



Sacred Heart
UNIVERSITY

Sacred Heart University
DigitalCommons@SHU

American Irish Newsletter

The Irish American Community Collections

2-2002

American Irish Newsletter - February 2002

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_ainews



Part of the [European Languages and Societies Commons](#), [Other American Studies Commons](#), and the [Political Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - February 2002" (2002).
American Irish Newsletter. 25.
https://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_ainews/25

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the The Irish American Community Collections at DigitalCommons@SHU. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Irish Newsletter by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@SHU. For more information, please contact santoro-dillond@sacredheart.edu.



AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 27, Number 2

February 2002

Omagh Report Sparks Unionist, British Ire

POLICE Ombudsman **Nuala O'Loan**'s inquiry into the RUC's actions prior to the 1998 Omagh atrocity and its subsequent investigation have sealed the coffin on the RUC's reputation as a police force.

The Real IRA bombing killed 29 people—including two pregnant women—and left hundreds more injured.

The report says: "The victims, their families, the people of Omagh, and officers of the RUC have been let down by defective leadership, poor judgment, and a lack of urgency."

The report confirms that police received two warnings about plans to attack Omagh—the first on Aug. 4, 1998, 11 days before the car bomb.

O'Loan's report recommends that a senior officer from an outside police force be asked to conduct an investigation into the bombing. She finds evidence that the RUC Special Branch had known about plans for the attack but did not try to intercept it. She recommends a review of the role and function of Special Branch. She also criticizes RUC Chief **Ronnie Flanagan** for his attitude and apparent ineptitude.

The report also recommends:

-that an officer in overall command from an outside police force be appointed to carry out the investigation of the potentially linked terrorist incidents identified in the Omagh bomb review report;

-that senior investigating officers in the Omagh bomb investigation and all other investigations be given appropriate access to all relevant intelligence;

(continued on Page 5)

Loyalists Murder RUC Informer

UNITED Nations Special Rapporteur **Dato Param Cumaraswamy** has called for an independent investigation into the Dec. 12, 2001 murder of RUC agent and loyalist **William Stobie**. So have Amnesty International and the Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ).

The Red Hand Defenders, a cover name for the UDA, claimed responsibility for the murder.

"It...appears that those responsible for the murder of **William Stobie** may have connections with the **Patrick Finucane** murder, and the motive for the present murder may be to prevent him from assisting any eventual independent inquiry," Cumaraswamy said, calling for an independent international inquiry into the **Finucane** killing.

Cumaraswamy's comments came as leading loyalist **Ken Barrett**, also questioned about the **Finucane** case, disappeared. Barrett might have knowledge of the **Finucane** murder that could compromise the Special Branch. Recently, police officers had visited Barrett to warn him that his personal security was in jeopardy.

There is growing speculation among loyalists that Special Branch is working with UDA leaders to kill agents who have evidence regarding the murders of **Finucane** and others involving loyalists colluding with state forces.

Even Dublin has expressed concern about the effects of the **Stobie** murder, saying the shooting "may have been an attempt to stifle the search for the truth."

Following **Stobie**'s murder, it emerged that he had received a warning from the RUC/PSNI that his life was in danger from former associates. **Stobie** had recently applied twice to be put on the Key Persons Protection Scheme, but officials had not replied to his request.

Stobie, who was involved in the **Finucane** murder, had been at the center of allegations that British forces had colluded in the murder. **Stobie** went on trial in Belfast in Nov. 2001 accused of murdering **Finucane** in Feb. 1989 through aiding and abetting.

The loyalist had always insisted he warned his handlers that the UDA

(continued on Page 7)

INSIDE

Peace Process Update	2
From the North	3
Newsbits	4
Ex-CID Officer: Special Branch Muddled Finucane Probe	5
Omagh Report Sparks Unionist, British Ire (<i>continued</i>)	6
Loyalists Murder RUC Informer (<i>continued</i>)	7
Action Requests	8

Our View: Who Needs More Time to Decommission?

WESTMINSTER has passed legislation extending the decommissioning deadline from the end of this month to next year and allowed itself room to extend that deadline four more years. Who needs more time to decommission?

