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THE AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the Action Irish

Vol. 11, No. 6

DECEMBER, 1986/JANUARY, 1987

ANALYSIS/NORTHERN IRELAND

by Fr. Desmond Wilson—Director of Conway Mills, Belfast

Mr. Charles Haughey who is likely to become the next Prime Minister (Taoiseach) of the Republic of Ireland has made a severe attack on the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The Agreement, signed over one year ago, was presented to Irish people by Mr. Peter Barry, Foreign Minister of the Republic, as a framework within which the "nightmare of Irish nationalists in Northern Ireland would at last be ended." But instead it has led to a renewal of sectarian killing in Northern Ireland reminiscent of the mid-seventies, a situation described with horror by the Roman Catholic bishop in Belfast, Dr. Cahal Daly.

Now almost thirteen months after the signing of the Agreement the Irish Republic's government is trying hard to win some concessions for Catholics in Northern Ireland who are virtually excluded from government and from many jobs. Some politicians have made unwarranted claims that the Anglo-Irish Agreement has produced results, for example that it was responsible for a British decision to demolish blocks of uninhabitable apartments in Belfast and Derry. That decision, however, was made after many years of agitation by the residents of the blocks themselves. It has also been claimed by Fr. Denis Faul, Catholic priest of Dungannon, Co Tyrone, that the Agreement was a direct result of the pleas of Pope John Paul during his visit to Ireland.

Mr. Mallon, deputy leader of the Social Democratic and Labor Party has complained bitterly that the Agreement has not produced adequate results for the relief of Catholics in Northern Ireland—Mr. Mallon was not in favor of the Agreement up to three days before it was signed (November 1985) but was persuaded to support it by Mr. John Hume, who promised that the resources of the party would be available to Mr. Mallon to secure him a seat in the Westminster Parliament.

Catholic bishops and clergy have bitterly complained that the level of abuse by British military and police against Catholics in Derry, Belfast and Strabane (Co. Tyrone) has not lessened since the Agreement, but increased.

Against this background Mr. Haughey launched his attack against the Agreement at a commemorative meeting in Cork (October 12th). He complained about the increasing arrogance of British actions in N. Ireland and of their demands about the internal affairs of the Republic, including the demand that the British government should be allowed to help frame a charter of human rights for the Republic and that the Republic should alter its Constitution to suit British needs.

Meanwhile Mr. Sean McBride, Nobel Peace Prize winner and statesman, has predicted that the British government will be forced to leave Ireland within five to ten years.

NEWS BITS

NEW YORK — The Irish government has prevented representatives of the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC) from addressing members of a highly respected American cultural organization. This abuse of the American democratic process by a foreign government came as a surprise to all involved. The PEC is well-known for its efforts to promote a peaceful and democratic solution to the problem of British colonialism in Ireland and for its successful efforts to defend

(Continued on Page 2)

ACTION LETTER VICTORY

by John J. Finucane

The effectiveness of the PEC's organized letter-writing campaigns (Action Letter/Emergency Action Request Program) has again been demonstrated and again *the success is due to you* the letter writers.

In the last issue of the *American Irish Newsletter*, we asked our members/subscribers to write to Public Broadcasting Service to complain about the offensive nature of the new "Irish R.M. Series II" which was shown this past summer on public television stations on MASTERPIECE THEATRE. In this series the Irish were depicted as heavy drinkers and social misfits. The "Irish R.M." series is based on a book by E. Somerville and Martin Ross.

Public Broadcasting Service has apologized and informed us in writing that they have cancelled the planned airing of the latest series of "Irish R.M.", Series III.

Add your clout to our letter-writing campaigns by becoming an active letter writer. To do so, send us a note asking we add your name to "EARP".

Please tell your friends and associates about this success. Urge them to join with us by subscribing to the *American Irish Newsletter!*

ELLIS ISLAND MEDAL WINNERS

On October 27, 1986 eighty Ellis Island Medals of Honor—a tribute to the nation's heritage of ethnic diversity—were awarded by the Statue of Liberty—Ellis Island Foundation in ceremonies on Ellis Island in conjunction with the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations (NECO). Foundation chairman Lee A. Iacocca presented the medals as 1500 dignitaries and invited-guests looked on. The ceremony marked the culmination of a process in which more than 15,000 American citizens were nominated and considered for the medal.

