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## American Irish Newsletter - July 2000

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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# AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

*Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation*

Volume 25, Number 7

July 2000

## Bloody Sunday Soldiers Change Statements

By Sandy Carlson, *Editor*

THE SAVILLE Inquiry shows that the passing of 28 years has done nothing to dull the horror of Bloody Sunday in Derry, when British soldiers opened fire on civilians, killing 13 people on the spot and injuring 11 others in just 10 minutes. Another victim died later.

Counsel to the Inquiry Christopher Clarke, QC, continued his opening remarks during May and June. He read the testimony of British soldiers and other eyewitnesses, some of whom are now dead. Although the Widgery Inquiry heard some of the testimony in 1972, much of it was new.

The testimony presented thus far suggests that the British army not only acted outside its guidelines for firing weapons but also deliberately sought to unleash terror in the Bogside. One soldier told the inquiry he did not hear any shots fired at soldiers.

A soldier who claimed he fired the first fatal shots on Bloody Sunday later denied and then confirmed again that he was in Derry that day. Soldier 2003, who claimed he shot Jackie Duddy, described the killing to a TV program in 1998 but then denied ever being in Derry in statements to the new inquiry. In a subsequent phone

call with a lawyer on the inquiry team, he claimed he was in Derry but that the "powers that be" decided he should deny it because of the "insensitive" things he had done on Bloody Sunday.

Earlier in his opening remarks, Clarke said a Lance Corporal V might have shot Duddy without justification because the teenager presented no threat to life. The soldier said he saw a man about to throw a petrol bomb and shot him. According to the British army's yellow card rules of the time, soldiers were permitted to shoot only if they felt their lives were in danger; the army did not consider petrol bombs to be weapons then.

However, the lance corporal changed his evidence between Bloody Sunday and the Widgery Inquiry. Treasury solicitor John Heritage said he spoke to Lance Corporal V on March 5, 1972 and the soldier said he saw a man with a petrol bomb, but the fuse had fallen out. V said he kept his eye on the man as he moved into a crowd and then shot him. In a statement to the new inquiry, V said he heard a burst of machine-gun fire and saw bullets hitting a wall between him and a soldier in front of him.

The Inquiry must also consider whether an army sergeant who said he fired at a gunman crawling away from him acted within the law. "Leaving aside the yellow card, the question arises as to whether in time of peace it is legitimate to fire a 7.62mm bullet at a person who, albeit carrying a fire-arm, is crawling in a leopard crawl in a direction away from the firer 150 feet away," said Clarke.

Still another soldier, Staff Sergeant 129, denied ever making the 1972 statement attributed to him, even though the statement reflected what he saw. The Coldstream guardsman, stationed on Derry's walls when the shooting started, said he heard an army sniper fire three shots into the Bogside from an attic of a derelict building just below the walls. His evidence is significant because it is the first time an investigation into Bloody Sunday heard evidence of army shots fired anywhere other than ground level.

Clarke told the Saville Inquiry that British soldiers might have withheld from the Widgery Inquiry the "whole truth" about some of the deaths on Bloody Sunday. Clarke described the deaths of four men and the wounding of another five in the Glenfada Park area and said that two of the dead might have been killed at nearby Abbey Park. Clarke said none of the soldiers who testified to the Widgery Inquiry admitted firing in or at Abbey Park.

Further, members of the British army's Support Company might have fired more than the 108 rounds officially acknowledged to date. Clarke disclosed that Soldier 023, who claimed to have been in the antitank platoon of

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## **Our View: Keep Human Rights in Sight**

*THE SAVILLE Inquiry into Bloody Sunday, the Criminal Justice Review Report, the Patten Commission's recommendations for a new police force, the jailing of RUC officers who beat and threatened the life of a Catholic man...*

*All of these are human rights issues, the discussion of which has emanated from the 1998 Mitchell Agreement but the resolution of which requires the international community's continued watchfulness and demands for the British government's accountability. It is absurd, of course, that Northern Secretary Peter Mandelson should tell a gathering of human rights activists in Belfast that Northern Ireland is a leader in human rights protections. To date-- after 30 years of repressive legislation, more than 300 murders by agents of the British state, and continued calls for public inquiries into Britain's collusion with loyalists in the murder of Northern defense lawyers....--there is no evidence to support Mandelson's claim.*

