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## American Irish Newsletter - August 2001

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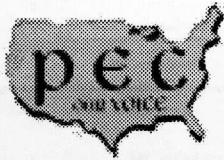
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# AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 26, Number 8

August 2001

## Revisionists Wage War over Great Hunger History

By James Mullin, *president of the Irish Famine Curriculum Committee*

REVISIONIST historians continue to work hard to keep the truth about Britain's responsibilities during the Great Hunger from public school students. They would have them believe that the Great Hunger was the result of natural disaster rather than political choice. This is absurd, of course. No social disaster of the magnitude of the Great Hunger happens all by itself, and particularly not in industrialized western democracies.

Why are revisionists working so hard to free Britain of responsibility for the Great Hunger—a responsibility British Prime Minister **Tony Blair** has in part acknowledged already? Clearly, the revisionists equate acknowledging Britain's responsibility for the Great Hunger with accepting the legitimacy of Irish nationalists' goal of an independent, united Ireland. Consider the following.

In Dec. 1996, **Avril Doyle**, representing the Irish government, toured the US and presented the views of her government regarding Great Hunger education and commemoration. She spoke at several major universities and on National Public Radio. Her host

in New York was Prof. **Robert James Scally**, Director of Ireland House at New York University.

Doyle told the audience of academics that Irish Americans should not use the word genocide in reference to the Great Hunger "because it plays into British hands." Two months earlier, when New York Gov. **George Pataki** signed the Irish Famine Education bill into law, British Ambassador **John Kerr** wrote: "The Famine, unlike the Holocaust, was not deliberate, not premeditated, not man-made, not genocide."

Scally spoke after Doyle, saying that all efforts to develop Great Hunger curricula "should be put in abeyance" until the "experts" could agree on what should be taught. He

then denounced the New Jersey Irish Famine Curriculum, specifically, because "it contains facts which are not true." (New Jersey's curriculum includes a three-page excerpt from Scally's book, *The End of Hidden Ireland*.)

Scally went on to say that letting activists draft curricula was "like letting Prof. **Leonard Jeffries** draft the slavery curriculum" (Jeffries had been forced out as Chairman of the Black Studies Department at City College of New York when he accused Jews of profiting from the slave trade.) This guilt-by-association slander equates the authors of the New Jersey Great Hunger curriculum with a man known as being racist and

*(continued on Page 3)*

## Sinn Fein, DUP Gain in North's Local Elections

(June 12) - NORTHERN Ireland's local elections have resulted in the Ulster Unionist Party's taking the most seats with 154 councilors elected—23 more than the rival Democratic Unionist Party.

Despite their success, however, the UUP has lost 31 seats since the last local government election in 1997.

Meanwhile, Sinn Fein and the DUP enjoy increased votes. Sinn Fein has 108 councilors—up 34 since the last election—and the DUP takes 131 seats, up 40 since 1997.

The SDLP has lost three seats, securing 117, and the marginal unionist Alliance Party has secured 28 seats, and other parties take 44.

The seats are divided between the parties as follows: UUP, 154 (down 31); DUP, 131 (up 40); SDLP, 117 (down 3); Sinn Fein, 108 (up 34); Alliance, 28 (down 13); and Others, 44.

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## Our View: *Loyalism is Fascism's Twin*

*LOYALISTS murdered a teen-ager because Antrim voters put two Sinn Fein members into local office. Conveniently, the loyalists who claim responsibility are not the ones who claim to be on cease-fire, the groups aligned with allegedly legitimate political parties. These are the "dissident" killers. To be a paramilitary is to be outside the democratic fold; to be a dissident paramilitary is to be--what?*

*To be a dissident loyalist is to put on the boiler suit of a group not on cease-fire to thereby protect the political leverage of the loyalist morons pretending to be interested in peace and then to kill anybody at all to terrorize people into silence?*

*The Red Hand Defenders claim responsibility for murdering Ciaran Cummings not for voting Sinn Fein, necessarily, but for being one of a type (Catholic) who might have. If Ciaran's name had been Albert or William, he might be alive now.*