The initial protest which prompted the awarding of the Ellis Island Medals was an Action Letter campaign conducted by the PEC in the April/May, 1986 issue of the *American Irish Newsletter*. (Another fine example of what we can do by working together.)

The four American Irish medal recipients were Senator Christopher Dodd of Connecticut; Helen Hayes; John F. Henning, Secretary-Treasurer, California AFL-CIO; and John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of the Diocese of New York. Three of the winners, Sen. Dodd, Mr. Henning and Cardinal O'Connor have been prominent in opposing British oppression in Ireland. Neither Senators Edward Kennedy nor Daniel Moynihan received any nominations. Congratulations to our own Kevin Murphy, PEC Massachusetts Director, who was a top contender for the Medal.

The American Irish selection committee consisted of John Finucane, PEC national president; Paul O'Dwyer; John Lawe, International President, Transport Workers Union in America; Patrick Marsh, AOH; and Stanley Casey, legal counsel for the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations.

THE APATHETIC AMERICAN IRISH

by Kevin Murphy—Massachusetts PEC

Sometimes it disgusts me to think about the apathy that permeates the American Irish community. This huge and potentially powerful group sits back and allows its culture and good name to be degraded by arrogant politicians, various entertainment and news media, and British propaganda. It is commonplace to hear American Irish complaining to each other about how no one cares about the Irish or how they are not receiving an even break. Despite this constant complaining these same people will not take the time to write a letter expressing their concerns and complaints. Many of them do not even vote in local, state and national elections.

Also, it is not unusual for some misguided members of our community to demean or ignore fellow-American Irish who are active in organizations that promote American Irish issues. These same American Irish are the first to complain when they hear of discriminatory quotas that bar American Irish from obtaining civil service positions. It is also these people who complain about the lack of respect that our community receives from politicians in comparison to less numerous American ethnic groups. Some organizations that pass themselves off as Irish are nothing more than Irish pubs.

Before these misguided American Irish begin to insult those brothers and sisters who are trying to promote American Irish interests, they should take a long hard look at themselves. The apathetic American Irish is England's strongest weapon and the greatest stumbling block to American Irish progress in the United States. **THINK AMERICAN IRISH UNITY!**

PLEASE READ IMPORTANT RENEWAL INFORMATION

Please help us save money by renewing your *American Irish Newsletter* subscription on your own initiative. You can renew for one or two years simply by sending a check or money order payable to AIPEC (outside U.S. use postal money order made out in U.S. dollars). Renewal rate is \$8.00 per year. Also, please inform us of any change of address and include both your old and new addresses.

You can see when your renewal is due by checking the renewal date (month & year) which appears on your Newsletter address label. The renewal date appears either on the first line or last. Renewal dates will appear either as all letters (DECC) which means due in December, 1986; letters with a number (DEC6) also meaning due in December, 1986, as does all numbers 1286. We are in the process of standardizing renewal dates so they will appear as all numbers (eg. 1286). The first two numbers indicate the month and the last two numbers indicate the year. If you renew in advance you will be credited to the exact month.

RENEWALS DUE AT THIS TIME ARE DECC, DEC6, 1286. We also urge those of you whose subscriptions expire in January, 1987, (JANC, JAN6, 0187) to please renew now. Your renewal will be credited as of January, 1987.

OVERDUE—If your renewal is overdue (renewal date prior to December, 1986) please renew now. Don't forget change of address if applicable.

The mailing of individual renewal notices is expensive. Your cooperation will save us a lot of money and time and will be greatly appreciated.

LETTER WRITERS—If you wish to participate in our special letter-writing campaigns (Emergency Action Request Program—EARP) please indicate "EARP" on your renewal.

NEWS BITS

(Continued from Page 1)

the American Irish image. A spokesperson for the sponsoring organization said his organization received a stern warning from a representative of the Irish government that there would be dire consequences if the PEC address was not cancelled.

WASHINGTON — U.S. Rep. Mario Biaggi (D-NY), Chairman of the bi-partisan, 115-Member Ad Hoc Congressional Committee for Irish Affairs, on the first anniversary of the signing of the Anglo-Irish agreement on Northern Ireland today charged the accord "has failed and must be replaced by a new initiative which involves a wider political constituency."

