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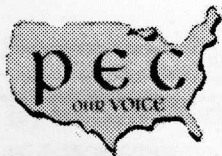


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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 27, Number 8

August 2002

Unionists to Blame for Violence

LOYALISTS have switched tactics from trying to goad the IRA back into conflict in north Belfast to exploiting sectarian tension in other parts of the city, Sinn Fein President **Gerry Adams** has warned. He says loyalists are exploiting the failure of unionist leaders to enthusiastically sell the Mitchell Agreement to their community, and Britain must act to end loyalist violence.

As helicopters hovered over east Belfast for a second week running in June, Adams says, "In my view, the totally unacceptable plight of people in the interface areas is a contrived one. It arises from the crisis within unionism, the inadequate leadership being given to unionist people, and the fear that the [Mitchell Agreement] is not in the interests of unionism.

"It is this fear which is being exploited," Adams says, adding, "the victims are the nationalist people in Short Strand and their unionist neighbors. For the last 18 months, there was intense effort by anti-Agreement paramilitaries in north Belfast to goad the IRA back into conflict. This effort has now been switched to other interface areas. This must fail also. It is my view that there is a degree of manipulation of some of the loyalists involved."

The West Belfast MP has raised recent street clashes in east Belfast with British Prime Minister **Tony Blair**. The area has witnessed some of its worst violence for 30 years with several people injured in a spate of incidents. Adams has said the British government must see that the violence ends and ensures unionists that there is no alternative to the Mitchell Agreement.

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BBC: Britain Had 'License to Murder'

FOLLOWING a BBC Panorama program in late June that made new allegations about collusion between loyalist paramilitaries and the security forces in the murder of Belfast lawyer **Pat Finucane** and other Catholics, **Michael, John, and Katherine Finucane**—the dead lawyer's children—say they had no faith in the Stevens investigation into the killing.

However, Northern Secretary **John Reid** has said an independent inquiry into controversial killings in Northern Ireland will depend on the findings of **Peter Cory**, an international judge who is examining six cases.

Pat Finucane, a Catholic lawyer, was shot dead by loyalist gunmen in 1989 as he sat with his family in their north Belfast home. Since 1989, Sir **John Stevens**, who is now commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, has been investigating the allegation that shadowy elements within military intelligence and the RUC Special Branch were colluding with loyalist assassination squads. His report is due out in the fall, but media leaks of a draft say the inquiry finds that collusion is institutional in the North.

Michael Finucane said he believed the findings of such an inquiry would rock the foundations of the British state. "Here in its own backyard it is being charged with the most serious crime a government could be charged with—assassination of its own citizens," he said. The Finucane family has called on British Prime Minister **Tony Blair** to set up a public inquiry.

Blair said details of any alleged collusion between the Northern Ireland security forces and loyalist paramilitaries would be fully uncovered. Blair said moves were already under way to ensure the allegations were fully investigated.

However, Ulster Unionist leader **David Trimble** has rejected calls for an immediate judicial inquiry into the murder. He described the Panorama program as "somewhat sensationalist."

Trimble is at odds with Deputy First Minister **Mark Durkan**, who said the case for an inquiry was now irrefutable.

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Our View: Human-rights-based Government Is a Long Way Off

THE PATTEN Commission recommended that human-rights-based policing be an essential reform to policing in Northern Ireland. Of course. Policing should reflect the values of the government, and the government should reflect a respect for human rights.

One basic human right is the right to information. This is a cornerstone of democracy. It's a basic right that Britain has denied the family of Belfast lawyer Pat Finucane and anyone else who has lost a loved one to state violence.

The BBC Panorama program took it upon itself to seek information on collusion and produced a documentary called "A License to Kill." BBC journalists interviewed one of the likely killers of Finucane, Ken Barrett. Barrett said it never would have occurred to loyalists to kill Finucane--or any other lawyer--until the RUC put it in their heads and gave them directions to Finucane's house.

Significantly, Barrett said loyalists would not have thought of killing Finucane because he was a lawyer and lawyers were taboo. After all, many loyalists used Catholic lawyers. Why should they kill the very men and women who upheld their basic civil liberties?