*Indeed, Mandelson's claim suggests Britain's desire to be seen to be behaving democratically in the North, despite the reality of repression. The PEC's concern, then, is that Britain--and its allies in our government as well as around the world--will settle for the illusion of democracy with the publication of report after report followed by the enactment of legislation that does not adequately endorse the rights of all people in the North to life. The PEC urges you to stay active and stay vocal. Our work will not be done until human rights are enshrined in law throughout Ireland and the law is upheld.*

## **Peace Process Update**

**May 11**

A BBC POLL finds that unionist support for the Mitchell Agreement has dropped by 12 percent the day before the IRA pledges to put its weapons beyond use. Sinn Fein is concerned that unionist attempts to weaken the Patten Report's recommendations on police reform will undo the IRA's arms deal. Unionists want to retain a symbolically imperial name, crest, and badges for the new force.

**May 15**

British sources say Northern Secretary Peter Mandelson will introduce legislation authorizing Northern secretaries the final say on whether the British flag will fly over local government buildings. They will use that power only when elected officials cannot agree on the matter, the source says. Sinn Fein claims Britain is merely trying to defer the issue to appear not to be conceding to UUP demands for the flag. Sinn Fein also says that the party would tolerate the flying of the Union Jack over buildings only so long as an Irish flag were flying beside it.

**May 16**

Arms inspectors Cyril Ramaphosa (formerly of the ANC) and Martti Ahtisaari (formerly president of Finland) say they will examine IRA weapons dumps and then check them from time to time to confirm that the weapons remain secure. Trimble says the UUP expects to see the actual decommissioning of IRA weapons. Loyalists have not said whether they will dispose of their arms. Church of Ireland Archbishop Robin Eames offers to talk with loyalists about the decommissioning of their weapons.

**May 18**

Trimble says he is ready to recommend to the UUP's ruling council a return to power sharing. The Irish government expresses concern that the new policing bill does not go far enough to win the support of nationalists. Areas of concern

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### **American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC**

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## Report: Human Rights Must be Basis of Justice

By Sandy Carlson, *Editor*

THE CRIMINAL Justice Review Board has published 294 recommendations that--were Britain to implement all of them--might transform the justice system in Northern Ireland into a democratic one. Published March 30, the Criminal Justice Review Report says its recommendations should help the government to win the community's confidence in the judicial system and to reduce crime.

Five British civil servants and five independent experts conducted the Report, about which Britain says it will keep "an open mind" and take six months to consider its contents.

The proposals endorse a human-rights-based legal system. Such a system would turn the Northern judicial system on its head because 30 years of so-called emergency legislation have turned the North into a police state. Britain's focus on national security--a failed attempt to enforce stability in the face of widespread opposition to British rule--has determined countless legal decisions in the North, allowing state forces to kill, maim, and imprison with impunity.

The Report looks at the criminal justice system without looking at police reforms or emergency legislation. The Committee on the Administration of Justice says the separate reviews of these three areas means that "the full damage done to the criminal justice system over the past 30 years is rendered more or less invisible." The CAJ says it fears that, as a result, the "decontextualized" report "cannot but fail to impact on key sites of alienation within the criminal justice system."

Significantly, the report proposes that police officers be taught that defense lawyers are not enemies of the state but vital players in the upholding of the democratic standards of a state.

Further, the report recommends that judicial appointments, such as an Attorney General, not be political and that they receive the support of the Assembly, which would have input into recommendations for the appointment of high-ranking court officials. However, the Report's recommendations could result in the senior judiciary's having the ultimate say in who is appointed. The Report recommends that the Equality Commission be consulted on how fair employment legislation would effect appointments.

To promote public confidence in the court system, the Report says the courts should make court buildings and the people in them approachable. The Report suggests the elimination of wigs, the use of simple language, and the removal of emblems that represent only a segment of the community.