*The anti-democratic culture under threat in Northern Ireland (see Unionists Balk, Loyalists Walk, Page 5) is so stupid and hateful that its best response to an election result that does not favor it is to shoot up the people whom it blames for that result.*

*Meanwhile, fade into the latest round of peace talks, where IRA decommissioning continues to be the hot topic for the British government. It's not a reach to wonder if the anti-democratic culture in the North--the UUP, DUP, PUP, UDP, UVF, UFF/UDA, NIO, Orange Order, Apprentice Boys,....--isn't working together to corner anybody who favors peace and democracy--nationalists, by definition--into an intellectual surrender. Loyalists, et al, are employing a pickpocket strategy--distract the victim while you rob him blind. IRA arms are not the loyalists' prize; democracy is. Once they capture it, they'll kill it.*

## Peace Process Update

**June 14**

SINN Fein MPs make their first appearance at Westminster to lobby Britain for use of House of Commons facilities, although the MPs refuse to swear the oath of allegiance to the Queen or to sit in parliament.

**June 15**

In a move to prevent a fall from party leadership, UUP leader **David Trimble** appoints anti-Agreement UUP member **Jeffrey Donaldson** to his talks team for the June 18 Downing Street meeting.

**June 17**

Northern Secretary **John Reid** acknowledges public concern about the slow progress on the implementation of the Mitchell Agreement. However, he insists: "While there is this dissatisfaction with the rate of implementation of some of the aspects of that Agreement, there is no question of our abandoning the Agreement...on the belief that there is another agreement out there somewhere, just to please one section of Northern Ireland. What we can't have is an agreement involving only one section of the community or a system whereby everyone cherry-picks the bits that they like and says that's the only bits [sic] that matter."

**June 18**

Following a meeting at Downing Street between the British and Irish governments and the pro-Agreement parties, Sinn Fein says it is disappointed by Britain's failure to outline what it is prepared to do about policing, demilitarization, and the full working of Mitchell Agreement institutions. Taoiseach **Bertie Ahern** and Stormont Deputy First Minister **Seamus Mallon** pressure the IRA to empty its arms dumps. Ahern tells the Dail: "Guns have been silent and the international inspections and contact with the de Chastelain Commission [on arms decommissioning] are all

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## Unionists Balk, Loyalists Walk

(July 10) – THE LOYALIST Ulster Freedom Fighters/ Ulster Defense Association and Ulster Volunteer Force have withdrawn their support of the 1998 Mitchell Agreement and the peace process.

The UFF has said: “We can no longer remain silent in our criticism of an agreement which our membership have continuously voiced their opposition to and which the vast majority of the loyalist community have grown to despise.”

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anti-Semitic. Scally, coincidentally, is a member of the Advisory Committee for the deeply revisionist New York Irish Famine Curriculum.

Direct British involvement with revisionist activities in the US became evident on May 2, 1997, when former New Jersey Commissioner of Education Dr. **Saul Cooperman** wrote to Executive Director of the New Jersey Holocaust Education Commission Dr. **Paul Winkler**, saying: “About three weeks ago, I had lunch with Dr. **Ray Raymond**, Vice Consul, Policy Division, British Information Services. During lunch, Ray told me of his concern about the Irish Potato Famine section of the New Jersey Holocaust Curriculum. In essence, he said the curriculum was filled with innuendo, distortion, and half-truths. I told Ray I respected his opinion and asked what course of action he suggested. He said that a group of historians with impeccable credentials should be allowed to review the curriculum. He feels that his beliefs will be vindicated by an impartial ‘jury’ of reputable historians. If Mullin’s curriculum cannot stand the test of such rigorous scrutiny, then, indeed, it ought to be changed.”

In May 1998, **Timothy Guinnane**, Yale Economics Professor and author of *The Vanishing Irish: Households, Migration, and the Rural Economy in Post-Famine Ireland*, also wrote to the New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education. He said New Jersey’s Great Hunger curriculum

was, “at variance with the historical facts,” and he offered to submit views from himself and other “scholars of Irish history.”

In 1997, Guinnane wrote an op-ed piece in the *Washington Post* entitled, “Ireland’s Famine Wasn’t Genocide.” He wrote then: “With the potato ruined, Ireland simply did not have enough land to feed her people.” He said that those who pointed to exports as evidence that there was enough food for all were being “disingenuous.”