While we're on the subject, why should Britain fly in retired Canadian judge Peter Cory to tell it whether or not the Finucane murder needs be investigated? The people of Northern Ireland have been demanding such an investigation for years. Is it Pete's job, ostensibly as an outsider, to say Britain done good and the file is closed? Britain should trust the people of Northern Ireland. Britain should also trust Chris Patten, its former governor of Hong Kong, who said human rights must be the heart of a new policing service in Northern Ireland. Democracy depends on it (See Action Requests, Page 8).

Peace Process Update

June 9

AFTER a week of intense violence in east Belfast, British army engineers begin heightening giant walls dividing Protestant estates from the Catholic Short Strand enclave. Mark Fulton, a close associate of Loyalist Volunteer Force founder Billy Wright, whom the Irish National Liberation Army killed in Long Kesh in 1997, is found dead in his prison cell. He was a chief suspect in the 1999 murder of lawyer Rosemary Nelson.

June 11

Former Canadian supreme court justice Peter Cory says his review of collusion cases, including the murders of Pat Finucane and Rosemary Nelson, could take up to two years. Britain has charged Cory with the responsibility of examining whether the cases merit a full judicial inquiry, something most observers, including congress, has determined to be necessary.

June 12

After a meeting in Dublin with Richard Haass, President George Bush's special adviser on Ireland, Irish Minister for Foreign Affairs Brian Cowen expresses his government's anxiety over escalating violence in Belfast. Haass, on a three-day visit to Britain and Ireland as part of Bush's ongoing contact with all groups involved in the peace process, again urges Sinn Fein to give its backing to the new police service and join the Police Board (See Action Request, Page 8). Following talks yesterday in London with Secretary of State John Reid, Haass says, "If Sinn Fein has problems, the best way to deal with those problems is as an insider." Meanwhile, Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams gives British Prime Minister Tony Blair a dossier of details of loyalist violence.

June 17

Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble comfortably overcomes a challenge to his leadership from party hard

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American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC

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From the North: *Unionist Threats Continue to Moot Mitchell Agreement*

By Robert Heatley, *co-founder of the campaign for Democracy, a predominantly Protestant organization, Belfast, Northern Ireland*

"... UNIONISTS will accept nothing less than Sinn Fein's expulsion from the [Stormont] power-sharing executive[I]f the [British] government doesn't take action, then we will take action to remove Sinn Fein from the government of Northern Ireland by one means or another.

Who issued this threat? It was none other than [First Minister **David Trimble**'s colleague in the UUP, **Jeffrey Donaldson**, a mouthpiece for the anti-Mitchell Agreement wing of that party, which is growing stronger. Rejectionist **David Burnside** ably assists Donaldson in this caper. Both men are angling to replace Trimble as party leader.

Journalist **Brian Feeney** has described both men as "nutters" because they are becoming increasingly detached from reality.

Sinn Fein is a democratically elected political party, and it is now the largest nationalist party in the North. It has four MPs at Westminster and five TDs in Dail Eireann. It is breathing down the SDLP's neck in the Stormont Assembly in terms of MLAs (members of legislative assembly). Further, **Alex Maskey**, one of its leading lights, is the first member of **Sinn Fein to be elected mayor of Belfast**. Its democratic mandate is large, clear, and growing.

That is precisely why Donaldson and Burnside and Trimble—whom the former two have dangling on a string—are losing their marbles. This is why unionists want to get rid of Sinn Fein. They have never allowed a democratic mandate to stand in their way of monopolizing the tidbits of power devolved to them from London.

Their progenitors overrode democracy in 1918, when the last all-

Ireland general election was held, and they are doing so now with regard to the widely-supported Mitchell Agreement.

There's more. If the latest leaks from the North's census office are anything to go by, unionists will have yet another cause for worry. According to the *Sunday Business Post*, "The figures are likely to demonstrate that the North no longer has a Protestant majority. Catholics and Protestants will probably come in at about 47 percent each, with 6 percent neither, or refusing to say what they are." Sources say the age profile is also advantageous for Catholics, who have greater numbers in the younger age groups.