To reduce crime in the North, the Report suggests increasing contact between offenders and their victims and addressing social problems that often lead to crime--such as, drug use, family problems, and lack of education. The Report also recommends the use of restorative justice in lieu of imprisonment, whenever appropriate. The Report emphasizes the importance of the protection of victims' rights.

The North's legal system should also rigorously monitor itself for fairness and accessibility with codes of ethics, and it should be open to monitoring by outside groups, according to the Report.

That's the theory. If Britain were to act on the Report's proposals, it could produce a meaningful democratic legal system and live up to Northern Secretary Peter Mandelson's recent claim to a gathering of human rights activists in Belfast that the North is a leader in human rights protection.

However, Britain's response to the Patten Report's recommendations on police reform bodes ill for the Criminal Justice Review Report. The Policing Bill before Westminster at press time is a dire watering-down of Patten's recommendations. Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams has said his party will not endorse the bill because it cannot produce a representative police force.

The PEC's concern, then, is that Britain will accept the Criminal Justice Review's report but will implement only those recommendations that are agreeable to unionists--exactly what it did to hobble the policing bill.

The PEC hopes that Britain's colonial history will not repeat itself in the North. When confronted with the prospect of remaking itself into a democracy, Britain historically has produced bureaucracy to preserve its repressive ways of doing business.

Indeed, already bureaucracy is suffocating democracy in the North. After the Patten Commission published its report, the British government and its allies--including US negotiator George Mitchell--pointed to Britain's acceptance of the report as evidence of its willingness to transform the North into an inclusive democracy. Where are Mitchell and the other politicians now to challenge Britain's failure to implement the recommendations?

Where the Agreement leaves the world of theory and enters the world of politics, it is unrecognizable. Witness Britain's suspension of the Agreement and the impact of this unilateral move on cross-border bodies, local government, and the South's constitution. The Agreement, rather than vesting the Irish people with control of their destiny, mysteriously empowers London with control of the island. How, then, will Britain dilute the Criminal Justice Review Report to suit itself and unionists?



## Newsbits

DEMONSTRATORS picketed a heritage center in Drogheda yesterday as the death mask of Oliver Cromwell was put on display in the town, where he was reputed to have massacred thousands of defenseless civilians.... The town's deputy mayor, Frank Godfrey, likened the exhibition to people showing off the head of Adolf Hitler to a Jewish community. "The people in Drogheda suffered greatly. They were slaughtered: children, mothers, and fathers," he said. "This man's face is the last thing we want to see....The people of Drogheda haven't forgotten." Cromwell landed in Ireland in Aug. 1649 with an army of 12,000 Round Heads. His mission was to secure the new commonwealth state he had established in England from any royalist threat in Ireland and to rid the country of "papal barbarism." After overcoming Drogheda's defenses of around 3,000 royalists, he is said to have ordered the slaughter of all the survivors. Historian Tom Reilly, who organized the exhibition, said Cromwell's reputation is based on "myth." "His reputation was blackened by the spin doctors of the English Reformation," he said. The exhibition, which is due to run until the end of Oct., traces the bizarre journey of Cromwell's head from his death to its probable final resting place at Sidney Sussex College in Cambridge. (*Irish News* 5/22/00)

After former Maine Sen. George Mitchell brokered the historic peace agreement in turbulent Northern Ireland, Conn. Rep. Sam Gejdenson nominated him for a Nobel Peace Prize. (*Associated Press* 5/8/00)