The IRA has begun the process. The decommissioning body has confirmed that. Loyalists have refused to do so. This is perhaps a petty attempt to show that loyalists don't march to the beat of a republican drum.

This is perhaps because there are more William Stobies to take out in behalf of the Empire before the international calls for independent inquiries into loyalist collusion with the British military in extrajudicial murders means they have to stop killing people who know too much about British repression in Northern Ireland. Perhaps it will take the loyalists five years to clean the house of informers.

Perhaps this is because they loyalists need more time to intimidate schoolchildren and their parents and run Catholics out of interface areas.

Perhaps loyalists don't know how to effect the landscape of Northern Ireland without guns. They have, after all, shown themselves to be an illiterate mob whose political representatives can't get past the odd platitude about the scourge of republicanism. They learned their letters at Sammy Wilson's knee, and it shows.

The five year extension came to easily after five years of noise about how the IRA's refusal to turn in arms was holding up the whole peace process. Now the British have all the time in the world--or at least five years--to take out their loyal servants to protect the murderers of democracy.

Peace Process Update

December 13

NATIONALISTS are outraged when the Policing Board agrees on a design for the badge of the Police Service of Northern Ireland that features a Saint Patrick's Cross surrounded by a harp, crown, shamrock, torch, laurel leaf, and scales of justice. The badge of the RUC, the PSNI's predecessor, had featured a harp, crown and shamrock. Sinn Fein's **Gerry Kelly** says, "On the day that **Nuala O'Loan** delivered her damning report into the RUC leadership and Special Branch and in the wake of continuing revelations surrounding the [1989] murder of Pat Finucane, many people will be astonished that the Policing Board met to discuss badges."

December 17

Paramilitary groups could have up to five more years to decommission. Northern Ireland Secretary **John Reid** tells MPs that despite "huge imperfections" in the peace process, decommissioning should not be allowed to stall because of an "arbitrary" deadline. The Northern Ireland Arms Decommissioning (Amendment) Bill extends the decommissioning amnesty for a further year from the current deadline of midnight, Feb. 26, 2002. The legislation could then be extended on an annual basis, to be approved each time by parliament, until 2007.

December 18

Sinn Fein leader **Gerry Adams** and Cuban president **Fidel Castro** hold talks in Havana. Adams, who is visiting Cuba with Sinn Fein assembly member Gerry Kelly, unveils a memorial to 10 republicans who died on a hunger strike 20 years ago, including Bobby Sands, MP. The unveiling of the memorial in Havana, which will bear the names and ages of the hunger strikers, is the culmination of a series of events worldwide this year remembering the 1980 and 1981 hunger strikes and other republicans in Irish history who starved to death for a political cause.

(continued on Page 7)

American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC

*A non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization
founded 1975*

National President..... John J. Finucane
Membership/Subsription Coordinator Loretta Fitzgibbons
Recording Secretary Kathy Regan
Financial Secretary Tom Sheridan
Newsletter Editor **Sandy Carlson**
Webmaster **Edward Dzitko**

Newsletter Mailing Address:

Five Woods Way, Woodbury, CT 06798

PEC & Newsletter Email Address:

pec-newsletter@worldnet.att.net

National Headquarters

P.O. Box 102, Blauvelt, NY 10913-9915

(845) 947-2726 Fax (845) 947-2599

PEC Web Site Address: <http://aipec.homestead.com>

**Supported in part by the Emerald Society,
NYC Fire Department**

STATE DIRECTORS: Jack O'Brien, 11109 Belton St., Upper Marlboro, MARYLAND 20772-(301)336-5167; Leah Curtin, Hibernian Life, 790 Cleveland Ave., Ste. 221, St. Paul, MINNESOTA 55116-(612)690-3888; Kathy Regan, 7 Balint Dr., Apt 714, Yonkers, NEW YORK 10710-(914)395-1995; Frank O'Day, 21 Pierce Ln, Madison, CONNECTICUT 06443-(203)245-4739; Bob West, 683 Walnut Rd., Wauconda, ILLINOIS 60084-(847)526-6520; Terry Deem Reilly, 1123 Clarkson, Denver, COLORADO 80218-(303)837-9443; Ned A. Delaney, 1211 El Grande St., Lafayette, INDIANA 47905-(317)474-2546; Larry Doyle, 2036 Calhoun, Bellevue, NEBRASKA 68005-(402)292-5291; Kathy Whitford, 15910 Lucille Dr., Cleveland, OHIO 44111-(216)251-7551; Paul D. McGuigan, 1525 NW 57th St., Unit 407, Seattle, WASHINGTON 98107 - (206) 782-5567; Nancy Love, 14151/2 Grand Ave., Racine, WISCONSIN 53402 - (414) 633-4085; Dr. John T. Giesen, 1107 Ironwood Dr., Coeur D'Alene, IDAHO 83814 - (208) 667-7459; Hal Cousins, 905 Shalimar Dr., Del City, OKLAHOMA 73115 - (405) 677-3623; Robert J. Fuhrel, 1901 Rio Canyon Ct. #202, Las Vegas, NEVADA 89128-(702) 255-9619; Mary Holford, 6555 Tam O'Shanter Dr., San Jose, CALIFORNIA, 95120-(408) 268-4548

GREAT HUNGER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR: Frank Morris, Jr., 821 Briarwood Ln, Camp Hill, PA 17011-(717) 737-7013

NATIONAL ORGANIZER: Pete Foley, 3615 Greystone Ave., Bronx, NY 10463 - (718) 884-2220

From the North: Media Spin Doctors Up Britain's Role in Ardoyne Rioting

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

THE DISTRICT around the Holy Cross girls' primary school in north Belfast has erupted again in rioting. This follows months during which loyalists waged a pogrom against Catholics by hurling more than 300 pipe, blast, and petrol bombs into Catholics' homes after dark.

The mainstream press to date has passed over the background to the renewed rioting, but this is not surprising. To emphasize it would not fit in with the in-built British approach to questions Irish. Instead—as usual—the British-owned organs of news dissemination are flogging their own version of what is going on. This version deliberately clouds the central issue of Britain's inherent failure to govern in Ireland and the toll this failure takes on communities.

These purveyors of British perspective would have us believe the two sides are equally to blame. The late Jack Bennett, who came from the Protestant community (and whose RUC father had once headed the B Specials), had worked for many years on the unionist *Belfast Telegraph*, (now the property of American tycoon **Tony O'Reilly**). Jack was fond of saying, "You cannot hope to bribe or twist your worthy British journalist but, seeing what he (or she) will do unbribed, there never is occasion to."

Before British consul **John Reid** at last declared the UDA's cease-fire ended, the loyalist group or its associates shot dead several civilians in sectarian assassinations. Loyalist paramilitaries (the media almost never describes them as terrorists) had also been prominent in the picketing harassment of the Holy Cross schoolgirls during which the girls and their parents were subjected to the

vilest kind of sectarian abuse and violence.

Daily the media tout the hoary old lie that both sides (read tribes) are equally to blame for the rioting. The civilizing British among us, the Northern Ireland Office team from London, are at their wits end trying to comprehend what is going on, never mind coping with the irrationality on the streets.

Reid's homilies about the nastiness of sectarianism are reminiscent of one of Charles Dickens's humbugging and sanctimonious characters. Reid has even implied that the recent loyalist backlash against the Mitchell Agreement has to do with the North's being made "a cold place for unionists."

Reid's security minister occasionally chips in but always gives the impression that she is on a learning curve. Prior to this, no one in Northern Ireland had known of her existence.

Sad to say, President **George Bush's** emissary to the North, **Richard Haass**, echoes this theme—or did he originate it? Either way, American Irish people who have supported national independence, unity, and democratic reform in the North still have a major contribution to make in achieving that goal.

By arguing the riots in the Ardoyne are the result of the Irish people's inability to conduct—never mind govern—themselves, the British and their cheerleaders decorate the status quo as some sort of political success. Loyalist violence in the Ardoyne is evidence of Britain's failure in Ireland.