Since Britain drew the border to contrive for unionists (who exercised a hegemony over the Protestants) a majority in perpetuity, that base of power would seem to be crumbling away. However, we should not rely on a sectarian head-count to remove British rule from the North. Over recent years, Britain has been working insidiously to integrate Catholics into the status quo. It has registered some successes, despite a lack of help from the political parties of unionism.

Some pro-unionist journalists, such as **Malachi O'Doherty** of **Tony O'Reilly's Belfast Telegraph**, have been grasping at this straw to maintain that a reunited Ireland, dependent on a Catholic majority vote, is a long way off. Perhaps soon we will have an answer to that question. Given these developments, especially in the context of an integrated European Union, perhaps Feeney's description of the Mitchell Agreement rejectionists as "nutters" is apposite. They do look like Canutes attempting to hold back the tides of history.

Trimble's latest outburst of truculence and rudeness, during which he came up with a new set of red lines and deadlines and ordered the British prime minister to take action against Sinn Fein, or else, has not this time gone down well in many quarters. His flimsy excuses for wanting Sinn Fein's sanctioning were rebutted by **Susan McKay** in the *Sunday Tribune* when she reminded him, "We don't know what happened in Columbia. We don't know what happened at Castlereagh."

As for the interface street riots, she also reminded him that "the far more serious onslaught is coming from loyalists, who are, nightly, attacking vulnerable Catholic schools, homes, and churches all over the North."

In the past year, loyalists have been responsible for sectarian killings, and the secretary of state has had to declare the UDA's cease-fire to be over. These loyalist pogroms have been running in tandem with the DUP-UUP rejectionist campaign against the Mitchell Agreement. The unionists justify their singling-out of Sinn Fein by saying that the unionist paramilitaries "have no representatives in government."

Northern Ireland is a small place, and the history of unionism has shown that all its components have been able to function without formal links. Networking is enough. Perhaps this is what Donaldson means when he says "by one means or another" Sinn Fein will be removed from government.

Will Britain open his eyes to the world outside Orangeism? In the event of Trimble's being toppled or his becoming nothing more than a cat's-paw of the Donaldson-Burnside—and, thus, Paisley—brigade, joint British-Irish authority for the North is increasingly being mooted.

Newsbits

BRITAIN is facing new demands for a full public inquiry into the Omagh bomb investigation after it emerged that two senior RUC chiefs have challenged a report on the bomb investigation by their former chief constable, **Ronnie Flanagan**. Affidavits prepared by Assistant Chief Constable **Alan McQuillan** and Assistant Chief Constable **Sam Kincaid** have been lodged at the High Court in Belfast. The officers have also challenged a statement of former Assistant Chief Constable **Raymond White**, who was head of Special Branch and CID at the time of the 1998 bombing that killed 29 people. The affidavits indicate some of the assertion in Flanagan's reply to Police Ombudsman **Nuala O'Loan's** report were either not accurate or were not a fair reflection or interpretation of the facts. (*RM Dist. 5/22/02*)

Construction work on a peace wall in north Belfast has halted as a result of legal action. Governors of the Holy Cross girls' primary school in Ardoyne went to court to prevent work on the wall. Last year, loyalists blockaded Catholic parents from escorting their daughters to school, daily intimidating and abusing the children. The wall was one measure the first and deputy first ministers suggested to try to improve community relations. The wall would conceal the route to the school from the students' parents. Chairman of the school's board of governors Fr. **Aidan Troy** confirms Catholics in Ardoyne want the building stopped. "One hundred percent of the parents are saying to me if this wall goes up we would not have the trust to send the children past it. It would be a monument to distrust, and it would be a danger. Now I must, in that capacity as chair of the board of governors, say it is one of my constitutional statutory things to do is keep the school open. If

the wall goes up I'm sorry to say the school will close," he said. (*RM Dist. 6/1/02*)