The discovery of a cache of loyalist weapons in an office building used by the Progressive Unionist Party in Ballymoney, County Antrim, has underlined the continuing threat to nationalists posed by loyalist death-squads. The PUP represents the

loyalist paramilitary UVF in talks and at the suspended Belfast Assembly, where it has two seats. A powerful machine gun, a rifle fitted with a telescopic sight and silencer, and other weapons were found at the office building, which was disused. Booby-trap bomb components, a stun gun, ammunition and three replica guns were also found. PUP leader David Ervine said: "We are holding our hands up. There was no excuse for this and the significance will not be lost on us. We are blaming nobody else. This office is the responsibility of the PUP. It's very damaging. We've launched a series of questions and demanded answers, but the damage has been done as far as our credibility is concerned." Sinn Fein's Gerry Kelly described the arms find as a "very worrying development. The loyalist cease-fires were always conditional," he said. "The assumption is that they were UVF weapons that could be used in an attack. They were not in dumps but in an office. This suggests easy access and that they could be used quickly." Kelly said what was needed now was to "make politics work" and get the assembly up and running, making it impossible for anyone to use arms. (*RM Dist.* 5/18/00)

Two RUC officers who beat a Catholic man, threatened to have him shot by loyalists, and then sought to falsely charge him with assaulting them have been jailed in a ground-breaking court case. The RUC officers' actions, branded in court yesterday as "deeply offensive sectarian behavior," only came to light when a fellow officer chose to blow the whistle on his colleagues. Justice McLaughlin jailed two policemen and fined another constable and a soldier £1,000 for their involvement in an attack on an 18-year-old north Belfastman in February 1998. The judge said: "In my opinion, this breakdown in discipline calls for the most careful consideration by the

police authorities to consider ways of ensuring the same conduct will never be repeated. That is the minimum response which the public are entitled to expect." (*Irish News* 5/11/00)

RUC members who made death threats against human rights lawyer Rosemary Nelson before she was murdered are not to be disciplined. Despite widespread allegations of RUC collusion in the murder, the same force has been allowed to investigate itself in relation to the murder. The so-called Independent Commission for Police Complaints (ICPC), an RUC agency, claimed it had carried out an investigation into the death threats but found nothing wrong. The ICPC, in a letter to the Nelson family, said there was "insufficient evidence" to bring disciplinary charges against any of the RUC members involved in the threats. Nelson was killed when a bomb exploded under her car outside her home in Lurgan, County Armagh, last March. Nobody has been charged in the case....Sinn Fein said the decision not to discipline was a disgrace, but not a surprise. Assembly member Dr. Dara O'Hagan said: "It highlights the official condoning of unaccountability and action with impunity that is so much part of the RUC psyche." The decision was also denounced by **Ed Lynch**, chairman of the US-based Lawyers Alliance for Justice in Ireland. He said the Commission had "labored mightily over many months to produce a worthless product." He recalled that Nelson and at least five independent witnesses gave sworn statements in 1997 and 1998 to the ICPC and Commander Mulvihill of New Scotland Yard setting forth the identities and details of the RUC officers who insulted, threatened, and warned Rosemary Nelson that she "would be dead" if she continued to uphold her oath as a lawyer to honorably represent the best interests of her clients. (*RM Dist.* 5/18/00)

## American Irish History: *Women Leave Their Mark on a New Century*

By Kevin P. Murphy, *Massachusetts*

AMERICAN Irish women have already made their mark on the worlds of science, law, and politics in this new century and new millenium.

Recently, the Navy appointed Commander Kathleen McGrath as commander of an active warship. She is the first woman to do so. McGrath commands an ultramodern guided missile frigate.

She follows in the footsteps of Eileen Collins, another American Irishwoman who pioneered women's role in the

world of technology. Collins was the first woman to command the space shuttle. Under her command, the shuttle team successfully conducted many scientific experiments.

Collins can trace her scientific lineage to Kathleen Sullivan, a space shuttle astronaut who was the first American woman to walk in space.

In the field of medicine, Dr. Bernadette Healy is considered a leading expert. She has acted as an advisor to the government and is often

called upon to comment on medical news on national television programs.

In the world of law, Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman to sit on the Supreme Court, is an active member of the court.

In the political realm, American Irish women have sought to end violent crime. First elected in the 1980s, mayors Jane Byrne of Chicago, Illinois, and Maureen O'Connor McCarthy of Long Island, New York, lead the way in promoting gun control laws.

