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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 27, Number 7

July 2002

AIEF-PEC and AIUC Formally Agree to Closer Cooperation

THE IRISH American Unity Conference (IAUC) and the American Ireland Education Foundation-Political Education Committee (AIEF-PEC) agree to formally interact cooperatively, as independent but sister organizations, to meet mutually agreeable goals and missions of each organization. The IAUC and AIEF issue the following statement to their members.

An agreement has been entered into by both organizations whereby the IAUC will interact cooperatively with the AIEF-PEC as a complementary but independent organization. Within the AIEF, **John Finucane** will carry the title of founder and president emeritus. The national boards of both organizations have ratified this agreement.

A transitional approach will be followed for one year. During this period, there should be no noticeable or significant changes in operations, appearances, or identities of either organization, as far as respective members are concerned. The agreement will be evaluated over this transitional period to determine whether it, indeed, is in the best interests of both organizations.

We encourage members of both organizations to participate in this evaluation process and to make recommendations.

It is hoped that, where possible, the two organizations will use their resources to work closely together toward fulfilling mutual objectives. There appear to be great opportunities and potential to improve the effectiveness of both organizations with this agreement.

We will keep you informed every step along the way and, again, we invite your participation.

James J. Gallagher
National President
Irish American Unity
Conference

John J. Finucane
National President
American Ireland
Education Foundation-
Political Education
Committee

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Our View: Bound, Gagged, and Ready for Work

RETIRED Canadian judge Peter Cory has told the world he won't have power to do much about the high-profile murder cases he will review for the British and Irish governments. The 76-year-old will look into the following cases in which there are claims the killers colluded with state forces to murder: Pat Finucane, Rosemary Nelson, Robert Hamill, Harry Breen, Bob Buchanan, Billy Wright, and Maurice and Cecily Gibson.

The Finucane family opposes a review; it wants full public inquiries into the murders. The Finucanes believe Cory's appointment will delay a meaningful inquiry.

Indeed, the judge himself has already vindicated the family's suspicions that any international figure would not be granted adequate powers. Cory says he will have no powers to subpoena witnesses and that the British government has offered assurances--and no more--that it will supply relevant documents. Few believe that Cory will be allowed any insight into the role of the security forces and intelligence services in political assassinations.

The judge also admits he will not seek or review any evidence pertaining to related deaths. This means that other murders involving the secret British Army unit responsible for Pat Finucane's murder, the Force Research Unit (FRU), will not fall within his review.

Further, Cory says he has no knowledge of what level of cooperation he will receive from the families of the dead. It appears the British and Irish governments have not advised him of the families' concerns that his appointment is no substitute for a full judicial inquiry.

He is at once the three monkeys who see no evil, hear no evil, and speak no evil--against the British government. To think he hasn't even begun his review.

Peace Process Update

May 9

DAVID Ervine, leader of the UVF-linked PUP, says the UVF is rearming because of loyalist fears of "secret deals" with nationalists and "ambivalence" about the IRA following a series of speculative reports alleging IRA activity. Four UVF members appear in court in Scotland for attempting to smuggle plastic explosives into the North.

May 15

The British release from prison UFF leader **Johnny Adair**.

May 18

Sinn Fein's **Sean Crowe** is the first Sinn Fein TD elected in Dublin since the days of Countess Markiewicz. Crowe tops the May 17 poll with 7,466 and is elected on the first count. In Tralee, Sinn Fein's **Martin Ferris** tops the poll, taking a seat from former Labor Tanaiste **Dick Spring**. In Cavan/Monaghan, outgoing TD **Caoimhghin O Caolain** again tops the poll and is elected on the first count.

May 19

Sinn Fein's **Aengus O Snodaigh** wins a seat in Dublin South-Central, a constituency with many young people, working poor, and unemployed.

May 20

A few seats short of Ireland's first overall single-party parliamentary majority in 25 years, Prime Minister **Bertie Ahern** looks for a partner in power. The election devastates Fine Gael, which loses leader **Michael Noonan**. Several senior figures in the party lose seats, including deputy leader **Jim Mitchell** and former leader **Alan Dukes**. Other national figures who lose seats are former Labor leader **Dick Spring** in Kerry North and Ahern's deputy leader, **Mary O'Rourke**, in Westmeath. The Dail will meet June 6 to elect a Taoiseach.