Let there be no mistake about it. If equality of treatment for those in the North who are conscious of their Irish nationality (which includes most Protestants) is considered to be

making the North a cold place for unionists in denial about their nationality, then that is too bad.

The rest of us are under no obligation to kowtow to deluded factions of unionism that confuse Britishness with nationality and are vehemently opposed to the equality provisions of the Mitchell Agreement just because the Agreement confronts them with the truth.

Now, none of this is to deny that working-class unionist people, such as those who are rioting in the Ardoyne, have genuine grievances on economic and social levels. These people must get it into their heads that their Catholic neighbors are not responsible for these problems, however. Their neighbors share identical problems; for these Catholics, Northern Ireland has always been a cold place.

Nor indeed is the changed Stormont Assembly responsible. The real government, the British government, is.

Successive British governments have fomented the sectarianism that exists today, especially after Westminster imposed partition on Ireland and installed in the North a unionist regime the electoral power of which was constructed on partition.

When the civil rights campaign crumbled that base away, former British Prime Minister **Edward Heath** intervened directly to try to cement it together again (read the recently released British state papers) and went so far as to preside over Bloody Sunday in order to do so. All of this history is easily available to anyone who is not too lazy to look it up. How easy for the media to overlook it, even as this British government reinvestigates Bloody Sunday.

Newsbits

FORMER British Secretary of State **Peter Mandelson** says the British government has "no stomach" to fight the IRA. He also predicts that Sinn Féin president **Gerry Adams** could see a united Ireland in his lifetime. Writing in the Jan. issue of *GQ* magazine, Mandelson says he believes Adams could see government office in Dublin "if he chooses to accept it. If he grows to old age and population changes as well as enduring political stability are reflected in a referendum outcome in favor of change, he will probably see a united Ireland (although becoming its head of state may be out of his reach)," the former northern secretary concludes. Mandelson expresses concern about British government concessions to republicans, saying it has "gone beyond what was originally thought advisable." As there is no realistic alternative, however, many people should judge the concessions "a price worth paying for peace," he adds. "British policy is to negotiate with the IRA through its political wing rather than defeat it. Physical force republicanism has been put to one side (although not the means of resuming it, if the threat needs to be spelled out)" he warns. "But political republicanism has received a huge shot in the arm from the media orchestration of the IRA's gesture of disposing of an amount of its arms." (*RM Dist.* 12/10/01)

President **George Bush** has signed a measure which will lift a ban on officers of the RUC, now renamed the PSNI, training with the FBI and other US police forces. In 1999, RUC members were barred from training in America because of concern over the force's human rights record. A spokesman for the State Department said: "Under the Foreign Relations Authorisation Act, all training and exchanges with law enforcement

agencies were banned. To lift that ban, the President has signed a report which says that it would benefit the force to train or be involved with exchange programs with law enforcement agencies. He has also signed a statement about its human rights record." He added that the decision to reverse the ban had followed a report from the policing oversight commissioner **Tom Constantine** on the changes being implemented. "We believe the PSNI does offer a new beginning to law enforcement in Northern Ireland which was substantiated this week by the positive report of the Oversight Commission on Policing Reform," the spokesman said. Congressman **Chris Smith**, author of the law suspending the training programs, said there would be no "bad apples" among new training candidates: "The most dramatic component of the new program is that it will vet out, absolutely prohibit, any police members who have committed or condoned human rights violations in Northern Ireland." (*RM Dist.* 12/10/01)

A number of people were injured this afternoon during confrontations with republican protesters demonstrating over the lack of movement on British army demilitarization in South Armagh. Sinn Féin said the security forces used bully-boy tactics and attacked the protesters. A number of security force members and protestors were injured during confrontations at two British army watch towers on the South Armagh border and at Crossmaglen police station. More than 100 protesters gathered at the Creevekeeran watch tower to protest the lack of movement on British army demilitarization. Nine police were injured when they tried to repel the protesters from cutting their way through perimeter fencing. Several baton rounds were discharged at