(continued from Page 1)

Support Company, alleged he opened fire but did not give evidence to the Widgery Inquiry. Clarke said it was conceivable that other soldiers might have had a personal supply of bullets and under-reported the number of shots they fired or had over-reported the number of shots they fired to develop a personal stockpile of bullets.

Civilian eyewitnesses have recounted seeing British soldiers firing with impunity. Soldiers shot Alex Nash, who died last year, when he tried to help his son William, when he saw the teenager dying in Rossville Street. Nash beckoned in vain to the soldiers to stop shooting so he could help his son.

Witnesses have also said they heard soldiers using abusive language. Anna Nelis reported hearing one soldier say, "Let the whore bleed to death," on seeing injured mother-of-14 Peggy Derry lying in her house.

Soldiers also threatened to kill others and boasted about how many people they had killed. A male first-aid worker recalled witnessing a soldier beating an elderly man over the head with a gun. He shouted to the soldier to stop, but another soldier hit the first-aid worker on the chest with a gun.

### Letter to the Editor

RESPONDING to the PEC's May *Newsletter* article about syndicated journalist and *60 Minutes* regular **Andy Rooney's** newspaper column in which he refers to Catholics and Protestants of Northern Ireland as "unruly schoolchildren who ought to be spanked and put to bed without supper," PEC member **Colinneach MacNamara** writes:

"An opinion in a newspaper column by a noted journalist calls for that person to maintain a high standard [of integrity] because readers have come to rely on that...person to convey fact and truth. Rooney, with his high standing in the media industry, is

supposed to be a holder of truth.

"Rooney's readers are now burdened with a completely false picture of Northern Ireland, although they rely on media people like Rooney for information. Newspaper columns that are inaccurate do an injustice to those seeking justice and freedom and hinder those of us who are attempting to secure unity, justice, and peace for all in Ireland."

The PEC encourages readers to continue to pressure Rooney to withdraw publicly his denigrating remarks about Northern Ireland (*See Action Request, Page 8*).

Another eyewitness, first-aid worker Alice Doherty, told the inquiry that she saw a British soldier shoot three bodies "piled on top of each other like meat" inside a Pig armored car. She and another first aid worker offered to help the shooting victims, and they heard

one of he bodies groan and saw the foot of the boy on the bottom of the pile twitch. Doherty said the soldier pointed his rifle through a flap on the side of the vehicle and fired three shots. He later said: "That is the end of the Fenian bastards," she said.



## Follow-up Stories

### Will Stevens Bury Finucane?

CONCERN is growing that police chief John Stevens's third inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the 1989 killing of Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane is losing sight of the murder.

Human rights advocates say the decision to bring a second murder charge against loyalist-RUC double agent William Stobie, already accused of killing Finucane, suggests that the RUC and British government want to prevent a public inquiry into the killing of the lawyer.

Sinn Fein says that the charges are an attempt to deflect attention from compelling evidence of collusion between loyalists and British soldiers.

In court, Stobie has denied killing Adam Lambert in 1987. Loyalists killed Lambert because they thought he was Catholic.

The RUC recruited Stobie after learning that he had supplied the gun and was the getaway driver in Lambert's killing.

Campaigners are now asking why the RUC decided only in March to change the terms of reference of Stevens's inquiry to include Lambert's killing although compelling evidence had been available for some time.

Until now, the British government has brushed off calls for a public inquiry into the Finucane murder, claiming that such an inquiry would be prejudicial to criminal proceedings, notably in the case of Stobie.

Even the United Nations has dismissed this claim, however. The UN Special Rapporteur Param Cumaraswamy said in his latest report that he did "not consider that a judicial commission of inquiry would be prejudicial to any criminal proceedings." He added that "prosecutions or

possible prosecutions should not be used as a reason not to set up a public judicial commission of inquiry into the murder to ascertain all the circumstances, including whether there was state collusion."

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern has added his name to calls for a public inquiry (*See Action Request, Page 8*).

### Killer Soldier to be Promoted?

A former lover of convicted British soldier James Fisher has released letters that reveal senior British Army officers visited the murderer in jail and promised to promote him upon release.

The letters also reveal the reason the soldier who searched murder victim Peter McBride was not called as a witness.