Róbert McFarlane, former Security Advisor to President Reagan, entered Iran illegally using a false Irish passport to allegedly arrange an arms deal with Iran. The use of Irish passports was in violation of Ireland's neutrality (AIN-PEC 11/86) . . . A top official in the British Home Office admitted that it is likely six people convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for a bombing in Birmingham, England are not guilty. Further, he stated, a review is not likely as it would prove very embarrassing for the British government. The six people in prison since 1974 are known as the "Birmingham Six". Serious questions are also being raised about the incarceration of Mrs. Anne Maguire and six others for their conviction in 1976 for unlawfully handling explosives, and another case of four people convicted for the Guildford Pub bombing in 1974. One of the people convicted with Mrs. Maguire, Giuseppe Conlon, died in prison. The Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume stepped up his campaign for a review of the convictions in the Guildford bombings and the Maguire case with a message to the British Home Office:

"There comes a point when justice is best served by admitting you are wrong". 210 members of the House of Commons, many of whom are convinced that an injustice has been done, signed a petition calling for a review. (AIN-PEC 11/86). The Sinn Fein Party at its annual convention voted to end its abstentionist policy and to allow successful candidates in general elections to take their seats in the Irish government. Garrett Fitzgerald, Ireland's Prime Minister condemned Sinn Fein's willingness to participate in the political process. Charles Haughey, former Prime Minister and opposition party leader, quickly protested Fitzgerald's action as undemocratic (AIN-PEC 11/86).

John Hume, chairman of the Social Democratic and Labor Party (SDLP), appears to support the British government's opposition to the MacBride Principles of Fair Employment. If successful, the MacBride Principles campaign could finally force the British government to implement equal employment opportunities for the north's minority. A groundswell of support in the SDLP for the Principles has caused a split in the Party leadership . . . LIAM QUINN, an American citizen has been extradited to England after 5 years imprisonment in San Francisco during his extradition fight. He was removed under the custody of Scotland Yard agents by a Royal Air Force jet from Travis Air Force Base. His family and attorneys were not notified until he was enroute . . . JOSEPH DOHERTY, an IRA member imprisoned for 3½ years during his extradition fight in New York City's Metropolitan Correctional Center has been secretly moved to a federal prison in Otisville, NY. Doherty won his fight against Extradition which was upheld. He is presently undergoing deportation hearings and has requested deportation to the Irish Republic. The US government has blocked his request and instead, wants him deported to England (AIN-PEC-11/86).

WASHINGTON — To be consistent, U.S. foreign policy must be as firmly committed to opposing British oppression of Catholics in Northern Ireland as it is to opposing the policy of apartheid. That was the main point of a letter from the Catholic League to Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, a member of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee . . . "For decades the U.S. government has turned a blind eye to the program of economic, educational and political discrimination practiced by Great Britain against Catholics in Northern Ireland" (Catholic League Newsletter 9/86).

The AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

founded in 1976

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FROM THE EDITOR

The vast majority of Americans of Irish heritage do not subscribe to any American Irish publications. Because of this they miss out on important information and deny themselves the benefits of ethnic unity and influence. We are not communicating!

The history of the Irish race in America is fascinating. It dates back long before the American Revolution and is unequalled by any other ethnic group. Unfortunately, this important information is available only through a handful of American Irish publications such as the American Irish Newsletter.

A recent Heritage Awareness Renewal Program conducted by the Emerald Society, Fire Department City of New York, under the direction of Member Advocate Frank O'Rourke, proved to be a revelation. Those who participated were required to read **THE HISTORY OF THE IRISH RACE IN AMERICA** written by Edward O'Meagher Condon in 1877. (See enclosed Books At Discount Prices.) The competition consisted in answering a series of questions based on the contents of the book. The contestants expressed surprise at the highly significant role of our race in the development of America and the fact that so many key figures in American history were of Irish heritage. They even expressed serious concern as to why such important historical facts have been omitted from our nation's history books.

Our failure in ethnic communications was again well demonstrated recently during the events surrounding the signing of the US-UK Extradition Treaty. Very few American Irish were aware of the injustices contained in the Treaty. Some were not even aware of its existence. Politically effective ethnic groups owe their success to the fact that the majority of their members read and support their ethnic publications.

We must assist in the process of effective communication by subscribing to American Irish publications such as the American Irish Newsletter. We must urge other American Irish to do the same. We should support the publications of our choice even when we might not always agree with everything they print. It is important to keep them operating.

We urge you to help keep us operating by persuading your friends to subscribe to the American Irish Newsletter. You can help build the American Irish communication network even more by giving gift subscriptions of the American Irish Newsletter for Christmas and other occasions.

