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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 27, Number 5

May 2002

For Immediate Release

Emerald Society Members 9/11 Sacrifice Must Be Remembered

(Stony Point – March 9) AT LEAST 155 of the 343 fire fighters who died in the Sept. 11 rescue effort in New York City were American Irish, and they deserve to be remembered.

That's why the Emerald Society of the Fire Department of the City of New York has asked Lower Manhattan Development Corporation Executive Director **John Whitehead** to allow the Society to help design the monument commemorating those heroes.

In a letter today to Whitehead, Emerald Society Public Awareness Coordinator and Political Education Director **John J. Finucane** said, "As the official fraternal organization of the Fire Department, City of New York (FDNY) representing more than 5,000 fire fighters of Irish heritage, we seek to be part of the committee that will decide the design of the monument that will memorialize our brother fire fighters who perished on 9/11."

Finucane, who is president of the AIEF-PEC, told the PEC, "We feel if other groups are going to insist on being represented in some sort of memorial, then the American Irish should also be represented. We comprise a significant number of the men who participated in the 9/11 relief effort."

British Agents Meet Irish Officials

MEN WHO ACTED as secret agents for the security forces in Northern Ireland will soon tell Department of Foreign Affairs officials that the British army trained and equipped loyalist death squads and encouraged assassinations and bombing missions.

The department confirmed that the meeting would go ahead "as a matter of routine" after self-confessed army agent **Willie Carlin** made the allegations in an interview March 27. Carlin claimed that loyalists supplied training and information that was used to target and murder civilians on both sides of the Irish border. He said many of the agents were recruited into the Force Research Unit of the British army, which acted as an intelligence body above the British government and Special Branch.

Carlin also alleged that the purpose of the FRU, which recruited him in 1974, was to redirect "loyalist killing gangs" away from sectarian murder towards "legitimate" republican targets. "Operations were allowed to go ahead and people lost their lives as a result," he said.

He claimed that loyalists acting on information received by the British Army murdered John Francis Green in Monaghan in 1975. Carlin said: "The people who killed him got their information from the FRU, and they were allowed through the border. The route was cleared for them to kill Joe Green, and they were allowed safe passage back to Northern Ireland."

The decision to go public and approach the Irish government came after Britain "abandoned" the agents as peace prevailed, Carlin said. A group of those agents are now threatening to release information claiming that the British authorities withheld information about "killings, break-ins, SAS activity in the Republic, and information that wasn't passed on," he said.

Among those allegations were claims that the British army "encouraged" loyalist attackers and gave them bomb-making training to plant car bombs in Dublin and Monaghan that killed 33 people in 1974. (A top judge is currently heading a Dublin inquiry into the attacks amid claims that British forces colluded with the bombers.

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Our View: Special Branch Theft Plays Out Like a Movie Re-run

THIS month's Newsletter reads like a thriller. We have disgruntled double-agents tattling on the British government to Dublin. We have thefts of spy data from Special Branch offices. We have the PSNI raiding homes and trampling through offices of human rights organizations and politicians. As the Northern state falls to pieces, agents of that state are dumping out drawers and burning the paper trail.

It's a thriller, all right. There are bloody crimes, and the killers are on the loose. It is also a war documentary we have all seen time after time. The denouement of any movie about World War II in Europe is the scene of Nazis burning papers, after all. It is at once the signal of failure and a pathetic effort to fight to the finish. In the cases of nasty governments with much to hide, it is also an acknowledgment that the defeated regime was an enormity. A monster with terrible secrets.

A monster with terrible secrets that retains hope of reappearing in some form in the newly constituted state. The Nazi hunters, after all, are forever finding former Nazis leading small countries or running government departments. The desire to dominate does not die easily. Perhaps it does not die at all.

We've all rented the Special Branch break in from Blockbuster. The thief gets inside the system, gets what he wants, and gets away. The Special Branch theft could get a lot of Brian Nelsons off the hook of responsibility. The departure of files could save Britain's face as its role in Northern Ireland winds down. The theft will not further justice. Nevertheless, the widespread British file-drawer dumping vindicates everyone who has argued against British government in the North. Britain has known it all along: We're decent people working for the right thing.

Peace Process Update

March 9

UUP LEADER and First Minister **David Trimble's** calls for a border poll in 2003 on a united Ireland. An early poll could help maximize the unionist vote in the face of trends indicating the Protestant population is declining gradually. He is reelected leader of his party.