In June 1998, University College, Dublin Professor **Cormac O Grada**, author of *Ireland Before and After the Famine, Black 47 and Beyond*, and *The Great Irish Famine: Winners and Losers*, wrote to the New Jersey Commissioner of Education, urging authorities to “steer away” from our curriculum.

Why? Because, “it reveals more about extreme Irish nationalism today than it does about the conditions of the tragedies of the 1840s.” Not only that, but “its highly selective and evasive use of the evidence and its extreme anti-English bile will do more to increase misunderstanding and racism than to remedy it.” He, too, offered to “record the reactions of Irish academic historians to this document.” O Grada also served on the Advisory Committee for the New York Irish Famine Curriculum.

In July 1998, **Colm Toibin**, author of *The Irish Famine*, wrote a long article on the Great Hunger in the

Nevertheless, both organizations claim to be maintaining their cease-fires, though loyalist attacks on and murders of Catholics have continued since 1994. Loyalist violence has escalated again in recent weeks with two murders and scores of pipe, petrol, and blast bomb attacks.

The most recent murder victim is Ciaran Cummings, a 19-year-old Catholic man whom the Red Hand Defenders shot  
(continued on Page 5)

*London Review of Books*. He referred to the New Jersey curriculum thus: “The text is full of emotional language, selective quotation, and vicious anti-English rhetoric. It asserts, despite all the evidence to the contrary, that Ireland remained a net exporter of food during the Famine. It is [as] shocking in its carelessness and its racism as the *Times*’s editorials were about Ireland during and after the Famine.”

Great Hunger revisionists call our curriculum racist. Is it because we include a 27-page unit on British racism against the Irish and other colonized peoples? See the full text on the Web site of the Nebraska Department of Education: [www.nde.state.ne.us/SS/irish\\_famine.html](http://www.nde.state.ne.us/SS/irish_famine.html) and decide.

The latest revisionist effort is the New York Irish Famine Curriculum, which fails to explain in 1,071 pages how the Irish became impoverished under British colonial rule. Principal author Dr. **Maureen Murphy**, contrasts her “objective” historical work with that of political activists, yet she is a political activist—she campaigned actively against the MacBride Principles for Fair Employment in Northern Ireland. Clearly, her brand of objectivity includes campaigning against justice.

We urge you to urge Pataki to ensure the integrity of New York’s Great Hunger Curriculum (See *Action Request*, Page 8).



## Newsbits

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PRESENTING the RUC's annual report, Chief Constable **Ronnie Flanagan** says he does not believe that the UDA has, as an organization, breached its cease-fire. Flanagan says the loyalist paramilitary group is a loose alliance of factions, some of which have been involved in recent violence. There have been more than 90 pipe bomb attacks this year, most of which have been attributed to the UDA. Flanagan also says he understands how deeply feelings run over parades but adds, "We have seen in the past where common sense prevails, the real violence we have seen in the past can be avoided. I am confident with that common sense approach the violence this year can be avoided as well." The chief constable also says he has no intelligence to suggest that the IRA will decommission in the next six weeks, but that does not necessarily mean it won't happen. He calls on nationalist leaders to publicly endorse the new police service, which he says will lead to greater change more quickly. (IAIS 6/29/01)

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The British Ministry of Defense has intervened to stop the Stevens police team from questioning the female military intelligence operative at the center of a number of controversial killings in the North. The operative, formerly known as **Captain M** or **Mags**, was recently identified as **Captain Margaret Walshaw** by a US-based Web site. Walshaw was a leading member of the Force Research Unit in the North, directly under the command of Brigadier **Gordon Kerr**, identified during the trial of British agent **Brian Nelson** as **Colonel J** and head of the FRU. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, Mags and another FRU member known only as **Geoff**, were Nelson's primary handlers. A Scottish newspaper reports an FRU