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YES, please enroll me the following name person for a one year subscription of the bi-monthly AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER. Enclosed, please find my check for \$_____ Date _____

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Vol. 11, No. 6

OPERATION ONE MILLION 1986: A SUCCESS STORY

Thanks to your support for Operation One Million, 1986 has been the PEC's best year since our formation in 1975. More than 35% of our subscribers responded—the best response to a financial appeal we have ever experienced.

Through this support for Operation One Million, we were able to reach over 64,000 American Irish throughout the U.S. of which over 3200 subscribed to the *American Irish Newsletter*. Our mailings for the year which included Operation One Million, Newsletter promotion brochures, information packages, EARP mailings, etc. totalled over 175 thousand pieces. We conducted many letter-writing/phone campaigns through our Emergency Action Request Program (EARP) and our Newsletter Action Letter program dealing with many important issues including the Extradition Treaty, the New York and New Jersey Irish Investment Bills, and we have initiated a campaign for the inclusion of a strong Irish reunification platform in both the Republican and Democratic Party platforms. It was a PEC letter-writing campaign that prompted the awarding of the prestigious Ellis Island Medals of Honor to representatives of the various ethnic groups in America by the Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island Foundation. Most importantly, we are uniting in democratic action American Irish across the country. Our community has never before had such an action/information network available to them. Also, membership in our Emergency Action Request Program (EARP) has increased significantly. None of these accomplishments could have been achieved without your participation and support for Operation One Million, for you are the PEC.

The financial support derived from Operation One Million is the life-blood of the PEC. Its success is critical to our operation and existence. We are very much dependent on your continued support. We urge all of you to again support operation One Million in 1987. Those of you who have not yet contributed for 1986, please do so now. Use coupon below. We are most grateful for your support.

COUNCIL OF PRESIDENTS — Update

On September 24, 1986 representatives of America's major Irish organizations with national memberships met to discuss the formation of a Council of Presidents. Present at this meeting were James Delaney, Chairman, Irish American Unity Conference; John Finucane, national president, American Irish PEC; Martin Galvin, publicity director, Irish Northern Aid; Joe Jamieson, director, Irish American Labor Coalition; and Nicholas Murphy, national president, A.O.H. in America.

Those present approved the concept of the Council as a mechanism by which active organizations can work together.

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THE IRISH IN COLONIAL AMERICA: A NEGLECTED HISTORY

by Margaret E. Fitzgerald, Ph.D. (Lecturer-Consultant-Genealogist, Irish, American Irish, Irish Canadian)

Conventional American historians have perpetuated a myth that no significant number of Irish emigrated to North America before the Great Starvation of the 1840's, and that very few came before the Revolutionary War. After the United States had saved the English from defeat in WWII and dispelled the other myth of the invincible British Empire, various ethnic groups sought recognition for their contribution, not only in two world wars, but in building America. Textbook publishers and podium politicians conceded a few Revolutionary generals and some distorted stereotypes, but the myth was still that colonial America was one vast land of WASP ancestors of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Some ethnic groups had always kept records of their emigration, history and genealogies: the French Huguenots in New York, the German Palatines in Pennsylvania, the Swedes in Delaware. What about the Irish? When presented with proof of innumerable unquestionably Irish names in colonial archives, the establishment historians have used the same twisted reasoning as all revisionists of Irish history to claim that these were Scotch-Irish from Ulster.

Their twofold argument goes backward. The first is that these colonial Irish were hardworking pioneers who brought with them the industry and initiative that had made them superior in Ireland to the native race. The native Celts were lazy, ignorant, and incapable of pioneering. Therefore, Irish colonial immigrants must have been the superior Scotch-Irish. The second argument is that the pre-Revolutionary Irish were Protestant, because British Penal Laws and colonial ordinances would have prevented Catholics from emigration and settlement. Since only two of the thirteen colonies ever had priests, and these could not serve publicly, how could there be Irish Catholics? Ergo, those with Irish names and birthplaces were Protestant and Scotch-Irish.

Why do historians persist in a thesis if it is demonstrably false? One reason is a mind-set by which they copy from each other without using primary sources and without questioning their colleagues sources. A second is the usual anti-Irish, anti-Catholic prejudice. A third is the insecure feeling Americans have that their degrees are not quite as good as those of Oxford or Cambridge; so they praise all things English and suppress the idea that any other ethnic group might have had an elevating influence on American development.