March 14

President **George Bush's** special adviser on Northern Ireland condemns Trimble's description of the Irish Republic as a "pathetic sectarian state." **Richard Haass** says Trimble's statement is "regrettable." Haass says: "That's exactly the sort of language that ought to be avoided. We ought not to be talking in ways that reinforce or sharpen sectarian lines. We ought to be reaching out."

March 15

Citizens in the North make almost 20,000 complaints against the RUC in the last six years, but only nine police officers have been successfully prosecuted.

March 20

Four people escape injury when shots are fired at a house in the Waterside area of Derry. PSNI Inspector **Brian McKeown** says the intended targets were Catholics and that the police force is investigating a sectarian motive.

March 21

The Belfast Assembly survives a legal challenge after appeal court judges split 2-1 to dismiss DUP deputy leader **Peter Robinson's** appeal. Lord Chief Justice **Carswell** upholds Robinson's appeal challenging Northern Secretary **John Reid's** decision to delay the next election until May 2003. Lord justices **Nicholson** and **McCullum** dismiss the appeal, but the court gives leave for an appeal to the House of Lords. The two lord justices hold that Reid has latitude and discretion in the application of the six-week time limit but say political issues should be set aside and the governing statute take effect "eschewing all other considerations."

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American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC

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From the North: *Police Board Masks Reality of Repression as Usual*

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

SDLP leaders have assured us that, with the coming of the "new" Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), we have entered a new era of policing. None of these SDLP leaders claim that all Patten Report reforms, deriving from the Mitchell Agreement, are actually in place—although a few self-styled SDLP supporters have had the temerity to do so in letters to the press.

Trying to justify their precipitate joining of the PSNI Police Board, the SDLP's leaders have taken a different tack. Admitting that the Mandelson legislation at Westminster trimmed Patten of key democratizing recommendations—despite SDLP efforts to have them reinstated—they argue the best way to get these recommendations implemented is to haggle through the Police Board.

There is an objection to this approach. Patten itself is a compromise and does not bear any further whittling down. It does provide for cross-community participation in a new Police Board, but the power of its members is restricted to monitoring. There is still no effective control invested in the Board. Decision-making power still rests with the British secretary of state at the Northern Ireland Office (the proconsul) and with the PSNI through its chief constable and other top-ranking officers who are a law unto themselves, subject only to the NIO.

The monitoring role is weakened, if not nullified, by the fact that unionists and a big quota of independents—Protestant and establishment Catholics who are nominees of the British government—dominate the Board. Achieving anything resembling the full Patten in this setting is likely to be a very long haul, even if it were possible.

The British government was aware of this, and that is why they set up the Board. It wears a cloak of community participation but is limited by the parameters that the Mandelson legislation established.

In June, 2000, professor of law at the University of Limerick **Dermot Walsh** made this prediction: "While these proposals of accountability and human rights [in the Patten Report] are presented in a compelling manner, the task of securing their acceptance may prove even more prohibitive than that associated with names and symbols. The most strenuous resistance is likely to come from within the RUC [now the PSNI] itself. The chief constable and members of the RUC, in particular, have long grown accustomed to being masters in their own house. The Police Authority for Northern Ireland, which was designed to fill the resultant democratic deficit, has functioned more as a cheerleader for the RUC than as an effective accountability mechanism."

Despite what the SDLP now claims, recent events have borne out professor Walsh's prognostications, and the Police Board looks like a revived Police Authority. Now the British government can try to hide behind the Police Board and argue that further implementation of the Patten Report reforms can take place only at the pace the Board's members will allow. Britain has created the illusion of change while maintaining the status quo.

For example, recall that the SDLP was unable to get unalloyed Police Board backing for policing Ombudsman **Nuala O'Loan** in her recent quarrel with Chief Constable **Ronnie Flanagan** over the RUC's

handling of the Omagh bombing investigation. It is likely that more big tests are in the offing for the Board's credibility. The SDLP will find it more difficult to explain why if further fudges and compromises on democratic reforms are all that it can come up with.

One relates to the break-in at the Castlereagh RUC (now PSNI) barracks in Belfast's Castlereagh, where documents belonging to the Special Branch were taken away. At first, everyone believed that this was an internal job, given that Castlereagh is perhaps the most heavily fortified police station in Europe. Since the local police are understood to be junior partners to the British security establishment, MI5, MI6, and the various military intelligence operatives, the idea that it was an inside job seemed credible enough.

Northern Secretary **John Reid**, without telling the Board, let alone consulting it, immediately appointed his own man, a person closely related to the security services, to investigate the matter alongside an internal police exploration which, it would also appear had not required any input from the Board.