source's describing the unit's collusion with loyalist killers as "a perfect military plan." The source says: "Captain M facilitated the UDA's targeting by producing maps, photos, details of routes to the scene of the assassinations, and information of targets' movements." Mags also provided false documents to encourage the UDA into targeting a Catholic pensioner as a smoke screen to suit the FRU's agenda. Another incident linked to Mags is the killing of three petty criminals outside a Falls Road bookmaker's in 1990. A fourth member of the gang who escaped the ambush describes how his unarmed colleagues had been clinically executed and claims that they had been targeted because of the gang's connection to a stolen hold-all containing British military documents and weapons belonging to the FRU. Mags has also been implicated in the killing of UVF gunman **Brian Robinson**. It has been claimed that despite prior knowledge of a sectarian attack in which 43-year-old Catholic **Patrick McKenna** was killed, the FRU allowed the killing to take place before ordering an undercover unit to open fire on the loyalist gunman as he fled. After Nelson's exposure, his female handler was promoted to the rank of captain, awarded a British Empire Medal, and relocated in England, where she is currently training other British soldiers in covert operations. (RM Dist. 6/18/01)

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The Northern Ireland Parades Commission revises the restrictions it placed on a controversial west Belfast Orange Order march after representations from Orangemen. The Protestant Orange Order submits new proposals for the route of its Whiterock parade, after the commission says the Order could not walk the nationalist Ainsworth Ave. section of the march. In response to

the Order's move, the commission issues a decision it says is a compromise between the Orange Order's proposals and those of the nationalist Springfield Residents Action Group, which opposes the original march route. The parade passes a peace-line that takes marchers into a Catholic area. Last year, the parade caused controversy when Orangemen were joined by a loyalist color party. Loyalist paramilitaries attend an Orange Order meeting on parades in the Shankill area of Belfast this week. (IAIS 6/29/01)

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In its May 3 report, a delegation of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment (ECPT) said it found significant evidence of ill-treatment at points of arrest in the North. The delegation visited holding centers, prisons, and juvenile justice centers and consulted with government officials and human rights organizations in the North from Nov. 29 to Dec. 8, 1999. ECPT saw video evidence of a detainee "being dragged by two uniformed officers (one of whom is holding his right arm, the other his left leg), who proceed to throw him against the interview room wall, on which he bangs his head. As the detainee lies prone, holding his head in his hands, the detective officers are seen to lift the desk, strike him with it, and hold it down on top of him for nearly a minute. Afterwards, the detainee is carried out of the interview room...by uniformed officers." ECPT says it is "noteworthy" that neither the Deputy Independent Commissioner for Holding Centers nor the investigating RUC officer who had received ECPT's formal complaint have viewed the video evidence of this incident. ECPT made a number of recommendations to protect detainees' rights. (Just News 5/01)

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to death in County Antrim July 4. The organization claims the murder was a response to the election of two Sinn Féin councilors in Antrim in local elections in June. The group vows that the campaign will continue.

The UVF and UDA's abandoning of the peace process is the latest blow to it following Ulster Unionist Party leader **David Trimble's** July 1 resignation as first minister.

Nationalist gains in recent elections cause some unionists to fear they might soon become a minority in the North.

In a statement, the UFF/UDA says it finds it intolerable that Sinn Fein has gained "concession after concession, yet there is still a growing erosion of our culture and heritage.

"This has to stop; we cannot allow this to go any further. There can be no more concessions to nationalism while the fabric of our loyalist community is torn asunder."

**David Ervine**, leader of the UVF's political arm, the PUP, denies his party has withdrawn support because it

was sent home from talks in England.

Rather, Ervine accuses Sinn Fein president **Gerry Adams** of "playing with words. We are advocating withdrawal from this phase of the process because at the round table session yesterday, Sinn Fein would not give us an answer to what it meant by the 'causes of conflict' in 2001," he says.

"That is a perfectly legitimate question, but Gerry Adams was singularly refusing to answer it, and until we get that question answered, we have no way of knowing where republicans are coming from and what is possible."

Ervine also accuses republicans of "adding to their shopping list of demands" to the British government yesterday but refusing to reveal their position to it.

Talks continue, but they are deadlocked over unionist demands for IRA decommissioning and nationalist demands for the full implementation of the Agreement.