American Irish historians, desperately seeking recognition in academia by their WASP-oriented colleagues who control the field, have avoided challenging the Scotch-Irish myth. They have begun American Irish history in the mid-nineteenth century and have repeated like parrots another baseless myth: that the Irish clung to seaboard cities rather than venture beyond the Appalachians into rural America.

Local historians have been less susceptible to suppression of facts disproving the WASP myth. Local historical and genealogical societies have preserved vast amounts of data on colonial settlers. Copies of records of births, deaths, wills, marriages, indentures, land transfers, court cases, ships' lists,

newspapers, identify by name, and often by nationality and county of birth, the Irish who played a part in colonial communities.

Irish historiography, English records, genealogical tracings, and distinguishable surnames indicate that emigrants to colonial America were almost exclusively Catholic at the time they left Ireland and that they came from ancient Gaelic families. They came as transportees, indentured servants, slaves, convicts, escapees from the West Indies, ship-jumpers, and settlers. Some did come from Ulster, but Ulster was not all Scotch weavers and planters then (God protect anyone claiming that from the ghosts of The O'Neil and The O'Donnell!) any more than Ulster is all Protestant today. Whether the Irish recorded in the colonies as Protestant were younger sons of Ascendancy families, whether they took the Oath for expediency, or whether they were Protestant-turned descendants of Catholic immigrants cannot be determined.

Identification as Irish was difficult when Penal Laws recognized an Irishman only for the purpose of repressing him. Identification as Catholic was impossible when an English Lord Chancellor had proclaimed: "The Law does not suppose any such person to exist as an Irish Catholic." Because of British endeavor to obliterate the Irish identity, 17th century Irish emigrants appeared on official records as English. However, if one looks at such records as Hotter's "Original Lists of Persons of Quality" emigrating from Great Britain to the American plantations prior to 1700, it requires little imagination to decide the Irishness of names like O'Carroll, O'Mullin, and McCartie. In post-Revolutionary America, when priests became free to exercise their ministry, people came forth, identified themselves as Irish Catholics, and asked for baptism. Priestless, they had kept the heritage of their faith alive for generations.

The question, however, is not whether the Irish immigrants were Catholic but whether they were Irish. That Catholics could not practice their religion did not de-Irishize them. That Anglicans with Catholic forebears had conformed to the Established Church did not de-Irishize them. Religion and nationality were not indissolubly linked.

What can be determined from names, ancestral birthplaces, and colonial records, is that (1) they came from all over Ireland, not just Ulster; (2) they came from a wide range of class and education; (3) the overwhelming majority belonged to the old Gaelic stock or to the Norman Irish who had become "more Irish than the Irish."

Contrary to the myth perpetuated by WASP establishment historians and left unchallenged by yearning-to-be-accepted American Irish historians, the Irish were in America in significant numbers in the 17th and 18th centuries. We don't claim that they were the only builders of the thirteen colonies. We do claim that the Irish played an important and overlooked part in early colonization, in clearing the land, in establishing settlements, in expanding the frontier, and, later, in winning freedom of the United States from England.

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JUSTICE FOR SOUTH AFRICA: WHY NOT NORTHERN IRELAND?

by Sean McGuffin — Journalist and Author

"It seems to me that the Boers are entrenched in both places; [S. Africa & N. Ireland] both practice apartheid; both recognize their fellow human beings as lesser breeds outside the law; both prevent every constitutional advance; both enshrine institutional violence; and they are both certainly getting what they could expect if they had a tip of imagination."

Tim Pat Coogan, Editor, Irish Press.

Mr. Coogan, no Irish Republican by any stretch of the imagination, might have added that both regimes are ultimately destined for the dustbin of history. But when the well respected Coogan speaks of the evils of apartheid many US senators and congressmen will wholeheartedly agree with him. Recently, they have forced sanctions against S. Africa through both Houses and defeated President Ronald Reagan's attempts to veto them.

More and more firms, from IBM to Coca Cola are being forced to pull out of S. Africa because the Universities and the pension fund managers have been put under increasing pressure to divest. The Sullivan principles, modest indeed even by US Federal standards, are accepted by all US corporations doing business in S. Africa and endorsed by President Reagan and the State Department who urge "constructive investment."

Everyone in America these days, apart from people like Fallwell and Robertson, is forced to agree that apartheid is evil and that we have a moral obligation to do something about it — whether its sanctions or "working on the inside through 'constructive investment'."