A former RUC member has won a case of religious discrimination and victimization. **James Willis**, who applied for the position of assistant chief constable in 1998, went before a Fair Employment Tribunal in May. It found that Willis, who was a chief superintendent, had been discriminated against by the arrangements used to decide on the promotion. The tribunal found Willis suffered discrimination on religious grounds—he is a born-again Christian—and victimization following a fair employment complaint he made in 1996. It also found that former chief constable Sir **Ronnie Flanagan** provided assessments of candidates to short-listing and interview panels. He also provided comments on interview performance and, according to the panel, was consulted on its proposed recommendation. The tribunal had "serious reservation" about this level of involvement in the process from the same chief constable. The tribunal said it found the respondents to have discriminated against Willis "because of the unascertainable extent to which [it] relied on the chief constable's assessment." It added: "We believe that the applicant did not fit the mould desired by the chief constable in an assistant chief constable, and but for his religious beliefs and his 1996 complaint, he would have fitted that mould." The tribunal added: "Our finding in relation to the chief constable is fatal to the entire exercise." (*IAIS 6/14/02*)

An Irishman who has spent 26 years in an English prison protesting his innocence of murder had his conviction quashed by the Court of Appeal in London today. **Frank Johnson** has always maintained that he did not murder shopkeeper Jack Sheridan. Lord Justice **Longmore**,

sitting with two other judges in London, said, "We have come to the conclusion that in the light of the medical history of this case, the medical evidence, it is impossible for us to say that Johnson's conviction is a safe conviction. It will therefore be quashed." His case was referred to the Court of Appeal by the Criminal Cases Review Commission, which investigates possible miscarriages of justice. (*RM Dist. 6/26/02*)

A spokesman for Police Ombudsman **Nuala O'Loan** has confirmed her team of investigators was looking at circumstances surrounding the murder of Sergeant Joseph Campbell in Cushendall. Several former RUC officers have been questioned about the circumstances surrounding the murder. It is understood the ombudsman held interviews with a number of ex-police officers in relation to the murder. His family and human rights campaigners believe he was a victim of collusion between the security forces and the UVF. A spokesman for O'Loan said: "Sergeant Joseph Campbell was shot dead on the night of Feb. 25, 1977, as he locked up the small RUC station at Cushendall. An RUC officer who was arrested and charged with his murder was later acquitted of Campbell's death. Earlier this year, Campbell's family made a number of complaints to us and presented us with fresh information which has not previously been investigated." The spokesman confirmed a preliminary investigation was carried out and as a result, certain aspects before and after the murder that relate to possible police misconduct are being looked at. "We are not, as yet, investigating Sergeant Campbell's murder but only the circumstances surrounding it," he said. (*IAIS 7/1/02*)

Reporter: Bloody Sunday Was Britain's Attempt to Wipe Out the IRA

A JOURNALIST who investigated the Bloody Sunday deaths in 1972 has told the Saville Inquiry that the British army was attempting to eliminate the IRA leadership in Derry. At the same time, soldiers are seeking anonymity when they give testimony, and a forensic scientist is complaining he received only part of a nail bomb the British army claims was on the body of a Bloody Sunday victim.

In 1972, **Murray Sayle** was a journalist with the *Sunday Times*. He told the Saville Inquiry mid-June that he was sent to Derry on the evening of Bloody Sunday along with fellow *Sunday Times* journalist, **Derek Humphry**. Sayle said Bloody Sunday was a typical “parachute” operation with soldiers moving in at speed and with obvious meticulous planning.

He said his eventual story—which the paper did not run—contended the Parachute Regiment developed a plan to eliminate the IRA leaders in Derry. “The plan as Derek and I saw it was for the Para snatch squads, a company strong (about 100 men, the biggest ever deployed in the North) to wait in concealment until the march proper had come to an end and those at the head of the march had separated from the main body to engage in normal aggro,” he said.

Sayles said the British army would have assumed the IRA leadership would have been at the front of the Bloody Sunday march. “Sparing civilian lives, in this case those of British citizens in a British city, would normally take absolute priority. Despite the likelihood of civilian casualties, the prospect of eliminating the Derry IRA leadership seemed to have outweighed the risk in the planners’ minds,” Sayles said. “That was the only explanation we could find for the early repeated army statements that the civil rights march was illegal,” he added.

The witness claimed the British army’s shooting on Bloody Sunday was not indiscriminate. He suggested those who were shot fell, for the greater part, in a particular category. Sayle said they were young men of military age and were wearing coats that looked like combat jackets.