May 26

Sinn Fein leader **Gerry Adams** calls for a rigorous review of the progress the British and Irish governments have

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American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC

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From the South: Sinn Fein Strengthens Vote in May 17 General Election

IN A HISTORIC breakthrough, Sinn Fein won five seats in the Dublin parliament, winning three of them on the first count. From Tralee to Tallaght, Ardee to the RDS, party members and supporters shouted jubilantly, waving a sea of tricolors to celebrate the election of **Sean Crowe**, **Caoimghin O Caolain**, **Martin Ferris**, **Arthur Morgan**, and **Aengus O Snodaigh**.

The Brandon Hotel in Tralee throbbed with emotion as "Irish Republican Navy" man Martin Ferris savored his victory, having headed the poll with 9,496 first preference votes and getting elected on the second count. With him was Mid-Ulster MP, **Martin McGuinness**, who was also shouldered as a hero to the cheers of hundreds of supporters when the result was announced.

In his speech at the end of the count, Deputy Ferris paid moving tributes to his wife and family. "I thank Marie for bringing up such a beautiful family who were so supportive of me through the dark years," he said.

Ferris added that, 32 years ago, he became involved in the struggle for equality, justice and peace, and for many of those dark years there was no option but pain and suffering for all the people. "I don't want in any way to say we suffered more than anybody else. People suffered, the enemy suffered, and we suffered," he declared, saying he was committed to a united Ireland through peaceful and democratic means.

It was also an emotional moment in Dublin when lifelong activist Sean Crowe doubled his vote and topped the poll with 7,416 votes in the four-seat constituency of Dublin South-West. Crowe became the first Sinn Fein TD to be elected in Dublin since the days of rebel Countess

Markievicz. Party leader **Gerry Adams** and supporters let out a huge roar in the city center in Tallaght as the result was announced: Crowe was through on the first count. It was a great reward for activists who struggled for decades against the oppression of the Free State. The battle saw Fine Gael golden-boy **Brian Hayes** come to a sticky end.

Within an hour, Caoimhghin O Caolain, who had been the party's only sitting TD, was comfortably returned in Cavan/Monaghan despite a major shake-up in the constituency. In the same hall in 1997, he stormed to victory by topping the poll to win the seat once held by hunger striker Kieran Doherty. (Doherty's election became a model for republican activism in the South.)

In the early hours of Sunday morning, Arthur Morgan almost doubled the party's vote in Louth and won a seat first captured by H-Block candidate **Paddy Agnew**. On this occasion, however, Agnew was present to watch Morgan reclaim the seat. A tall, soft-spoken man, Agnew expressed his delight to have a successor in the seat.

Shortly afterwards, Aengus O Snodaigh helped to open a new chapter in Irish history in Dublin. The republican labor campaign against deprivation and inequality had resonated loudly throughout Ireland's capital. In a breakthrough, O Snodaigh trebled the party's vote to follow Crowe and raise the flag in his constituency of Dublin South-Central.

The results came as a shock to many, but not to Sinn Fein activists. Their efforts over the past months and years—arguing the case to voters house by house—paid dividends.

For many, however, the reward will have to wait. In Dublin North-West, **Dessie Ellis** and his team secured an

amazing 18 percent of the vote from nothing and hounded Labor's **Roisin Shortall** for the last seat. On the last count, the transfers of the Fine Gael candidate went mainly to Shortall.

In Meath, Sinn Fein candidate **Joe Reilly** almost doubled his vote and was a few pushes of an electronic vote button away from a huge upset. Former Fine Gael leader **John Bruton** was forced to sweat it out for three hours before the computer revealed that his constituency had narrowly avoided the meltdown that ravaged the party elsewhere.

In Dublin Central, Sinn Fein's **Nicky Kehoe** could already taste the Leinster House canteen after coming third in first preferences on the first count. He had doubled the party's vote and appeared to have embarrassed the taoiseach by capturing his running mate's seat.

So it remained until the fifth count, when the votes of the defeated Fine Gael candidate **Jim Mitchell** again transferred squarely to Labor candidate **Joe Costello**. Kehoe was then in fourth spot. Unbelievably, three quarters of Costello's surplus then transferred to Ahern's man, who edged into the front on the final count by a mere 74 votes.

A recount on Sunday failed to change the result or resolve how the Labor candidate became the vehicle of the right-wing vote.

A legal question hung over the selection of the parcel of ballot-papers that were counted for the process. After some hours puzzling over the idiosyncracies of Southern democracy, Sinn Fein's experts decided to win the fight on another day.