(continued from Page 2)

helpful, but they are not enough. The reality is they are not enough. As a person in the middle, I think if [Sinn Fein] were to help on decommissioning, I could certainly help press the British government on demilitarization. It would strengthen my hand massively. And equally, it would on policing." Sinn Fein vice-president **Pat Doherty** rejects the taoiseach's remarks and blames internal unionist divisions and the British government's failure to implement policing reforms and demilitarization for the current crisis. "We stand by the Agreement. We have worked to implement that Agreement. It says that there is an onus on all of us to use whatever influence we can. [Ahern's] comments are an attempt to put an undue burden on Sinn Féin. They aren't correct and they aren't fair."

#### June 19

Sinn Fein claims that Trimble deepens the crisis in the peace process by banning Sinn Fein's **Martin McGuinness** from a meeting of cross-border bodies. McGuinness is Sinn Fein's education minister. The parties are awaiting the outcome of a High Court appeal against a judicial ruling declaring the ban illegal.

#### June 20

During rioting involving about 400 people in North Belfast, gunmen fire more than nine shots and more than 100 petrol bombs. The RUC responds by using the new, purportedly more accurate, plastic bullet. The violence follows a night of rioting in which hundreds of loyalists and nationalists clash with the police at a sectarian interface in the Ardoyne. The US's special adviser on Northern Ireland, **Richard Haass**,

says the future of the peace process is in the hands of the North's politicians and the two governments. Haass visits the North to help develop the State Department policy on it (See *Action Request*, Page 8).

#### June 24

Loyalists murder a Catholic who had been due to give evidence for the prosecution in the case against several men charged in connection with a loyalist gun attack on a house in Coleraine last Aug.

#### June 25

The Alliance Party refuses to back a Sinn Fein lord mayor for Belfast and says it will back the UUP candidate.

#### June 27

British sources say failure to secure a positive "result" at the end of this week of negotiations between the British and Irish governments and the pro-Agreement parties could represent "work in progress" with negotiations then set to continue during July and early Aug. In that case, the two governments would have at least six weeks to resolve the decommissioning/demilitarization/policing deadlock before, if faced with a continuing impasse, having to decide between the suspension of the Assembly and other institutions of the Mitchell Agreement and fresh Assembly elections, in which the DUP and Sinn Féin could continue its recent advances.

#### June 28

Downing Street says the Mitchell Agreement institutions will continue even if Trimble were to resign July 1 as a result of the IRA's refusing to comply with his decommissioning ultimatum.



## Rights and Entitlements Are Not Conditional upon a Unionist Veto

By Gerry Adams, MP, Sinn Fein President (Excerpts reprinted from July 28 *RM Distribution*)

*[Editor's Note: In the following analysis, Gerry Adams argues that the British and Irish governments must not postpone the Irish people's clearly expressed demands at the ballot box for self-determination.]*

THERE has been much comment on the rise in the Sinn Fein vote in the North and the Nice Treaty result in the south, and it is appropriate that I outline the Sinn Fein view of these developments and the pending resignation of **David Trimble** as first minister.

### Nice Treaty

While the rejection of Dublin's position on the Nice Treaty was undoubtedly a disappointment to both coalition parties and others who called for a Yes vote, the government's response to the people's decision has been inappropriate.

Dublin must accept and deliver on the citizens' mandate. Anything less is unacceptable. To suggest that there can be reruns of the referendum until the government gets the result it wants is wrong. By rejecting the Nice Treaty, the electorate has called a halt to the process aimed at creating a two-tier European Union and a European superstate.

The onus is on the government to respond to these concerns, particularly in relation to the Rapid Reaction Force, sovereignty, and the loss of an EU Commissioner.

### Northern Elections

Some opinion makers have seized upon Sinn Fein's electoral gains as an ultimatum to the IRA to surrender its weapons and for Sinn Fein to be held responsible for Trimble's self-imposed resignation. These demands ignore the [Mitchell] Agreement, the election

results, and the Sinn Fein mandate, the latter of which endorses the manner in which it has been handling the peace process, including the arms issue.