The revelations come as a British Army Board prepares to decide the future of the two guardsmen convicted of the 1992 murder of Belfastman Peter McBride (*See Action Request, Page 8*).

Fisher told former girlfriend Kate Rice that his commanding officer, Lt. Col. Tim Spicer, visited him soon after his conviction and promised that everything was being done to get the pair released. "My commanding officer has said that I will get back, and when I do, I could even be promoted," he wrote.

The letter also stated, "I told you about my visit from my commanding officer and Maj. Gen. Kizsley. He is doing his best to keep us in the army."

Campaigners for the McBrides have demanded that British Prime Minister Tony Blair intervene in the case.

A spokesperson for the Derry-based human rights group the Pat Finucane Center said, "The allegations that

senior officers attempted to pervert the course of justice in this case confirm the suspicions that we have had all along.

"On Jan. 31, 1997 Maj. Gen. Kizsley used his position as a senior officer to recommend that the two should not be discharged from the army. In Feb. 1996 a petition was sent to then-Secretary of State Mo Mowlam by Kizsley calling for the early release of the two men.

"Their commanding officer, Lt. Col. Spicer, has made clear his view that the two should not even have been charged in the first place. Clearly, senior officers who had 'unlimited' jail visits were attempting to negate the spirit of the judgement of a court of law. Who really rules Britain?"

A further damning revelation is contained in the letters, according to campaigners for the McBride family: Fisher criticized his lawyers for wanting to put Lance Corporal Swift, leader of the four-man patrol, on the witness stand. His evidence would have confirmed that he had searched McBride and there was no evidence of an alleged coffee jar bomb.

In reference to a meeting with his Belfast solicitor, Fisher admitted, "He understands what the lawyers in England want, but I don't know if they are aware of the reasons for not calling Swift as a witness."

Swift was never called to give evidence. This admission refutes the central argument of those who claimed the conviction was a miscarriage of justice. Ludovic Kennedy, who called for the release of the guardsmen, claimed that Swift's evidence might have "tipped the judge's mind into believing Fisher's and Wright's account." Fisher obviously didn't share this view.

## Members' Survey

TO BETTER respond to members' interests, the AIEF-PEC Webmaster has prepared the following survey. Please complete and return it by July 15.

1. Do you have access to the Internet?

☐ Yes ☐ No

2. Do you have Email?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please enter your Email address here:

3. Do you visit the AIEF-PEC Web site?

☐ Yes ☐ No

4. How often do you visit the AIEF-PEC Web site per month?

☐ 1-5 times ☐ 5 or more times

5. Which page do you most often visit?

☐ Action Requests ☐ Press Releases

☐ Resources ☐ Other

6. Are your visits beneficial?

☐ Yes ☐ No

7. Would you visit a members-only section of the Web site?

☐ Yes ☐ No

8. Would you subscribe to the *Newsletter* if it were solely on-line?

☐ Yes ☐ No

9. Would you subscribe to an *Action Request* Email list?

☐ Yes ☐ No

10. Would you subscribe to an Email list that included action requests, press releases, or other updates?

☐ Yes ☐ No

## PEC Grows Through Internet

By Ed Dzitko, *Webmaster*

IF YOU BUILD it, they will come.

That memorable line from the movie *Field of Dreams* holds true for the AIEF-PEC Web site. Since Jan. 1999, we have twice revised the our home on the Internet, and good things are happening.

We have seen hundreds of visitors each month, with a record of more than 1,200 in Feb. Visitors to the site can learn about the AIEFPEC, participate in the organization's Action Requests, locate the state director closest to them, and read and distribute AIEF-PEC articles and press releases.

Within the last month, we've made significant enhancements to build traffic and increase membership. We've joined with banner exchange services, which will give us exposure throughout the World Wide Web and allow visitors to sites throughout the Internet to click on our banner to discover our Web site.

We've formed a site ring, the *American Irish Site Ring*, and are soliciting sites that relate to Irish and American organizations that are pursuing human rights and a peaceful solution to the conflict in Ireland. We've also joined other site rings that can expose the AIEF-PEC to new visitors.

