reforms that might have won a large percentage of northern nationalists into accepting the Northern Ireland state. This rejection of equality in the ethos of the Northern Ireland state and a longing for eventual unification have been the driving forces behind the present unrest in the six-county state.

Even for the British, partition has become a legacy that has come back to haunt them. Initially, partition seemed the best of all solutions. It conferred on the British power without responsibility and it removed the Irish problem from the British political arena. It is well to remember that this problem threatened to engulf the entire British island in civil war. For the last 20 years, Ireland once again became a major issue in Britain. British troops are fighting and dying once again to enforce the rule of Westminster on Irish soil. Britain, once the leading nation in Europe in demanding and defending the ideals of freedom and liberty, is being condemned in international courts for its actions in Ireland.

The present phase of the conflict between those who seek equality, freedom and justice and those who wish to impose their will on the Irish people has cost over 3,000 lives. Thousands more have been injured and jailed. Thousands have lost their homes and businesses and thousands have become psychologically damaged. This is too high a price to pay for the maintenance of a policy that should never have been implemented.

### **BE A PEACEMAKER**

**Support  
The PEC-American Ireland  
Education Foundation**

For Information call 800 777-6807;  
or write: 54 South Liberty Drive,  
Stony Point, NY 10980

**Published June 1994 by PEC-AIEF**



Six not-guilty verdicts were handed down on Tuesday, April 26, after three days of deliberations by the Tucson jury charged to decide the fate of four Irishmen and two Americans charged with arms running beginning in 1989. The eight-week trial of Thomas Maguire, Gerard (Tony) Brannigan, Patrick Moley, Denis Leyne, John Joseph Lynch and William F. Kelly was hard-fought, but the outcome was foreshadowed two weeks before the verdict when federal Judge John Roll stated in the absence of the jury that, while the prosecution had brought forth a massive case, there was "no smoking gun" linking the six to the alleged conspiracy. "The evidence, for the most part, is not overwhelming against any of the defendants," he said. The six men were charged in November 1992 with conspiring to supply the IRA with 2,900 detonators, .50-caliber sniper rifles and a Stinger surface-to-air missile. "It was a political witchhunt," said Brannigan. "This was persecution, not prosecution, not only of the named defendants but of the whole Irish-American community....After one and a half years of nonsense, it took 12 honest men and women to see through the garbage," said Leyne.

## ***Tucson 6: Not Guilty***

by Dorothy Pennachio, *New Jersey*

The jury foreman said he wondered why the case had been brought to trial at all, given the quality of the evidence. "There was so much speculation, so much innuendo, so much 'what if'...[The defendants] came across as guys who perhaps knew what was going on, but were not involved....We were waiting for the one-two punch," he said.

During summations it became clear that the Government had failed to prove its case. Because the prosecution's evidence was weak, the Government used information that wasn't relevant to the case to vilify the defendants. The jury evidently saw through this and several times asked to rehear tapes and review evidence while deliberating. Since March 1, when the trial began, the Government presented 157 witnesses: the defense team presented between 15 and 20.

Thomas Maguire was targeted from the beginning by the prosecution as the bag man for the conspiracy operation because the amount of money going through his corporate account could be presented as money-laundering. Maguire's attorney successfully showed that his client was in the process of renovating his bar during the relevant period of time and that once the bar opened, Maguire, like many New York bar owners, provided a legitimate check-cashing service. Because this practice is foreign to Tucson's way of thinking, it is said that was one of the reasons the trial was brought from the New York area to Tucson.

A number of points had undermined the prosecution's case throughout the trial. The testimony of prosecution

witness Marvin "Chuck" Jameson was called into question when, the day after Jameson testified that he and Kevin McKinley, one of the fourteen named in the superseding indictment of the U.S. District Court, District of Arizona, (the indictment against the Tucson 14), picked up 2,900 detonators from the Rillito, Arizona, storage bunker of Ireco, Inc., an explosives company, Tim Hine, who was plant manager of Ireco at the time of the alleged buy (November 28, 1989), testified that Jameson had indeed picked up the detonators, but with him was an Hispanic man who spoke no English whom Jameson introduced as "a Mexican investor."

In addition, points in the testimony of Randall L. Folgate, a defendant who turned government's witness in exchange for leniency, contradicted evidence presented by Jameson.