Neither was prior consultation with the Police Board required for the PSNI to raid the homes of republicans in the old-style RUC fashion on a mission, many argue, to deflect blame away from the real culprits. None of those arrested were charged with the Castlereagh break-in, and they were released from custody. No one believes that the truth about this matter will ever be revealed to the public or to the Police Board. The Board is another British sham into which the SDLP has gladly, foolishly bought.

Newsbits

THE HIGH Court in Belfast today grants leave to the family of Derry teenager Manus Deery, whom British troops shot dead in 1972, to judicially review the decision not to prosecute the soldiers involved. The then-director of public prosecutions ruled that no crime had been committed, with the result that the legality of the killing was never tested in court.

(Pat Finucane Center 3/6/02)

A document revealed on the March 7 UTV *Insight* program into the killing of Derry mother of six Kathleen Thompson will testify to the fact that a de facto immunity from prosecution existed for members of the security forces here. The document, discovered by the Bloody Sunday Inquiry, reveals an agreement between the RUC chief constable in 1970 and the British army GOC to severely limit the scope of any inquiries into killings attributed to the security forces. This "gentleman's agreement" covers the period from Jan. 1970 to March 1972, when the British army and RUC killed 72 people. *(Pat Finucane Center 3/7/02)*

The Pat Finucane Center has called on the Policing Board to explain why the PSNI has 69,148 plastic bullets in its arsenal, twice as many as have been fired in the last 20 years. Statistics included in a parliamentary reply also reveal that 122,320 plastic bullets have been purchased since publication of the Patten report. The same statistics reveal that the RUC purchased almost 368,000 plastic bullets between 1995 and 2000. In the same period, some 11,000 were fired, according to Hansard. According to the Center, this leaves a surplus of almost 357,000 at an average unit cost of just under £7 per bullet. "If the Policing Board is serious about creating confidence in new policing structures then a ban on plastic bullets should be the immediate priority," the Center said in a press

statement. It added, "In June 2001 a new, more lethal version was introduced despite a scientific report which admitted that the newer version could become 'embedded' in the skull if fired head-on. *(Pat Finucane Center 3/20/02)*

SINN Fein President **Gerry Adams** has described Sunday's raid on a top-security British intelligence office as British military organizations' attempt to frustrate political progress. Adams, accompanied by party colleague **Martin McGuinness**, today sought to find out from British Prime Minister **Tony Blair** what was taken in the raid and who was endangered by it when three unmasked men flashed military identification and breezed through the Castlereagh security installation. The masked men walked into room 220, where information on a network of informers and double agents is maintained. They tied up the officer on duty and piled up documents relating to Britain's war in Ireland. The images of the three raiders were not captured on any of the base's security cameras. Adams said, "I think you have seen it in terms of the way the ombudsman's inquiry was frustrated by Special Branch, across a range of issues on demilitarization and policing, and in terms of the recent raid on Castlereagh," Adams said. "We are trying to get the British government to focus on the need for these people to be brought to heel," Adams said, adding that the events at Castlereagh vindicated his party's stance on policing reform and pointed to the powerlessness of the new policing board and ombudsman to deal with the growing scandal. *(RM Dist. 3/24/02)*

The PSNI arrest senior loyalist **Mo Courtney** of the UDA's inner council for questioning about the murder of Belfast attorney Pat Finucane. Finucane was shot dead in front of his

wife and family when gunmen burst into their house in north Belfast in Feb. 1989. *(IAIS 3/27/02)*

The British government must ask itself if it is giving "false hope" to unionists in Northern Ireland by maintaining its presence here, a leading Sinn Féin figure argued tonight. In a speech to party activists in Cork, **Mitchel McLaughlin** welcomed Ulster Unionist leader **David Trimble's** recent call for a referendum next year on Northern Ireland's future. Insisting that republicans were ready for that debate, he denied Trimble's claim that it would put to bed for a generation "the drive towards a united Ireland." The Sinn Féin chairman reassured unionists that republicans do not want a united Ireland that replaced the "unionist domination of republicans with the republican/nationalist domination of unionists." *(IAIS 4/4/02)*

The recent Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust report indicates that as Ireland has become one of the richest countries, it has also one of the most unequal. The report of an independent social researcher finds that human rights standards are below international levels, and corruption is a central theme of life. Researcher **Brian Harvey** said that while investigations into corruption had "done much to determine the nature of corruption, changes to improve the political and administrative system have been minimal. "The fact that the problem is systemic has yet to be fully recognized. It's a serious gap in the modernization of Irish governments." The report warns Ireland will lose substantial foreign investment because of its reputation for corruption. The report also slams inadequate treatment of asylum seekers, inequalities in the justice system, and the lack of an independent police complaints procedure. *(RM Dist. 4/5/02)*

Deportees Committee Forms

(Chicago – March 15) THE IRISH Deportees of America Committee has formed. The men represented by this committee have individual deportation cases pending.