Humphry said he was convinced that the army’s version of events was inaccurate based on his study of photographs by French photographer **Gilles Peress**. He said Peress’s pictures showed soldiers in full battle dress, not riot control kits. He said the soldiers’ appearance was not consistent with that of soldiers on a crowd-control operation.

Journalist **Peter Taylor**, who has interviewed the first battalion of the Paratroop Regiment on duty on Bloody

Sunday and other soldiers, similarly claims, “what happened on Bloody Sunday was not...in my view a conspiracy but an operation that went terribly and fatally wrong. Basically, the officers, sergeants, and corporals of One Para [the regiment deployed] lost control of their men.”

At the Saville Inquiry hearing, Taylor declined to reveal the identities of a number of military sources even though he was told some of them had released him from his pledge of confidentiality. He said he regarded the principle of confidentiality as being “absolute.”

Ruling on Taylor’s refusal to reveal sources, Lord **Saville** said that there was a possibility the Inquiry could identify the military and IRA figures by other means. While that possibility existed, the tribunal would not formally order Taylor to reveal his sources, Saville said.

Meanwhile, the Inquiry has refused screening to two soldiers, one of whom fired more than 20 shots on Bloody Sunday. Soldiers H and 104 applied to the Inquiry to be screened from public view while giving their evidence in London after the summer.

So far, several police officers have given evidence from behind wooden screens. Only the tribunal, its staff, and lawyers representing interested bodies saw them.

The inquiry has also granted two other soldiers—B and J—permission to use screens. These men have already been granted anonymity and will give their evidence in London, not in Derry. Issuing his ruling, Saville pointed out that in granting anonymity and a venue change, the English Appeal Court stressed the soldiers would be seen by the Bloody Sunday families and the public when they gave their evidence. Saville said the tribunal saw no “objective justification” for the fears expressed by the two soldiers. Through their legal counsel, the soldiers claimed paramilitaries could send sketch artists to the inquiry in London to create a photo-fit of the soldiers. Saville said ruling to prevent such sketching could prevent this.

On another matter, a retired forensic scientist told the Inquiry he did not receive the complete nail bombs that the British army claimed it had found on the body of Bloody Sunday victim Gerard Donaghy. **Alan Hall** raised new questions over the devices when he revealed that he did not receive any samples from the explosive core of the devices or the detonating fuses. Hall also said the commercial explosive used was also not normally used in nail bombs at the time.

(continued from Page 1)

Likewise, West Tyrone Sinn Fein MP **Pat Doherty** says British military collusion with loyalists has existed for decades, the Dublin-Monaghan bombings being a prime example. However, the establishment of this structure in the late 1980s points to a strategy to fine-tune collusion so that loyalists would be surrogates of the state with the state controlling and directing their operations. This would achieve a specific political outcome—namely, nationalists' lowering their political demands.

The BBC program said elements within Northern Ireland's police and military intelligence collaborated with loyalist paramilitaries in the late 1980s to murder Catholics.

The central charge in the program is that collusion between loyalists and British military resulted in the murder of a number of Catholics—among them, Finucane. Indeed, the program found that at least four British agents are implicated in the killing, British Army agent **Brian Nelson** and RUC Special Branch agents **William Stobie**, **Tommy Little**, and **Ken Barrett**.

In one extraordinary moment, reporter **John Ware** sits in a car with Barrett, who is unaware that this meeting and others are being secretly filmed and recorded. Barrett recalls that the RUC would prime with Finucane's name loyalists under arrest: "...Young fellows, you know,... they'd have come out and said to us, 'They said about Finucane, they say this and they say that,' and they must have said it because kids wouldn't come out and say, 'They said about Finucane,' because why would they mention Finucane? You understand what I mean? Finucane wouldn't have been a name in their head." Barrett bluntly tells Ware: "Finucane would have been alive

today if the peelers (police) hadn't interfered."

According to Barrett, British army agent and UDA intelligence officer **Brian Nelson** supplied him with Finucane's photograph six days before the assassination and showed him where the lawyer lived. "By copying his targeting files to murder gangs all over Northern Ireland," Panorama reveals, "Nelson had bequeathed a deadly legacy. The officer ultimately responsible for this was Colonel **Gordon Kerr**. He had recruited Nelson; he was commanding officer of the unit that ran him. He never hid his contempt for the Stevens Inquiry."