These opinion-makers appear to be making the surrender of IRA weapons a precondition on the rights of citizens. This is not only a breach of the [Mitchell] Agreement, but also it is patently counterproductive. For both these reasons, those who have moved to this position should move back to the [Mitchell] Agreement.

### A Strategy for Dealing with Weapons

The issue of weapons will be resolved successfully. I believe that the gun will be taken out of Irish politics. In saying this, unlike others, I am also mindful of all the other guns that infect our politics and which are in loyalist and British hands and now in daily use.

Sinn Fein, acting upon its obligations under the [Mitchell] Agreement and because it is genuinely committed to a peaceful Ireland, has worked at developing a strategy to create conditions for putting weapons beyond use. If it had not, or if the IRA had not responded positively, perhaps there would be a legitimate point to the stridency of those who are attacking the party on this issue.

Sinn Fein has a strategy, though it is not its responsibility alone to devise one, and it has explained it in some length to the British and Irish governments, the Ulster Unionist Party, the SDLP, and others.

The development of this strategy and the strength of the recent Sinn Fein vote clearly could encourage others within republicanism to accept the merits of Sinn Fein's approach. The near hysteria and the irrational

misrepresentation of what Sinn Fein's vote means is hardly persuasive. There is a party-political edge to the irrational demands from within the parties with a nationalist electorate. They are using this issue against Sinn Fein in a futile attempt to arrest the growth of Irish republicanism.

### Trimble's Mistake

Trimble's position is an entirely different matter. Having fought an election campaign on a platform of what the UUP delivered, he is now about to throw it all away. Even in terms of the effect his resignation will have on would-be investors, tourism, the economy, community relations—all issues in which he has proclaimed an interest—his resignation does not make sense.

It doesn't make sense particularly in terms of achieving his two stated objectives of devolution and decommissioning. His assertion that the IRA acts only under pressure is an obvious invitation for that organization to prove otherwise—the same as it did with Brian Faulkner, Roy Mason, Margaret Thatcher, and others who made the same mistake that Trimble appears to be committed to making. The UUP can no more pressure the IRA than the IRA can pressure the UUP. Politics must be underpinned, not undermined. Trimble's threat will not work; but if he insists on resigning, then resign he will.

Whatever he proves to himself or his supporters, many nationalists and republicans who want this process to work will conclude that the current leaders of unionism are not up to the challenge of living on equal terms with their neighbors.

**Putting Weapons Beyond Use**  
What is Sinn Fein's strategy for

putting IRA weapons beyond use? It is about making politics work. It is about implementing the Agreement, not rewriting it. It is about building real politics so that people feel empowered democratically.

The length of the IRA's cessations, now in their seventh year, is evidence that that organization is prepared to embrace such a possibility. The continued silence of IRA guns, the various initiatives to underscore this silence, and the IRA's engagement with the international decommissioning body are positive and unprecedented developments that, if properly nurtured, will have a positive outcome.

The UUP leader's claim that the IRA has broken promises is not true. I know as a result of my efforts to resolve this issue that Trimble's oft-repeated and unfounded claim of broken promises is counterproductive.

The IRA's promise is contained in its statement of May 6 last year. This statement was a huge advance on previous proclamations of "not an ounce, not a bullet." Instead, the IRA declared that it was prepared to put arms beyond use, and it explained the context in which it would do this.

Sinn Fein's strategy aims to create that context. It cannot do this on its own. Peacemaking and confidence-building are collective business. Great progress has been made in recent years—not enough and at too slow a pace for many republicans and too much, too quickly for others. We must persevere. Inevitably, as in any process of conflict resolution, there are particular issues that for a time are a focus of controversy and difficulty. These must be overcome; as we tackle these matters, we should not forget that despite everything, things

are better—not good enough yet—but better than they have been.

Trimble's refusing to nominate Sinn Fein ministers or preventing the all-Ireland aspects of the Agreement from functioning are not helpful. Neither is the British government's refusal to demilitarize or to establish an accountable, representative civic police service free from political control.