Drummakavall watch tower when the protesters attempted to breach the perimeter. Ten officers were injured in the confrontation. The armed forces earlier this year dismantled two of the watch towers along the South Armagh border in response to the IRA's start of weapons decommissioning. Republicans have constantly demanded the removal of the remaining watch towers in accordance with the terms of the Mitchell Agreement. (*IAIS* 12/09/01)

Catholics in the North are still more likely to be unemployed than Protestants, despite their higher qualifications and their holding a higher proportion of professional jobs. The unemployment rate for Catholics was 8.8 percent in 2000; for Protestants, 5.2 percent, according to Britain's Statistics and Research Agency report. Nonetheless, the statistics reflect an improvement from 1993, when the unemployment rates were 18.1 percent for Catholics and 9.4 percent for Protestants. The report said the religious composition of Northern Ireland's economically active population in 2000 was 43 percent Catholic and 57 percent Protestant and closely mirrored those in employment—42 percent Catholic and 58 percent Protestant. Among the unemployed, the religious composition was 56 percent Catholic and 44 percent Protestant, although a slightly higher number of Protestants had been unemployed for one year or more. Catholic representation was highest in professional occupations at 48 percent and in associated professional and technical occupations, at the same figure. Catholic representation was highest in small work places with one to 10 employees and lowest in work places employing 50 or more. Overall, a higher proportion of Catholics than Protestants had qualifications above A-level. (*IAIS* 12/11/01)

Ex-CID Officer: Special Branch Muddied Finucane Probe

By Jim Dee (*Irish Times*), Reprinted from the online Jan. 6 *Boston Herald*

(BALLYMENA, Northern Ireland) - **JOHNSON Brown** spent 30 years battling the Irish Republican Army and lived. Now he fears some of his former police colleagues are scheming with loyalist paramilitaries to kill him because he knows too much about one of Northern Ireland's most controversial murder cases.

"Special Branch are winding up loyalist paramilitaries to kill me," he told *the Boston Sunday Herald*. "That's why I am talking to the media—to make it harder for them."

Brown, 50, alleges that in 1991, a loyalist paramilitary police informant confessed to the 1989 killing of Patrick Finucane, a prominent lawyer.

Finucane's family claims police and British soldiers assisted in the unsolved murder, which the Ulster Defense Association/Ulster Freedom Fighters claimed.

According to Brown, a Royal Ulster Constabulary Special Branch member taped the killer's confession—and his naming of an accomplice—from the Branch member's car, which they were in at the time.

Brown claims the Special Branch officer, citing the killer's informant value, then blocked his attempt to obtain a second "controlled" confession that would have stood up in court. Brown, a member of Criminal Investigations Division, was outranked, so he dropped the matter.

However, when English detective **John Stevens** reopened the case in 1999, Brown spilled his guts. As soon as he signed his statement, though, the Stevens team said he'd perjured himself because the tape—from Oct. 3, 1991—contained no confession. Brown listened for himself.

Brown recalled that he and the Special Branch man met Finucane's killer Oct. 3 and again on Oct. 10. On the tape Stevens had, which was marked "Oct. 3" (the day of the alleged confession), Brown heard the killer talk of that day's IRA's murder of a UDA/UFF man and the UDA/UFF's killing of a Catholic.

Brown then pointed out that both of those men died on

Oct. 10, proving the tape that Special Branch gave Stevens marked "Oct. 3" was actually made a week later.

Stevens was stunned, and all perjury talk ceased. Brown believes Special Branch, who then told Stevens no other "Oct. 3" tape ever existed, actually destroyed it to thwart a wider probe that might prove damning to them.

"In my opinion, if a man admits murder, you set up a sting, and then you charge him with murder," he said. "Now, why does a police force rid itself of a confession if it's got nothing to hide? Why?"

He also claims Special Branch regularly allowed paramilitaries to commit murders, and, in some cases, it actually suggested the targets. "Special Branch, in a nutshell, was driving the violence," he said. "I'm not saying that Special Branch was involved in terrorism, but there's a very subtle difference.

"The Branch would argue that you don't make informants in gospel halls or Sunday schools. And that's true," he said. "But I don't think you should lie down with these people. There were informants out there who did not get involved in crime and who helped us save life after life."