Much of the prosecution's evidence was in the form of recorded conversations obtained secretly by the FBI. The defense team pointed out that the conversations could not be construed as conspiratorial and that contention was buttressed when New York Congressman Peter King testified that immigrants from the north of Ireland often spoke guardedly because, in the society from which they came, their conversations were routinely monitored.

In addition, a prosecution witness admitted under cross examination that there were inaccuracies in the transcripts of taped telephone conversations submitted to the jury. The court ruled that a tape allegedly representing a conversation between Seamus Moley and

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Aiden Moley was inaudible. Aiden Moley and three others are still facing extradition from Britain, but the Tucson Six verdict most likely will affect this.

The Government, particularly the FBI, wreaked havoc in the Irish-American community by bringing this unsubstantiated case to trial. The arrests of the six were sensationalized and excessively high bail was imposed; one of the defendants lost his business, relationships were strained, and activists devoted their energies to defense funds instead of promoting peace with justice in an independent, reunited Ireland. The resources of concerned people were strained and those who dared to promote the case of Irish freedom were harassed and forced to question their better instincts. Maguire's financial records are being held by the Government, thought by his attorney to be a threat of a future IRS investigation. He intends to file motions to get all of his client's property back, which the Government has been holding since 1992.

But theirs was nonetheless a substantial victory for concerned Americans when you consider that people organizing in the Tucson area and throughout the US overcame the Government's persecution efforts.

**Excepting the Irish press, coverage of this case was nearly nonexistent. The *New York Times* pilloried the defendants when arrests were made, but there was no mention when their acquittal came down.**

One of the Tucson attorneys says that having this case take place where it did had the effect of politicizing the Tucson community. "Where there was very little interest in Irish politics before the trial, now several hundred people here are well versed in government harassment of the Irish-American community and outraged about it."

## **Be A Peacemaker**

For information call the PEC-American Ireland Education Foundation at 800 777-6807; or write: 54 South Liberty Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980

**Published June 1994 by PEC-AIEF**

# Northern Ireland: *An Un-American Experience*

by Stephanie Finucane

My first visit to Northern Ireland was not what I expected. Fortunately, I did not walk into the middle of any crossfire or smell any gunpowder in the air. I found none of the overt signs of war. Yet, when I looked closer at what seemed a normal place, I did discern a society carrying on with everyday life in the midst of a war zone subtly decorated with mud-green fences surrounding British barracks and ubiquitous surveillance towers; military check points manned by British troops; those same young British soldiers running through the "normal" cities on routine exercises, disturbing the "peace"; military landrovers commuting

among taxis and passenger cars; painted exterior walls commemorating heroes of war, and painted sidewalks saluting the ethnocentrism and "superiority" of the British government: all part of the kaleidoscope of daily life in Northern Ireland. I saw a society carry on with daily life while all around a foreign power maintained a centuries-old tradition of taking every measure possible to siphon off any ounce of hope left among the nationalist community. Making sure that any nationalist born into the war in Northern Ireland is guaranteed a future easily described with two words: dead end.

## The Siege of Crossmaglen!

*Reprinted from the Sunday Press  
April 26, 1994*

The people of Crossmaglen in south Armagh are besieged; they are prisoners in their own village and are being treated nastily and with great discourtesy by the occupying British army. Children, women and men are being punished. They deserve the outspoken support of all politicians.

If the British army acted like this in any other village in these islands there would be an outcry, national and international. That army, after all, is said to be under political control. That is to say that the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Patrick Mayhew, and the Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, Malcolm Rifkind, personally authorized the siege. It is a political matter; the soldiers are not out of control.

These soldiers have virtually imprisoned the whole village. They say they will be there for the next six months. They claim this is to allow the military and police complex to be restructured. In fact, what is happening is mass punishment of the people because of the successful actions of the local IRA against the British Army for

the last quarter of a century. All Crossmaglen nationalists are being punished for the actions of a few. This sort of mass punishment was carried out by the Germans in occupied France and elsewhere during World War II. Villages which backed the resistance were surrounded by troops and every street had at least one military check-point. That is now what is happening in a village that is as Irish as Skibbereen or Cashel and that lies within a mile of the border. It is a scandalous occurrence. It is quite different from anything else that has been inflicted long-term on northern people outside of west Belfast since the conflict began. Mass punishments contravene international laws and conventions. It may be thought a duty of the Government to highlight internationally the siege of Crossmaglen.