They have been living productive, peaceful lives for decades in the US and would like the privilege of living permanently in America. They have wives and children who would be affected by any action taken against them. These men and their families' lives have been threatened, should they ever return to Ireland.

On Dec. 11, 2000, then-Attorney General **Janet Reno** terminated deportation proceedings against nine other men who had served sentences in Northern Ireland for

politically-motivated offences. President **Bill Clinton** recognized that, while this action would not suggest the US's condoning their activities, removing the possibility of deportation would be a contribution to the peace process.

We must urge President **George Bush** and his Administration to recognize that dealing similarly with the outstanding deportee cases would enhance the peace process and would be in keeping with the British government's treatment of former Irish political prisoners.

We request that you support this committee's efforts to achieve amnesty for these men and their families. (See Action Request, *Page 8*).

PSNI Raids Repeat RUC History

(DERRY – Apr. 4) THE POLICE Service of Northern Ireland forced its way March 30 into the building in which the Pat Finucane Center is based.

PSNI's alleged purpose was to search the offices of Tar Abhaile on the floor above the PFC. Members of the PFC staff arrived shortly after 9 AM, but the police refused them access to their offices. The search warrant permitted only a search of the offices of Tar Abhaile.

A resident of a flat that the PSNI also entered said: "I was woken up by a policeman standing over my bed. I was totally shocked. I didn't know what was going on. I will be taking this matter up with my solicitors. So much for the supposed new beginning to

policing."

PFC representative **Angela Hegarty** said: "As a human rights organization working closely with victims of the state, it was a paramount concern that our case files remained secure. We needed to get into the building to secure the sensitive information contained in those files and to satisfy ourselves that our offices had not been entered or interfered with in any way. Our right to do that was denied. In my view, our exclusion was unlawful, and we intend to take the whole matter further. We witnessed other police officers at the scene engage in a number of other activities which we regard as human rights abuses. We will be contacting the police ombudsman and the police board, and we

have already been in touch with the Department of Foreign Affairs in Dublin."

Later that day, it became clear that the offices of victims' support group Cunamh were also raided by the police, who took files and other materials. This is a matter of very serious concern, given the sensitive nature of Cunamh's work with those already suffering trauma as a result of state human rights abuses.

Shane O'Curry of the PFC said: "There is no telling the amount of damage inflicted on victims of state human rights abuses when armed officers force their way into a space which is meant to be safe for those victims, and worse still, remove confidential material."

(continued from Page 1)

Carlin also claims that agent **Kevin Fulton** gave to the RUC information "naming the man who made the Omagh bomb." Fulton had contacted his RUC handlers prior to the attack and warned that a bombing mission was being planned in the North. Northern Ireland police ombudsman **Nuala O'Loan** concluded after her investigation into the Omagh probe that Fulton's information was not given "sufficient weight" or adequately followed up.

A spokesman for Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs said of the meeting with Carlin: "A group of people claiming to be former British agents wrote to the taoiseach requesting a meeting. They were given a standard reply...." It would now be arranged for a department official to meet the men "as a matter of routine" after Easter, the spokesman added.

Special Branch's Dirty Tricks Continue

SECRETARY of State **John Reid** has announced an independent inquiry into the break-in and theft of sensitive documents at a Special Branch office inside the heavily guarded Castlereagh Police complex in East Belfast.

On St. Patrick's night, three men entered a controlled access area of the complex, assaulted and tied up a Special Branch officer, and then made off with a number of documents. Reid has described the raid as a breach of "national security."

However, given the location of the internal office and the security surrounding the complex, rumors are rampant that this was an inside job.

Belfast Mayor **Jim Rodgers**, a unionist, has already blamed the security services for the theft, and SDLP spokesman **Alban Maginness** has talked of a scandal of Watergate proportions.

Speculation regarding the content of the stolen files has reached fever pitch, with some suggestions that the files might have contained top-secret information on informers.

The British government has announced already that it will conduct an independent review into the incident, though credible evidence of Special Branch collusion in actual murders has not resulted in Britain's establishing independent inquiries.