With potentially so many new visitors clicking onto our site, it is important that we have the means to enable those people to become active members through on-line donations. We're seeking to do this in a number of ways, with each avenue allowing visitors to securely send funds electronically from their bank or credit card accounts to the AIEF-PEC's account.

We're also providing the means for members to make donations to continue their support of the organization. There is also Email form that provides members the option of changing their address via e-mail.

In addition, we will be adding a Web-based Email service that will continually draw visitors back to the site as they open their mailbox. We also will be adding a members-only classified advertisement section that will enable members to pedal their goods and services to other members.

We have added news feeds through *iSyndicate.com* and search functions for Northern Ireland-specific news, culture, and travel through Web portal *about.com*. There's an on-line greeting card service, with custom-designed graphics that anyone visiting the site can use to send a electronic greetings via Email. Also, there is a *free-for-all* Links page that any visitor can use to promote his site.

Registration with *igive.com* provides any visitor to that Web site with the opportunity to make a donation to the AIEF-PEC through its shopping mall. Anyone registering through the AIEF-PEC Web site will earn a dollar for the PEC, in addition to any donation made by the merchants participating at *igive.com*.

The efforts of the organization continue to play a vital role in finding a peaceful and permanent solution to the conflict in Ireland. The Internet will increase our presence and our membership, making our voice even stronger.

This issue contains a survey about the Web site. We ask that you take the time to complete it because your opinions will help us enhance the AIEF-PEC Web site as we continue to make strides toward preace. You also may send your comments via e-mail to [aipec@homestead.com](mailto:aipec@homestead.com).



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

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## **Action Requests**

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

Contact: **British Ambassador Sir Christopher Meyer, KCMG**, British Embassy, 3100 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, DC, 20008

**Message:** I urge the British government to establish immediately a public inquiry into the 1989 killing of Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane. Only a public inquiry can establish the truth surrounding official involvement in the murder of the human rights lawyer.

Contact: **Andy Rooney**, c/o CBS, 524 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019; Tele. 212-975-4321

**Message:** I urge you to withdraw your comments in a recent newspaper column in which you compare the conflict in Northern Ireland to a squabble between unruly schoolchildren who should be "spanked and put to bed without supper." The comments suggest that the denial of basic rights is somehow a key part to solving Ireland's political problems. Don't comment on issues you claim to know nothing about.

Contact: **British Consulate General (NYC)**, Tele. 212-745-0200; Fax 212-754-3062; **Minister of State for the Armed Forces John Spellar** Email public@ministers.mod.uk

**Message:** I urge the Army Board to discharge from military service Guardsmen James Fisher and Mark Wright, who murdered Peter McBride in 1992. Discharging them from service would ease pain of the McBride family and other families who have lost loved ones to state violence.

(continued from Page 2)

include the restricted powers of the bodies that would ensure the accountability and openness of the force as well as the secretary of state's final say over the name of the police force. Also, the policing bill contains no assurance that the Patten recommendations on plastic bullets, the Special Branch, community representation, and new policing practices will be carried through.

### **May 20**

A Queen's University, Belfast, survey, which interviews more than 1,000 people May 12-15, finds that 73 percent of Ulster Unionists and 38 percent of DUP supporters desire a return to a power-sharing government.

### **May 22**

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams says neither he nor Sinn Fein can encourage nationalists to join the police force that the Policing Bill proposes because the bill falls far short of implementing the Patten proposals. Trimble says devolution will not be irreversible if the IRA fail to deliver arms.

### **May 24**

A leading advertising executive advises members of the UUP that supporting a return to devolution would lead to electoral disaster for the party. The UFF says it will not put its weapons beyond use.

### **May 26**

By a narrow margin, the UUC votes in favor of returning to power-sharing. UUP deputy leader John Taylor's last-minute backing of the return to power-sharing is a key factor in Trimble's victory. Trimble says Sinn Fein members still need to be "house-trained" before they can become democrats and that they needed to be "brought to heel."