The program suggests it is part of a pattern, and that at the center of that pattern were paramilitaries such as Barrett and the more sinister Nelson. Nelson was a former soldier from Northern Ireland whom military intelligence recruited and sent to Belfast to infiltrate the Ulster Defense Association.

With his handlers, his job rapidly and dangerously expanded until he was giving loyalists intelligence documents from the security forces. The aim, according to the program, was to make the loyalists' targeting more professional.

The obstruction the **Stevens Inquiry** has faced has included a fire in 1990 that destroyed his offices in a police station near Carrickfergus, County Antrim. In the Panorama program, **John Stevens** says he never believed the story that a cigarette butt started the fire; he believes, instead, that the forces he was investigating were out to stop him. "What happened was, round about the second or third day of that inquiry, we were given some notification that something might well happen. That's the reason we had a duplicate office

in Cambridgeshire where we had statements which made sure that when the fire took place we could continue with the inquiry."

Collusion with loyalists was sanctioned at the highest levels within the British government, agrees Sinn Fein's Pat Doherty. He says representatives from RUC Special Branch, British military, and military intelligence have been coordinated on a day-to-day basis by government and security officials of the Task Coordinating Group. In turn, this group comes under the direct control of the Joint Security Committee in London, which reported directly to the British Cabinet. The chain of command went and still goes right to the top.

The latest Stevens report, his third investigation into collusion, will outline how collusion between British forces and Loyalist paramilitaries went unchecked for years. The report is due out in the fall. (Britain suppressed the previous two.) Stevens is expected to recommend charges against several RUC (now PSNI) police and British army officers and to outline proposals for wholesale reform, including major changes to the Special Branch section, the RUC's intelligence division.

The report does not estimate the number of shootings that resulted from collusion, but states that loyalists were incapable of carrying out targeted assassinations without significant help.

Day-to-day responsibility for the Stevens Inquiry fell to **Hugh Orde**, who is to take over as chief constable in the North.

Visit the Pat Finucane Center Web site at www.serve.com/pfc for a transcript of the BBC Panorama program, *A License to Kill*.

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liner **Jeffrey Donaldson**. The UUP's executive overwhelmingly rejects Donaldson's motion calling for a withdrawal of party ministers from the executive by July 1 if Sinn Fein were not expelled from the North's devolved administration.

June 19

Addressing the House of Lords in the Democratic Unionist Party's legal challenge to the election of the first and deputy first ministers in the North last year, Lord **Goldsmith** says fresh elections would throw Northern Ireland into turmoil. Britain is avoid elections, critics say, because it likely would not favor the outcome. It is widely believed that fresh elections would result in increases for Sinn Fein and the DUP, perhaps even putting both parties ahead of the more moderate SDLP and UUP. The DUP is challenging the election because it says it took place outside the designated six weeks following the collapse of the Assembly.

June 21

Trimble demands changes to the Mitchell Agreement to make it easier for unionists to exclude Sinn Fein and impose sanctions against the party. Trimble claims mainstream republicans with links to Sinn Fein continue to orchestrate violence.

June 26

Reid and Cowen discuss the implementation of the Mitchell Agreement with pro-Agreement parties. Reid says, "The solution to the problems in Northern Ireland will be found in Northern Ireland. They will not be found ultimately by [Irish Prime Minister] **Bertie Ahern**, [British Prime Minister] **Tony Blair**, John Reid or Brian Cowen, with respect to Brian. They will be found here, and therefore the more regularly in my view the pro-Agreement parties meet together and honestly and maturely discuss openly and honestly their own problems, the better chance we have of success."

June 27

Speaking following unnamed security sources' claims that personal details of a range of people were found on a computer hard drive belonging to a republican who was arrested in connection with the break-in in Castlereagh in May, Adams says the IRA remains on cease-fire and remains committed to the peace process.

June 28

As a summit of Stormont power-sharing ministers and their Irish government counterparts ends in Armagh, Trimble claims paramilitary violence is the sole reason peace process talks involving Blair will be staged next week. However Sinn Fein's **Martin McGuinness** hits back, insisting the crisis is the result of battles "within the political leadership of unionism."