Brown is more edgy after the UFF slaying last month of **William Stobie**, the group's former quartermaster who was acquitted in Nov. of involvement in Finucane's murder.

Stobie had accused Special Branch both of ignoring his two tip-offs—on the night of Finucane's murder—that a top Catholic was about to be killed and of doing nothing when he subsequently gave them the killer's names.

Brown, who retired from the RUC in 2000, says he'll be looking over his shoulder "the rest of my life." He says if he's shot, a loyalist might pull the trigger, but most likely at Special Branch's bidding.

"They call it: 'Use a rat to kill a rat,'" he says. "The UDA killed Pat Finucane. But who sent the UDA toward him? Why does Special Branch not want a public inquiry into his death? What are they afraid of?"

(continued from Page 1)

-that the Inspector of Constabulary be invited to review terrorist-linked murder inquiries, including sharing of intelligence between Special Branch and CID; and

-that the PSNI adopt the policy of the association of Chief Police

Officers with regard to murder review.

Now, regenerate unionists are trying to seal O'Loan's coffin and kill the impact of the report. In a television appearance last Dec., Ulster Unionist **Ken Maginnis** described O'Loan as a "suicide bomber" and warned that she had "outlived her usefulness."

Allies of the Special Branch have launched a campaign of rhetoric and spin against the ombudsman's office in an attempt to overshadow the report.

Flanagan's belligerence, coupled with a histrionic threat to commit suicide in public, backfired for the

(continued on Page 6)

Sinn Fein Leader Shares View of an Equitable World Order

Excerpts from Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams's Dec. 20 Speech in Havana, Cuba

I WANT to see a united Ireland in which the Irish people are sovereign and where we determine the shape of society on our island and our relationships with the rest of the world.

Sinn Fein has embraced change as the life-blood of political struggle and the basis of a lasting peace agreement. Our task is to make change irreversible and to build the peace process in our country. It is about creating a level playing field as the basis on which all sections of our people can resolve our problems. That will also mean all of the other participants', but especially the British government, playing their full and proper role and fulfilling obligations made in negotiations.

Irish republicans have a world view. With James Connolly, a trade union activist and revolutionary whom the British executed for his part in the 1916 Easter Rising, we believe that "[t]he internationalism of the future will be based upon the free federation of free peoples and cannot be realized through the subjugation of the smaller by the larger political unit." That is the basis of our international policy.

In a world of increasing wealth, a world growing smaller with technology and communications and ever faster transportation, it is wrong that each week 134,000 children die from starvation or avoidable diseases. If the money Third World nations use to pay back debt were channeled into health

and education, 11 million children a year could be saved.

The policies of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank have locked South American and Caribbean nations into a cycle of borrowing and repayment of loans and interest on loans that can never be paid. In addition, these countries are forced to adopt economic policies that force further reductions in social welfare spending. The debts should be cancelled.

Inextricably linked to the problem of debt is the issue of globalization. The end of the Cold War has unleashed accelerated globalization that has increased the poverty gap between the

(continued on Page 8)

(continued from Page 1)

normally skilled media manipulator. Former British Secretary of State **Peter Mandelson** made some broad attacks on the ombudsman's abilities, but Maginnis's dark language drew a rebuke from the ombudsman's office.

Bluster aside, the Real IRA issued statements following publication of O'Loan's report that suggest close British involvement in the bombing.

The Real IRA has claimed that MI5 handled two "agent provocateurs" whose identities are known to the group and who were "instrumental in the planning and implementation of the bombing that occurred that day."

The Real IRA has said that people at British "government level and in security agencies had knowledge of the true facts." It claims minutes exist of meetings immediately after the bombing with "a senior government representative as well as a cleric" and that these individuals "confirmed" the Real IRA's "minimal involvement in

the bombing."

The group calls on the officials to come forward. It states: "Failing this, we reserve the right to release into the public domain the information available to us, at a time of our choosing."

In another development, a man at the center of a row between the chief constable and the police ombudsman received death threats.