Moreover, where is the fair and impartial system of justice we agreed? The effective safeguards for human rights? The right to freedom from sectarian harassment? All of these and much more are yet to be delivered. The [Mitchell] Agreement is about creating a new political dispensation based on equality and parity of esteem. How is this to be achieved by making an objective of a peace process [IRA decommissioning] a precondition for the political process? How can the two governments square this with their stated objectives to implement the Agreement? Has the Agreement become the Agreement as interpreted by unionism, subject to continuous renegotiation, or are the governments genuinely committed to the historic compromise that citizens endorsed in referendums in May 1998?

It is make your mind up time for both the Irish and British governments. For its part, Sinn Fein will do everything it can to make this process survive and deliver. The governments must consider what real progress is possible if they pander to unionism. Do they do that, or do they continue with the challenging task of making this process work, including the daunting work of taking all of the weapons out of Irish politics?

I am convinced that this process is going to work. That has been my conviction in other more difficult times.

For my part an essential objective of the peace process is creating the circumstances in which the IRA and other armed groups become part of our past. Some want to see the IRA defeated. I want to see it in happy retirement. That goal will be easier to achieve if parties to the Agreement work together.

Sinn Fein has a large mandate. We have a moral as well as a political imperative to use that mandate wisely and for the benefit of all sections of our people. Our mandate strengthens the peace process only if it is respected and defended by others, not least the two governments.

#### **Rights and Entitlements**

The governments cannot make the delivery of all outstanding aspects of the [Mitchell] Agreement conditional upon a unionist veto. It would be far better if the institutions were in place and functioning fully and neither government countenanced the suspension of the institutions. However, if unionists are not prepared to work the institutions, then the governments have the responsibility to deliver on all other issues while protecting the institutions until unionists are prepared to work them.

Citizens' rights, the equality agenda, policing, demilitarization, and justice matters are the responsibility of the two governments. They should discharge this responsibility forthwith despite unionist protests. Only by changing the conditions in which people live and guaranteeing everyone's rights can we change the way people—particularly those who oppose change—respond to that change. The governments must make it clear to everyone that they are going ahead to deliver upon the Agreement.



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## Action Requests

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

Contact: Gov. George Pataki, State Capitol, Albany,  
NY 12224; email gov.pataki@chamber.state.ny.us  
(PLEASE INCLUDE YOUR HOME ADDRESS  
WITH YOUR MESSAGE)

**Message:** I urge you to ensure that New York's  
public school curriculum on Ireland's Great Hunger  
explore the role of Britain's economic policies in  
causing that catastrophe and Britain's failure to  
ameliorate the suffering in Ireland at that time.

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

**Message:** I encourage you to follow up on your  
pledge to support the Irish peace process rather than  
pursue a policy of waiting for an invitation from the  
British and Irish governments before you intervene.  
The process for which the previous Administration  
worked tirelessly is close to collapsing into its previous  
violent state. Please intervene to see that the Mitchell  
Agreement institutions become a reality.

## "Troubled Images" Makes Conflict Available to the World

BELFAST'S Linen Hall Library is set to launch its  
"Troubled Images" CD-ROM Oct. 3. Including several  
photographs by *Newsletter* editor Sandy Carlson, it will  
contain thousands of graphic images in the library's  
renowned political collection, covering the spectrum of  
political thought over the past 30 years.

The mainstay of the CD-ROM, which will be available in  
both Macintosh and Windows formats, is political posters of  
every description—unionist, nationalist, paramilitary, peace  
movement, government, global, alternative, according to the  
library. There will also be dozens of other types of  
imagery—badges, pins, cards, banners, stamps, photos—  
and even some defaced coins and counterfeit currency.  
Informative annotations accompany the images.

The library says that "one exciting feature will be the  
ability to create and exchange notes," attaching any of the  
images. "This will enable visually-rich discussions between  
multiple users. It will also be possible to copy, paste, and  
print images into essays and reports."

The CD-ROM is designed for the student and lecturer,  
the researcher and investigator, the political and community  
group, the knowledgeable and uninitiated.

For more information about the CD-ROM, contact:  
Troubled Images, The Linen Hall Library, 17 Donegall  
Square North, Belfast BT1 5GB, Northern Ireland; tele.  
028 9032 1707; fax 028 9043 8586; email  
troubledimages@linenhall.com.