June 29

The PSNI uses water cannon to break up rioting in Belfast following an Orange Order march on the nationalist Springfield Road.

July 1

Adams and Ahern discuss the security problems in the North ahead of Ahern's meeting with Blair.

July 2

Reid calls on loyalists to desist from violence.

July 3

Trimble calls on Blair to get on top of the violence in the North. The UUP leader is under pressure within his party to take a stronger line against Sinn Féin ahead of next May's Assembly elections. Party members are concerned that the UUP's main rival, the DUP, will continue the gains it made at the British general election. Also, there is great concern that Sinn Fein will become the largest party in these elections, thus taking the position of Northern Ireland first minister. Deputy Minister **Mark Durkan** urges Trimble to stop thinking about imposing sanctions against Sinn Fein. Durkan says, "There is something wrong when the actions of paramilitaries lead to pressure on democratic parties and democratic institutions rather than the antidemocratic elements behind this violence."

July 4

Hard line unionists continue to demand the removal of Sinn Féin from the power-sharing Executive as Ahern and Blair chair a mini-summit to avert a crisis in the peace process. They meet against a backdrop of street violence and allegations of collusion between the RUC Special Branch and loyalists in the murder of nationalists. Ahern and Blair meet the parties bilaterally before a round-table session involving all sides. Trimble demands that the governments expel Sinn Fein by July 24, the end of Britain's parliamentary session. The focus of the crisis talks at Hillsborough is helping bolster Trimble's leadership of the UUP and restore unionist confidence in the Mitchell Agreement.

Letter to the Editor

CONGRATULATIONS on the new cooperation with IAUC. It's about time. If we and others had done this 20 years ago, the cause of Irish unity would be much further along.

Richard Doyle
Forest Lake, Minn.

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Action Requests

Please take the actions recommended below. Mention that you are a PEC member.

Contact: Minister for State **Adam Ingram**, tele. (in the United Kingdom) 020-7219-4093; email adam_ingram@compuserve.com

Contact: **Your Representative**, 2244 Rayburn Office Building, Washington, DC 20515-3010

Message: Please urge the British government to establish an immediate public inquiry into the 1989 murder of Pat Finucane. The BBC Panorama program "A License to Kill" offers compelling evidence that the British government devised Finucane's murder. Waiting two more years for Canadian judge **Peter Cory** to determine whether or not the case merits investigation is unacceptable to a community whose future depends on open, human-rights-based policing.

Contact: **Richard N. Haass**, Director, State Dept. Policy Planning, Dept. of State, 2201 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20520; tele. 202-647-4000; fax 202-647-0844; email r.haass@state.gov

Message: Please urge the British government to stop the loyalist violence in Northern Ireland. Its failure to do so helps make Sinn Fein's case that it should neither support the Police Service of Northern Ireland nor participate on the Police Board. Though, as you say, it might be easier to influence the Board as a member of it, joining it at the same time the police fails to protect nationalists would require Sinn Fein to abandon nationalists.

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Adams has said no one should underestimate the precarious situation of the peace process. "The situation in east Belfast, the raids on republican homes, the arrests of republicans (over the Castlereagh police station break-in in March), the unacceptable behavior of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, including the serious assault on the Belfast Sinn Fein party chairperson...are all sources of grave concern and tension," he said.

Adams has called on republicans to "calm the situation and to use [their] influence to have all the violence ended. The British Government has a responsibility also. That includes an end to pandering to unionist demands to dilute or minimize the [Mitchell Agreement]. Genuine unionist or loyalist concerns or grievances must be dealt with. But this does not include altering the Agreement to a unionist model.

"Consequently," he added, "there is a need for a vigorous review a stocktaking of the progress made thus far in the process of implementing the...Agreement."

Adams also claims that the British government has "a case to answer" over the delivery of several elements of the Agreement. He identifies these as "the failure to deliver a new, civic, accountable police service; its lack of progress on the crucial issue of demilitarization; the serious gap that exists in the promotion of the equality and criminal justice agenda; and the shambles it has created around the creation of a Bill of Rights."