The Special Branch informer known under the alias **Kevin Fulton** received bullets in the mail. Then, the High Court denied him permission to carry a gun on the grounds that his application was premature because the RUC had not yet made a final decision on Fulton's application to carry a firearm.

Fulton had claimed in newspapers that he passed on information to Special Branch three days before the Omagh bombing that dissident republicans were making a bomb in the Republic that would be transported to the North. His information led to

O'Loan's investigation.

By the end of the year, the British had not responded to the report. Sinn Fein president **Gerry Adams** said it was "totally unacceptable" that the British government had not responded to the "serious matters" raised in the report, "especially in relation to how the chief constable and the Special Branch dealt with the Omagh bombing, including the investigation into this atrocity and the efforts to frustrate the ombudsman's inquiries into it.

"The reason for this is clear," Adams said. "Ronnie Flanagan was acting within the power given to him by this British government under the Peter Mandelson policing legislation. The legislation provided the chief constable with the power to refuse crucial information to the Policing Board, and, clearly, he believes he can refuse to cooperate with both the ombudsman and the oversight commissioner, both of whom have complained recently about the Special Branch's refusal to cooperate."

(continued from Page 1)

planned to carry out a shooting. The case collapsed when the prosecution's only witness was not called for medical reasons. Stobie then called for an inquiry into the handling of the investigation into Finucane's killing.

Stobie had said he was amazed when police took no action before or after the murder, even though he tipped them off about the movement of the principal murder weapon several days later. Stobie later alleged that Special Branch tried to set him up by tampering with UDA guns so he would be blamed, and he claimed they framed him by planting weapons in his home.

At the core of the Finucane case are accusations directed toward the RUC's Special Branch. In a recent Ulster Television program, former RUC Detective Sergeant **Johnson Brown** of the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) said that Special Branch routinely blocked investigations and destroyed evidence to protect informers. This included the investigation into the murder of Finucane.

Brown has said that Special Branch had destroyed a tape he made of a confession from a loyalist--possibly Barrett--who entered the Finucane home in Feb. 1989. Brown said a

high-level decision was made to block the murder investigation.

Speaking on BBC Radio Foyle following the murder, **John White**, former spokesman for the now-defunct Ulster Democratic Party, admitted Stobie's call for an inquiry into his attempted prosecution and the ramifications of the Finucane murder had "angered many people in the loyalist community."

With Stobie dead and Barrett missing, it appears that **Brian Nelson**, the British agent who was chief of UDA intelligence at the time of the Finucane murder, now appears to hold the key to unlocking the truth of British-loyalist collusion in the North.

Amnesty International and CAJ have called for an independent investigation into the Finucane murder: "Given the allegations of Special Branch involvement in the killing of Finucane, the government should initiate a thorough, genuinely independent, and impartial investigation into the killing of William Stobie."

Paul Mageean, Legal Officer with CAJ, said, "[It] is unlikely to be secured by an unsupervised police investigation into the Stobie murder."

(continued from Page 2)

December 19

Sinn Fein MPs win the right to use offices at Westminster. Britain had withheld Sinn Fein's right to use the offices because republicans refuse to take an oath to the monarch. The MPs will share two offices and have access to legal expertise and the extensive research department at Westminster. Conservatives end their support for the government's Northern Ireland policy in protest. Britain will still deny salaries to Sinn Fein's MPs—**Gerry Adams**, **Martin McGuinness**, **Pat Doherty**, and **Michelle Gildernew**. Adams says: "It is our intention to use those facilities as a beach-head to intensify our work to persuade British and political opinion to support the end of the Union and the reunification and independence of Ireland."

December 22

Reid says Sinn Fein MPs should go into the House of Commons chamber instead of just using offices there.