Overall, the party almost trebled its vote to an average of more than 8 percent in the areas it contested and to 7 percent in total throughout the State.

Newsbits

AT LUNCHTIME, masked loyalists walked into a community college on Tower Street in the Short Strand and ordered Catholic students and staff to leave, reliable sources told the Pat Finucane Center. The college is now closed. Earlier there had been scuffles and sectarian taunts exchanged between Protestants and Catholics using a medical center in a mainly Protestant part of the district. These latest developments follow several reports from last night of a loyalist gunman sitting on roofs on the Cluan Place/Clandeboyne Drive interface, firing shots into Catholic homes. No one was injured. Earlier, loyalists prevented pensioners from the Short Strand from entering a post office. According to BBC reports loyalists then attacked St. Matthews Catholic church while a funeral was being held. When British troops intervened loyalists called on them to "go home ye English bastards." A number of vehicles have been hijacked in the area, and a stand-off has developed in the Newtownards Road area. The local Sinn Fein councillor, **Joe O'Donnell**, was struck on the head with a brick while being interviewed by the media. There are also reports that another Catholic church in East Belfast was attacked this morning in addition to the home of a Catholic pensioner. The situation at present is that there is an on-going loyalist blockade at the bottom of the Newtownards Road. Nationalists are planning a picket of the Madrid Street RUC/PSNI station to protest the lack of protection during these attacks. (*Pat Finucane Center* 6/5/02 and 6/7/02)

The failure of the RUC/PSNI to investigate threats against Lurgan solicitor Rosemary Nelson before her 1999 murder is to be investigated in the High Court in Belfast, a judge

decided yesterday. The Committee on the Administration of Justice, of which Nelson was an executive member, was granted leave by Justice **Kerr** for a judicial review of decisions by Police Ombudsman **Nuala O'Loan** and former Chief Constable **Sir Ronnie Flanagan**. The CAJ and its director, **Martin O'Brien**, are seeking an order quashing the decisions by O'Loan and Sir Ronnie to refuse to disclose relevant documents to them. The CAJ insists O'Loan's and Flanagan's refusals were incompatible with the European Convention of Human Rights. The Ombudsman had failed to give adequate weight to the effect non-disclosure would have on their ability to make meaningful representations on the progress of the investigation and the benefit that could flow from them having sight of the documents, CAJ argued. CAJ also argued that Flanagan erred in law in deciding that "confidentiality" was sufficient reason for non-disclosure and that his provision of documents to the ombudsman absolved him of the responsibility to consider the applicants' request for disclosure. **Paul Magean**, legal officer of the CAJ, said in an affidavit: "I believe the failure to disclose the documents has put us at a disadvantage in respect of the investigation of our complaint." (*RM Dist.* 4/28/02)

Channel 4 News in Britain today gave the Bloody Sunday Inquiry in Derry notes of interviews with soldiers used in a series of reports about the controversial shootings 30 years ago. Inquiry chairman **Lord Saville** yesterday directed that notes taken during interviews by **Lena Ferguson**, who produced the report, must be given to the inquiry. Ferguson and reporter **Alex Thomson**, who is due to give evidence to the inquiry, are not prepared to break their undertakings to

the soldiers to maintain confidentiality. The soldiers were present when the British Army shot dead 13 people at a civil rights demonstration in Derry in 1972. Ferguson had provided the inquiry with brief notes, saying that to produce the full notes would identify her sources and she was not prepared to break undertakings given to the soldiers she spoke to. Lord Saville said it was clear there was much information in the notebooks that would be important to the Inquiry, and the Inquiry should be provided with only matters relating to the soldiers identities blanked out. Ferguson and the legal team for ITN, which produces Channel 4 News, worked overnight to produce the notes, which she had told the inquiry were contained in up to 10 notebooks. (*RM Dist.* 5/1/02)

Tom Constantine, who is overseeing the change from the RUC to the PSNI, said progress was being made on the issue of policing and that reforms were likely to be completed sooner than the 10 years initially envisaged. However, in his latest report, Constantine criticized the failure to date to merge Special Branch with the regular detective force as recommended by the Patten Report. Constantine, former head of the US Drug Enforcement Administration and New York state police chief, also identified other areas of concern: a lack of significant progress on a new police college; not enough being done to create civilian posts within the police; and deficient resources for human rights training. The oversight commissioner said he would pay close attention to plans to phase out the full-time police reserve and to recruit into the part-time reserve. (*IAIS* 5/1/02)

Letters to the Editor

[*Editor's Note:* **Richard Haass**, President **George Bush**'s special envoy to Northern Ireland, recently sent the following letter to PEC member **John C. Banaghan** of Florida. The *Newsletter's* March *Action Request* asked Haass to pressure the British government to end loyalist attacks on schoolchildren in the Ardoyne area of north Belfast.]