The Police Special Branch has been under fire in recent months following Ombudsman **Nuala O'Loan's** report into the RUC Special Branch's role in the bombing of Omagh in 1998. British Prime Minister **Tony Blair** has also been under pressure to initiate independent investigations into the Special Branch's role in the killings of human rights lawyers **Patrick Finucane** and **Rosemary Nelson**, **Robert Hamill**,

and Loyalist Volunteer Force leader **Billy Wright**.

The Ombudsman has subpoena powers to gain access to Special Branch documents that could implicate Special Branch in misdeeds in relation to all of these killings. It has been speculated that the Special Branch now has "plausible deniability" when asked by the Ombudsman to provide the relevant files in relation to these cases.

As police carried out house searches following the arrest of six people March 31 which, police suggested, linked the IRA to the theft of intelligence files from the Castlereagh complex, west Belfast MP **Gerry Adams** accused the British government of dirty tricks. He said: "Let's make it clear to **John Reid** and anyone else who's listening. Republicans will not be scapegoated and will not accept responsibility for the working out of the British agenda."

The PSNI and British army have also raided homes in Derry. The joint forces raided the home of **Declan Kearney**, a director with ex-prisoners' support group **Coiste**. The army and police also raided a prisoner support office and a community trauma center.

Nationalists believe the PSNI is attempting to blame the IRA for the break-in, despite Chief Constable **Ronnie Flanagan's** statement calling it "an inside job" a few days after the incident. Most media reports have attributed it to members of the Force Research Unit (FRU) of the Special Branch. Republicans believe the raids and arrests are another attempt to discredit Sinn Fein before the Irish elections in May (*See Action Request, Page 8*).

Thefts and other strange incidents are not unusual to the Special Branch.

On Jan. 10, 1990, as preparations were underway to arrest British Army agent **Brian Nelson**, a fire destroyed the office of the investigation team who had been brought in from England to investigate allegations of collusion between the security forces and loyalist paramilitaries. **John Stevens** led the team, which had its base at a secure RUC premises in Seapark.

Nelson, an agent of the British Army Force Research Unit (FRU), was involved in the murder of **Pat Finucane**. Last year, former FRU agent **Martin Ingram** claimed the break-in and fire were the work of the Controlled Methods of Entry unit of the army based at Repton Manor in England.

Stevens is involved in the third investigation into the activities of FRU and the murder of **Pat Finucane**. Detectives from his team seized "large quantities of documents" from British army headquarters in Aug., 2000.

Last Dec., **William Stobie**, the Special Branch agent who supplied the weapons used in the murder of **Pat Finucane**, was murdered shortly after the collapse of a criminal trial. Loyalist paramilitaries claimed the murder, but there was speculation that the elimination of such an important witness to a future inquiry served the purposes of Special Branch.

The sensitive information that Special Branch keeps in its files might include a taped confession from the man suspected of the murder of **Pat Finucane**. It was revealed in a television documentary last year that this had been withheld from the Stevens team. The individual who boasted of the killing fled the North after **Stobie's** murder and is believed to have sought protection from the Stevens team.

Adams Calls for Alliance for Unity Campaign

From Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams's March 23 speech to a party conference in Dublin

OUTLINING goals for economic and social reform in the Republic of Ireland, Sinn Fein president **Gerry Adams** called on party members to continue believing in ordinary Irish people and developing a grass-roots movement toward peace and unity.

Adams recalled that, 10 years ago, the peace process, let alone Sinn Fein's electoral achievements, seemed unlikely.

He said: "Ten years ago there was a sustained effort by the Dublin political establishment and the political elite here to marginalize Irish republicanism.

"In 1992 Section 31 meant that Sinn Fein was banned from the broadcast media and unofficial censorship pervaded the rest of the media. Governments refused, at least publicly, to speak to Sinn Fein. We were blocked from using the Mansion House for our Ard Fheis.

"Our members, their families, and elected representatives were the target of loyalist death squads, acting in many cases at the behest of British intelligence agencies.

"In the midst of all of this, ordinary people remained sound. This was evident here in Dublin, where communities opened their community centers to us for our Ard Fheiseanna.

"Perhaps of even greater significance was the warm welcome that was extended to the hundreds who traveled here to the capital from all across Ireland. Communities in different parts of this city were heavily criticized back then for the decision they took. Many were bullied, all were vilified, some were threatened with the loss of funding.