December 20

Sinn Fein announces it will hold a special meeting of the party's national executive in the New Year to discuss concerns over decommissioning. Adams admits the IRA's move in Oct. to put its weapons beyond use in the presence of Independent International Commission on Decommissioning chairman **John de Chastelain** had caused problems with the republican rank-and-file. "People have not yet adjusted to what the IRA did in Oct.," Adams

says. "The feelings of hurt and instability, the removal of another certainty, is, I feel, having its effect. Indeed, as a party we are going to meet in the New Year to try to narrow the gap that has emerged between the leadership and grassroots over this issue because we are very conscious of the need to close the gap. We are at pains to ensure that the surprise, the uncertainty, that was caused by the speed, as well as the IRA initiative itself, will be stabilized and all of that be allowed to settle down. Clearly, a sizeable section, perhaps a majority, of the republican base was against the move by the IRA, but that is what leadership is about. The IRA showed leadership and Sinn Fein showed leadership and a responsibility to the overall process."

December 30

Former British Secretary of State **Peter Mandelson** describes the IRA as "resisters" and "freedom fighters" and says they should not be classed as terrorists. Unionists accuse him of creating "terrible moral confusion." Interviewed on British television, Mandelson says groups such as the IRA which are committed to a peace process should not be seen in the same light as those responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks. The former cabinet member distinguishes between terrorist groups and those "who have political objectives and are prepared to negotiate those objectives at the end of the day and engage in some sort of dialogue and ultimately some sort of political or peace process."

**To Join or to Renew Your
Membership in the AIEF-PEC**

- New Membership \$25 **Membership Renewal** \$25
 Senior Citizen \$20 Student \$10
 Additional Tax-deductible Donation \$ _____
 Tax-deductible Donation Only \$ _____ **Total** \$ _____

Members receive the monthly *American Irish Newsletter*.

Name _____

Address _____

Town/State/Zip _____

Phone Number (____) _____

Email Address _____

Make checks payable to AIEF-PEC

Mail to P.O. Box 102, Blauvelt, New York 10913-9915,

For information, call 800-777-6807

American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC
Garnerville, NY 10923

Non-Profit Organ.
US Postage Paid
Leesburg, FL
Permit No. 1040

Action Requests

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

Contact: Rt. Hon. Dr. **John Reid**, MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Office, 11 Millbank, London SW1P 4QE, UNITED KINGDOM

Message: I urge you to set up a public inquiry into the murders of William Stobie and Patrick Finucane and related deaths without further delay or prevarication and before anyone else associated with this case is murdered. Please treat this matter as an emergency. I am aware that British-Irish Rights Watch, Amnesty International, the UN, the Committee on the Administration of Justice, and other concerned people have asked that you establish an independent, public inquiry immediately. Doing so will be vital to ensuring the people of Ireland that Britain is truly interested in establishing justice in Northern Ireland.

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

Message: Please use your good offices to urge the British government to set up an independent public inquiry into the death of loyalist double agent William Stobie and of lawyer Pat Finucane. The people of Ireland must know the truth about the roles of the RUC Special Branch and RUC chief constable in these outrages and other extra-judicial murders. This matter is particularly urgent in light of your recently signing an order to allow the RUC to train with the FBI at tax-payers' expense.

(continued from Page 6)

wealthy and poor worldwide. Globalization is the new imperialism as multinational corporations assume the power and wealth equivalent to the Third World and, indeed, some industrialized countries. These corporations put profit ahead of human need. There is a humanitarian imperative to reverse global trends in wealth distribution and to equitably share resources if poverty levels in Latin America and elsewhere are to be reduced.

The UN General Assembly has proclaimed 2002 as the Year of Dialogue Among Civilizations. This dialogue must take place, and those of us who live in the first world must learn that we are not the world, we are a part of it. We have to work together on the basis of equality to build a partnership based on peace, freedom, human rights, and tolerance. We have to uphold free speech and civil and religious liberties. We have to promote the idea that the people are sovereign and build a just global society based upon our humanity, the rule of law, justice and equality. We have to eradicate poverty, privilege, and corruption to build a united human family.

Further, while nations have a right to defend themselves and their citizens, only the UN can give global legitimacy to the struggle to eliminate terrorism. The UN is the principle international institution for preventing armed conflict, for tackling injustice, and for defending human rights. It should be given every support and encouragement.

Hunger striker Bobby Sands wrote, "There is no equality in a society that stands upon the economic and political bog where only the strongest make it good or survive." Of revenge he wrote: "Let our revenge be the laughter of our children."