THANK you for your recent letter on Northern Ireland. I appreciate your taking the time to share your thoughts on the situation surrounding the Holy Cross School.

Please be assured that this Administration has spoken out forcefully against the behavior demonstrated by the protestors in Ardoyne. Our public and private efforts were aimed at defusing the situation in order to protect the children, our first priority. There is no excuse for the demonstrators' behavior, and I categorically condemn it.

Even in the face of this bitter and inexcusable sectarianism, I firmly believe that both communities must share the benefits of peace. The Protestant and Catholic communities in Northern Ireland share a common future and both must have a stake in the society there. This Administration's efforts are firmly grounded in the view that an inclusive society that welcomes all members and celebrates all traditions must be built in Northern Ireland.

Toward this end, the Bush Administration strongly supports the full implementation of the [Mitchell] Agreement which, we believe, is the blueprint for a lasting peace in Northern Ireland. We remain confident that a majority of people in Northern Ireland support the [Mitchell] Agreement and what it stands for—a democratic, peaceful process where changes are made through majority consent and advancement of equality and equal rights.

Again, thank you for writing.

[*Editor's Note:* This is an open letter to British Prime Minister **Tony Blair** from **Gerald P. Lally**, Political Action Chairman, Irish American Unity Conference.]

SINN Fein has received much criticism for not signing on to the police reforms in Northern Ireland. One of its main objections has been the lack of accountability of this police service. Recent events justify this concern and indicate that there is no such new police force, just a new name—PSNI—for the discredited RUC.

Let me cite a few examples. 1. In the past 14 months, there have been more than 500 bomb and gun attacks on nationalists. This new police force has made few arrests. One cannot carry on what is basically a daily activity in a small area without the police being aware of what is going on and who is doing it. Why no arrests?

2. In conjunction with these attacks, loyalists have been attacking nationalist neighborhoods on a nightly basis, particularly in north Belfast and more recently in the Short Strand. This new police force not only does not arrest the perpetrators, but also it uses these attacks as an excuse to likewise attack the nationalist community. The victims become victims a second time. **Patrick Devenny**, a Sinn Fein leader in the Short Strand, was hospitalized with extremely serious injuries inflicted not by the loyalists but by your new police force.

3. In late April, **Peter Carraher** of Crossmaglen was arrested on a disorderly person's offense arising out of a demonstration in December. He was repeatedly assaulted, and one of your officers attempted to dislodge Carraher's ear by placing his boot on his ear and twisting it. Why? Carraher was advised it was a reminder of who is still in charge.

4. In the run up to the election in the South, the media published one absurd charge after another in an attempt to discredit Sinn Fein and damage its chances in the election. One of them included blaming the IRA for the break-in at Castlereagh.

5. The break-in at Castlereagh led to the arrests and subsequent release of many nationalists. Police officers broke down doors and brutalized the residents. These are scenes that nationalists believed were to be a thing of the past with the inauguration of a new policing service as recommended by the Patten Commission.

The situation calls for your immediate action to reign in these elements (*See Action Request, Page 8*). It is incomprehensible how employees of your government can be allowed to continually sabotage the official position of your government in support of the Mitchell Agreement and policing reforms.

Plastic Bullets Report Misses the Point

POLICE Ombudsman **Nuala O'Loan** says the PSNI has been justified in using plastic bullets against citizens in the North (*See Action Request, Page 8*).

Her report deals with five complaints in the context of 36 of the PSNI's officially fired bullets over 12 months. The number of plastic bullets fired in this period by far exceeds the number examined in this report, but there is no independent mechanism to account and verify the numbers of plastic bullets fired.

The report says that there was "no misconduct on the part of the police" and that officers acted "with great restraint." It upholds no complaints.

Responding to the report, United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets spokesperson **Clara Reilly** says, "We find this situation absolutely

incredible and one that will reinforce the view within the nationalist community that the ombudsman's office is a toothless tiger. It is clear with such findings that this report lacked any real investigative procedures."