So what about the MacBride Principles? Based on Sullivan, they are even more modest.

They would only require U.S. firms who employ people in N. Ireland to utilize fair employment practices, end discrimination and introduce a limited form of affirmative action.¹ And yet they are strenuously resisted, not only by the Orange 'aristocracy' and the British Government, but also by the government in the 26 Counties. British consuls traverse the United States bemoaning these modest proposals as some kind of Communist plot. Free state politicians, using the abused taxpayer's money complain that they are unnecessary since they can guarantee the promised land for the oppressed nationalist population in the North.

Yet daily the news of the pogroms reach us and we learn, even from the diluted and biased reporting of the pro-British media, that yet more Catholics are being burned out of their homes while the Royal Ulster Constabulary (and their 'guarantors' in Fine Gael) stand idly by. Catholic workers are intimidated from their few jobs or gunned down in their houses. British death squads (the words belong to the ultra conservative British newspaper *The Observer*) operate with impunity. Discrimination proliferates in Harland and Wolff's and Short Brothers, employment which exists at vast expense to the taxpayer to keep Loyalists loyal and Nationalists out of work.

But here in America do we hear any talk of sanctions — let alone 'constructive engagement'? We do not. Instead we hear of deals between Prime Minister Thatcher and President Reagan whereby Irish freedom fighters are handed over to be tortured by the British. If Nelson Mandela escaped from Robens Island and made it to New York, would he be handed back if Pik Botha requested him? Americans like Daniloff can be traded for Russian spies. America can spend millions of dollars equipping the terrorists of the Contras; American arms can be given to a madman like the Ayatollah in return for kidnapped hostages; but is there sanctuary for Joe Doherty or Liam Quinn (who is an American)?

No, instead American businesses, with the White House's approval, pour money in to support the Orange Boers in their

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genocidal campaign against the oppressed Catholic minority in the North and to bolster up Thatcher's bankrupt regime. George Washington, the well-known 'terrorist' (according to George III) must be spinning in his grave.

¹The Fair Employment Agency in N. Ireland has only upheld six complaints of discrimination in nine years because, as members who have resigned out of frustration have said "it's a toothless mockery. No one pays any attention to us. We have no enforcement powers."

Short Brothers sends 70% of its output to the U.S. They now, after numerous complaints, employ 5% of Catholics out of a workforce of 7,000. The British Government finds it cheaper to pump \$10,000 per annum per worker into Harland and Wolff's, who are celebrating 128 years of bigotry, although it would save them money to close the whole factory and pay the Orangemen unemployment money. Fewer than 1% of H&W's workforce are Catholic — and he's being intimidated every day!

MAC BRIDE PRINCIPLES

by John J. Finucane

In July, 1986 **Prudential-Bache Securities** cautioned its clients concerning investments in American companies doing business in Northern Ireland. The caution was given in an 8 page Divestiture Update by Suzanne G. Harvey. It warned:

"If you've finally cleansed your portfolio of all firms that do business in South Africa and think you can now relax, think again. There is a new and quite serious effort afoot in the form of the MacBride Principles, which, if their authors have their way, could affect your investments in 23 major U.S. firms that currently do business in Northern Ireland . . ."

One of the leading spokesmen for the MacBride Principles effort is Patrick Doherty, Administrative Associate to the Comptroller of the City of New York, Harrison Goldin. Mr. Doherty told Prudential-Bache Washington Research that he and the MacBride Principles organization are currently in search of an independent consulting group that can monitor U.S. corporate adherence to the Principles on a regular basis . . ."

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO PROMOTE THE MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES

American Irish organizations will be joining forces to promote legislation to implement the MacBride Principles in different states and cities similar to that already approved in Massachusetts; New York, Chicago and New York City. Similar legislation is now pending or in the process of being introduced in New Jersey, Connecticut, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, California, and Rhode Island. We are anxious to initiate this action in other states and cities. We also desire to have socially responsible resolutions supporting the MacBride Principles adopted by investment corporations.

We invite all Americans to join with us in this campaign for justice.

If you would like to help, please contact the *American Irish Newsletter*, Malloy Building, Stony Point, NY 10980 — phone # (914) 947-2726. *We will provide the necessary information and instructions when they are available.*

Our next Newsletter issue will include an Update on the MacBride Principles and provide information as to other ways you can help such as union, university and college pension funds.