"Ten years later, who was right? Those political leaders who obstructed the development of the peace process, who actively thwarted the efforts for peace, and preferred to stick with the old failed agenda of demonizing and marginalizing people, or the ordinary people of this city?

"Ten years later, many of those same politicians are still pushing the old agenda, still telling people not to vote for Sinn Fein. Some, to their shame, are even falling back on the sort of allegations and accusations first dreamed up in British intelligence backrooms and subsequently used to excuse the killing of republicans and our families....

"[The do so b]ecause they are afraid of the radical alternative politics republicans are presenting to the people.

They are not afraid of us. It is the people they fear. They are afraid ordinary people, fed up with corruption, sleaze, and government failure to bring...equality, will turf them out....

In recent times other political parties have begun to accept that the logic of the republican position is popular with many of the plain people of this island. It's amazing to watch those parties that denied republicanism, and did nothing to advance Irish unity and independence, now vying with each other to promote their desire for unity and claim their links to republicanism.

We welcome this and we wish to see them go further. We want to see the development of an Alliance for Irish Unity which could include all those interested in creating the conditions to achieve that unity.

"I believe in people. Sinn Fein believes in empowering people, and in working in partnership with local communities to tackle problems and map out new policies.

"The process that we are involved in is about creating the conditions for a new democratic, pluralist dispensation on the island and a new relationship between Ireland and Britain.

"Change is always difficult. When taken in the context of a conflict, change can be traumatic. And this can be made even more difficult when there are those, both within sections of unionism and within the British political and military establishment, who still want to hold on to the old ways....That is where the serious threat to the peace process comes from at this time.

"Sinn Fein does not pretend that we have the answer to all these questions; neither do I believe we have a monopoly on Irish republicanism. If we have done anything in our time, it has been to make republicanism, real republicanism, increasingly relevant to a growing number of people. This election is about voters claiming and staking their part in this process. It is about building core support based on ideological commitment to an Ireland in which the people will be sovereign. It is a battle for ideas, about building alliances, about winning friends and allies to our struggle.

"We are not concerned with the trappings of office or the politics of self-interest. If this party exists for anything, it is so that we can act as agents of change. If this party stands for anything, it is to bring that change about. We're about equality."

Web Contacts

Irish Deportees of America Committee: www.iauc.org/deportees.htm

Transcript of a May, 2001 TV documentary on the Pat Finucane murder: www.serve.com/ptc

Report on the effects of the newest form of plastic bullets: www.serve.com/ptc

Information on the PSNI raids in Derry: www.derryjournal.com

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Action Requests

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

Contact: **John Hume**, SDLP, fax 011-44-28-90-236699; email sdlp@indigo.ie

Contact: **Police Board**, fax 011-44-28-9040-8525; email information@nipolicingboard.org

Message: Please withdraw your support for the PSNI. Their actions in connection with the raid on the building in which the Pat Finucane Center of Derry is housed and with other raids following the March 17 Special Branch break in show the PSNI has no respect for the people of Northern Ireland, let alone policing reforms.

Contact: **President George Bush**, The White House, Washington, DC 20500, tele. 202-456-1111; fax 202-456-2461; email president@whitehouse.com

Message: I urge you to use your good offices to have the Attorney General drop the deportation cases against several American Irish men living in this country.

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

Message: I applaud your comments to the BBC that UUP leader **David Trimble's** disparaging the Republic of Ireland cannot further the peace process. Thank you for taking a public position on this matter.

(continued from Page 2)

April 3

Police officers fire 15 plastic bullets after loyalists attack officers with gunfire and pipe bombs in north Belfast.

April 4

Loyalists attack Catholic homes as they continue rioting in north Belfast.

April 5

The UDA-linked Ulster Political Research Group says the UDA will curb its violence. It says: "We shall be implementing a new initiative in a genuine attempt to give the people of this area a normal sense of life which they have been denied for far too long. We have sought and been given assurances by the UDA that they will play a constructive role in ensuring people from within their community will act responsibly to create a normal environment within their areas. We appeal to the nationalist community to play their part and ensure that every attempt is made to encourage their people to play a constructive role." The group's members, **John White**, **Davy Mahood**, and Tiger's Bay community activist **Eddie McClean** say the loyalist paramilitary group has assured them it would play "a constructive role" in calming the situation.

April 7

The International Independent Commission on Decommissioning confirms that the IRA has put a substantial amount of weapons and explosives beyond use in a second act of decommissioning. The UDA follows up its claim that it will work toward "calming the atmosphere" in north Belfast with a double blast-bomb attack on a family of mixed religion in the area.