The ombudsman cannot examine plastic bullets fired by the British army despite the army's being deployed by the PSNI/RUC under the role of police primacy. The Ministry of Defense refuses to publish its guidelines for the use of plastic bullets.

Further, hospitals do not record injuries from plastic bullets. Therefore, unless someone who suffers a plastic bullet injury complains directly to the ombudsman, there is no independent observation of the volume or nature of plastic bullet injuries.

"The ombudsman's report is not the result of any quantifiable or substantial research into the effects of plastic bullets and does not take into consideration any of the serious injuries and fatalities caused by their continued use. There is a real danger that this report may be used to justify the ongoing use of plastic bullets. Such attempts or spin must be challenged," Reilly added.

Reilly pointed out that last Oct. the United Nations Human Rights Committee severely criticized the British government for retaining plastic bullets. The United Nations Committee Against Torture likewise has deemed plastic bullets as a weapon of torture and called for them to be discontinued.

Pat Finucane Center Critique's Ombudsman's Report

THE DERRY-BASED human rights group the Pat Finucane Center published the following criticisms of the police ombudsman's report into the firing of 36 plastic bullets over 12 months in the North.

1. The largest single use of plastic bullets in one incident in 2001 was in Ardoyne on July 12, when 48 were fired. During this incident, a plastic bullet struck 16-year-old **Clara Crossan** in the forehead. The ombudsman's report ignores this incident.

According to the Defense Scientific Advisory Council report into the new plastic bullet, the missile could become embedded in the skull if fired head on, as it was in this case.

2. The report makes no mention whatsoever of plastic bullets that the British army fired at the request of the police. British army guidelines remain classified and allow for no investigative process. The ombudsman's report covers only the firing of 36 plastic bullets in a period during which the police fired at least 98.

3. The report relies heavily on the police version and fails to take into account civilian evidence. For example, on the Garvaghy Road in May 2001, the RUC claimed six were fired. In a statement issued after the O'Loan report, the Garvaghy Road Residents Group states that at least 11 were fired. Civilian statements provided to the PFC at the time confirm this.

4. In a number of incidents the report deals with, there is independent evidence of plastics bullets' causing upper body and head injuries. The report does not mention this evidence.

5. The report fails to take into account the fact that most people who are injured by plastic bullets do not report the cause of their injury.

6. Attempts in the report to distance the current version of the plastic bullet from previous ones that were used to kill 14 people are erroneous. This is not a new or different weapon; it is a more lethal modification of the plastic bullet. Ombudsman **Nuala O'Loan** is aware of this, given her many years on the Police Authority, which purchased and authorized the use of plastic bullets.

7. This flawed report will have a chilling effect on those who might have considered filing complaints regarding plastic bullets. The United Campaign Against Plastic Bullets, Relatives for Justice, and the Pat Finucane Center cannot recommend that complaints be made to the police ombudsman about plastic bullets. Until these issues are resolved, we cannot cooperate with the ombudsman's office on this issue. We have come to this view reluctantly but feel that the methodology, timing, and content of this report have damaged confidence in the ability of the ombudsman's office to pursue complaints regarding the use of plastic bullets.

Human Rights Commission Calls for Murder Inquiry

(BELFAST – June 7) — THE NORTHERN Ireland Human Rights Commission is calling for an independent, international, public, judicial inquiry into the March 1999 murder of Rosemary Nelson. The Commission says such an inquiry is the process most likely to arrive at the truth of what happened on the day of the murder and the relevant surrounding circumstances.

As part of its statutory duty, the Commission has kept the ongoing criminal investigation under review for three years. The Commission is responsible in the North for reviewing the adequacy and effectiveness of law and practice relating to the protection of human rights.

The Commission says Britain has not fully complied with its duties under Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights (now part of the law of Northern Ireland by virtue of the Human Rights Act 1998). This was so not just with respect to the investigation of the security force threats against Nelson but also with respect to the investigation of the murder itself.

Speaking on behalf of the Commission, the Chief Commissioner, Prof. **Brice Dickson**, said: "Having studied

the recent decisions of the European Court of Human Rights and having met on several occasions with Mr. **Colin Port**, the police officer leading the investigation into Mrs. Nelson's murder, the Commission is now of the view that a full-scale public inquiry should be initiated so that all aspects of the murder can be thoroughly and effectively investigated.