This is an excellent opportunity for all of us to help achieve justice and peace in Ireland by working through the *American democratic process*.

ACTION LETTER

by Albert Doyle

After the August 12, 1984 assault by Northern Ireland "security forces" on a peaceful crowd in Belfast, resulting in the death of Sean Downes and injury to many people, including U.S. visitors, we protested at the lack of reaction from our own government. We know that in reality this lack of action is the result of the steadfast pro-British, "anything you say, Maggie" policy of the U.S. government of the day. Nonetheless, we complained and predictably, were brushed off with a series of transparent evasions (the British were investigating, the injured U.S. citizens had not filed complaints, etc.) ... It is time to remind our leaders that we have not forgotten and will hold them accountable — as is our right. We will let them know that their excuses are now stale and that continued inaction on their part will be seen for what it is — discrimination against us and the honorable cause we support.

For your convenience we provide the suggested letter below. As usual, you should write a personalized letter, if possible or simply rewrite our letter below as is on your own stationery. The important thing is to write and to get others to do so.

(Your address and date)

Honorable George P. Shultz,
Secretary of State
United States Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Shultz:

As a member of the American Irish Political Education Committee I would like to know what action our government will take to protest the assault on U.S. citizens by Northern Ireland security forces in August 1984. Your representatives have previously excused the conspicuous lack of action by our government with the excuse that the British were investigating, the injured people hadn't filed claims, etc. I understand that the "investigation" is now over (and resulted in the whitewash of a single scapegoat) and that claims have been filed. As an American I want to know what my government is doing about this outrage.

Sincerely,

(NOTE: We have not abandoned our attempts to influence the major party platforms in the upcoming Presidential election. We have received interesting correspondence from the Democratic and Republican parties and will report further on this in the future and make further action proposals.)

IAUC CONVENTION

The Irish American Unity Conference has completed its annual convention, this year in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. Many PEC members were in attendance and we were most gratified at the strong support voiced for our efforts to provide quality informational material with regard to Northern Ireland. As you know, the PEC was one of the founding organizations for the IAUC. This

ANGLO-IRISH AGREEMENT UPDATE

by Albert R. Doyle

The first anniversary of the Hillsborough Agreement is here. At the time of the Agreement the PEC analysis (contained in our Press Release of Dec. 12, 1985 and available upon request) was that on balance we felt that the Agreement would not advance our goal of a reunified, democratic Ireland. As we saw it the Irish Government had conceded a vital principle — acceptance of partition — in return for insubstantial promises of possible reforms in the North. Now, a year later, looking back over events of the past year, we have no reason to change our assessment. The Loyalists, not having been consulted and paranoid about any Irish dimension, have objected — violently. The inter-government Conference called for in the Agreement has met and, as we predicted, has produced no reforms of substance. As we write, we hear that the British are likely to reject any meaningful reforms in the criminal justice system and are reported to want to down-grade the whole process because of the Loyalist reaction. And, as we said a year ago, and still believe, one of the principal purposes of the Agreement was to tap the U.S. Treasury for "aid" funds which will in large measure relieve the British of the financial drain of their colonial statelet. Congress has agreed to provide \$120 Million over the years. The funds are to be dispensed under vague criteria and we strongly suspect that little will go to worthy projects such as Father Des Wilson's Conway Street Mill in Belfast — self-help projects which would directly affect the welfare of the nationalist victims of the "system" in Northern Ireland. We are advised that the trustees of the fund do not include any representatives of the groups most likely to need assistance. The PEC is trying to assist by asking our government to institute safeguards to insure equitable distribution of these available funds. As Fr. Wilson told us during a recent visit, improper use of these aid funds could be, not just unhelpful but result in further destruction of the nationalist people — just the opposite of the intent of Congress in voting the funds. We intend to stay on top of this one.

year we particularly thank the IAUC for the resolution adopted at the Convention calling on local chapters of IAUC to provide subscriptions to the Newsletter to key persons, including local news media, libraries, and schools as well as political leaders. Many thanks to our friends of IAUC. But how sad to think that IAUC had to meet in Canada because of our country's policy of refusing visas to certain Irish spokesmen whose views are not compatible with those of Maggie Thatcher! Incidentally, we also regret to report that Americans attending the convention were impeded and harassed at the border by U.S. and Canadian customs officials. We have direct evidence that this was done as a deliberate policy — indicating the depths of hostility to our cause on the part of the current U.S. and Canadian administrations.

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