Once you're out of the womb, the British government has marked you for life and placed a ceiling on your advancement in life. Maybe you'll get a 12-month job sweeping the walkways of the local church. Or you'll have the opportunity to risk your life each day you commute to a factory in a loyalist area. Most likely you'll spend most of your adult life unemployed, looking for a job. And you'll never make anything of yourself. Put that silly notion out of your head. You're not good enough. You're an Irish Catholic. This is what the British government is telling nationalist youth.

By all means, nationalist society should have been crushed under the weight of the dictatorial, suppressive hierarchy that the racist British government has tailored in Northern Ireland. For the nationalist caste is at the bottom, barely able to stand, all dignity and hope wiped out by the political maneuvering of British officials. The contempt by many in the British government for the Irish is just preordained, it's in their blood. If not, wouldn't Major be doing what is best for the Irish people, according to the wishes of the Irish people?

During that same trip I visited the Conway Mill and the Spring Hill community centers in Belfast, both nationalist grassroots efforts to create futures for themselves through cultural and educational activities, and small business enterprise. For example, the Conway Mill hosted a theater group while in the same building a small secondhand furniture business sprouted.

The community centers had three striking features in common: run-down offices, evident of the poverty of the Nationalist plight; a 24-hour volunteer crew literally working for their lives; and very little money left to sustain their projects. For nationalists, these community centers are meccas of hope. They are the people's answer to Britain's dehumanization plan for the nationalist community. Every line rehearsed for a play, every piece of used furniture sold, every mile a black taxi covers, the echo of "we shall overcome" rings in the blood red skies of Northern Ireland. And when all is said and done the Irish nationalists will not surrender.



## 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. Larry King Show**  
CNN  
820 First St. NE  
Washington, DC 20002

**Request:** I urge that you visit Northern Ireland as requested by Gerry Adams. Your coverage of that issue would do much to advance the peace process.

**Write the letter below to both:**

**2. Director**  
**Amnesty International**  
322 Eighth Ave.  
New York, NY 10001  
**AND**

**3. Director**  
**Human Rights Watch**  
Helsinki  
485 Fifth Ave.  
New York, NY 10017  
Phone# (212) 972-8400

**Request:** I thank you for your work on human rights violations in Northern Ireland and urge that you continue to investigate this issue.

## No Say In Government

by Ned Delaney, *Indiana State Director*

Between May 1992 and June 1993 human rights advocate Torkel Opsahl headed a commission known as Initiative '92' into ways forward for Northern Ireland. The subsequent report is comprised of what 3,000 people in 554 written and taped submissions offered the commission.

Britain has claimed neutrality with regard to the Irish question. The people of Northern Ireland were never given a democratic say into the structure of the union. The union was formed out of coercion and a desire to preserve a political structure in England.

The Opsahl Commission summarizes British neutrality and Direct Rule accordingly:

The people of Northern Ireland have no say whatsoever in the government that 'rules' them. They cannot vote for either the Labour Party, the Conservative Party or the Liberal Democrats. Northern Ireland business is conducted by order in council (at Westminster), and legislation prepared by the Secretary of State cannot be amended. Government is remote, imperial, and non-accountable to the electorate, which did not elect it in the first place. Northern Ireland politicians, other than the seventeen MPs, are not required to be responsive to their constituents since there is no forum in which they can meet other than the weak district councils, which, for the most part, were characterized in our submission and hearings as largely irrelevant talk-shops with extraordinarily limited powers, while the real power resides in the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) or the 'quangos'.

The point is that a government, which can neither govern without special powers nor provide for the general welfare of its people through the democratic process nor provide an equitable economic base by which all its citizenry can become

## Pen Power

On March 4, 1994 the *Richmond Times Dispatch* published an article that said Irish cuisine consists of a six pack and a boiled potato and Irish Americans cook corn beef, potatoes and cabbage in one pot so they have only one pot to wash.

Virginia State Director **Joe Joyce** called the ombudsman and wrote a letter protesting the defamation of Irish Americans. He organized a group of Hibernians and Irish American Society members to call the paper and protest. On March 20 the ombudsman wrote an apology which appeared in the paper. Congratulations to Joe Joyce and all who worked with him.

productive, can hardly be seen as serious about providing a union on behalf of the people. The bottom line is based on power and money, and the corruption it nurtures is potentially cancerous. A US peace envoy is not an infringement, it is a necessity.

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