Dickson added, "The Commission is particularly motivated by the facts that Mrs. Nelson was an officer of the court whose life had been threatened by members of the security forces, that she was not granted protection under the Key Persons Protection Scheme despite a request to that effect, and that the investigations to date have not been able to unearth what happened on the day of the killing."

The Commission has in the past called for a public inquiry into the murder of Patrick Finucane because of the evidence of collusion in that case. In May, it called for a public inquiry into the 1997 murder of Billy Wright. It has not up to now added its name to those calling for an inquiry into Nelson's death.

European Court of Human Rights finds Britain Guilty--Again

THE EUROPEAN Court of Human Rights found the British government guilty May 28 of violating the right to life in the case of Derry man Dermot McShane.

McShane was killed during riots in Derry in 1996 when a British army vehicle drove over a piece of hoarding under which he was sheltering. McShane's American wife brought the case. She claims British soldiers killed her husband either intentionally or by "unnecessary" force.

In its judgement, the court highlighted the following defects in the investigation of the death: it was neither independent nor expeditious; the soldier who drove the vehicle could not be required to attend the inquest as a witness; the inquest procedure did not allow any verdict or findings; the non-disclosure of witness statements and other documents contributed to long adjournments; and the inquest proceedings had not commenced promptly.

In reaching its conclusions the Court described as "remarkable" the delay of five and a half months in questioning the driver of the army vehicle.

Two Sentenced in Hamill Case

THE SENTENCING of two people mid-May in a case linked to the 1997 murder of Robert Hamill has raised new questions about the killing.

A couple who admitted perverting the course of justice in a case linked to the murder Hamill were sentenced on the eve of the anniversary of his death, it has emerged.

James McKee and his former wife, **Andrea McKee**, pleaded guilty at Craigavon Crown Court and were both sentenced to six months after admitting perjury charges, but Mrs. McKee walked free after her sentence was suspended for two years.

Diane Hamill, the victim's sister, said the case was a direct result of the family's campaign for justice. "It shows that five years down the line, this case is by no means over. I believe that without our campaign the case at Craigavon Court wouldn't have happened," she said.

The charges against the couple centered on a telephone call made to a suspect in the killing just hours after loyalists attacked Hamill. They were convicted of lying to provide an alibi for an RUC reservist who allegedly called the suspect and advised him to destroy evidence.

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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**, email adam_ingram@compuserve.com; tele. (in the United Kingdom) 020-7219-4093

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

Message: Please urge the British government to immediately publish the Ministry of Defense's findings on the impact of ricochet plastic bullets. Police and the British army in Northern Ireland use these weapons frequently, and they have caused serious injuries, including injuries to minors. The weapon, and Britain's failure to openly discuss its effects, leave all who are concerned about policing reform in the North doubtful that Britain can safeguard human rights.

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 pressure the British government to end the loyalist attacks on nationalists that are spreading like an epidemic throughout the North. Schoolchildren and senior citizens are the targets of loyalist abuse, and the PSNI does nothing to end the attacks. Its refusal to protect nationalists' human rights suggests its disinterest in supporting the Mitchell Agreement and, especially, policing reforms.

(continued from Page 2)

made implementing the Mitchell Agreement.

May 29

The police commission appoints former deputy assistant commissioner with the Metropolitan Police **Hugh Orde** as chief constable of the PSNI. Orde headed the investigation into allegations of security force collusion with loyalists in the murder of lawyer Pat Finucane.

May 30

The British and Irish governments announce their appointment of retired Canadian Supreme Court judge **Peter Cory** (76) to oversee investigations into six killings, including the murders of lawyers Pat Finucane and Rosemary Nelson and LVF leader Billy Wright. He will investigate allegations of IRA collusion with gardaí in the murder of Lord Justice Maurice Gibson and his wife, Lady Cicely. He will investigate allegations of collusion in the IRA gun attack on two senior RUC officers, and he will examine the RUC's failure to intervene before loyalists murdered Robert Hamill. The Finucane family and human rights groups regard this development as another attempt to delay such inquiries.

June 5

Fianna Fail and the Progressive Democratic Party agree to form the basis of a new government following both parties' gains in last week's general elections.

June 6

In the first day of the new Irish parliament, Fianna Fail leader Bertie Ahern is reelected prime minister.

June 7

Sinn Fein, the SDLP, and the Alliance party voted together to elect the city's first republican mayor, Sinn Fein's **Alex Maskey**, by one vote.