



10-1999

American Irish Newsletter - October 1999

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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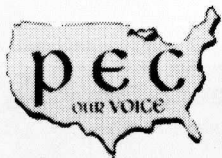


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American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - October 1999" (1999).
American Irish Newsletter. 36.
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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 24, Number 10

October 1999

From the North: *British Must Implement Reforms* Coors Scraps T-Shirt

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

WITH the publication of the Patten Commission on policing Sept. 9, unionists have gone ballistic. The UUP was already contemplating a boycott of former Senator George Mitchell's review of the implementation of the Mitchell Agreement; but now the party's deputy leader, John Taylor, has turned his back on the report and walked away from the Agreement itself. What this action will lead to remains to be seen, but one thing is certain: it makes more precarious the position of those within the party who still *profess* their support for the Mitchell Agreement.

An ironic feature of this turnabout is that the UUP was, originally, the party that demanded the review and provided the reason the British and Irish governments should accede to it. As of mid-Sept., the UUP as a whole might now turn its back on the Agreement. This kind of behavior should cause no surprise for the political cognoscenti who have kept a monitoring eye on Northern Ireland unionism.

Unionists went into a huff when Mitchell refused to comply with their terms. They wanted to review the content of the Agreement, not solely its implementation. In other words, they wanted to renegotiate the Agreement. Mitchell would have none of that. The UUP was beginning to develop a reputation for boycotting things that they had previously demanded. As late as July past, they had boycotted the Northern Ireland Assembly—an institution that was one of *their* key demands from the Mitchell Agreement—because it was attempting in that case to do something constructive—set up the specified all-party Executive and the concomitant cross-border bodies. These were not unionist demands, so, they reasoned, why should the other half of the population get them? As a result of this kind of attitude, in its 18 months of existence, the Assembly had done nothing more than serve unionists as an arena in which to wrangle along sectarian lines and hold up further progress in implementing the Agreement.

(continued on Page 3)

FOLLOWING a PEC initiative, the Coors Brewing Co. has discontinued selling T-shirts depicting a partitioned Ireland. The company said it plans to sell a T-shirt depicting a whole Ireland.

Coors said it received around “two dozen” complaints following an article in the Sept. Newsletter.

Bob Fuhrel, Nevada PEC state director Bob Fuhrel urged members last month to boycott the company's products, many of which it sells at American Irish festivals, until the company got rid of the border

Company spokesman **Dave Taylor** said: “We are the definitive experts in brewing beer but obviously don't have the same expertise when it comes to international politics.

PEC spokesperson **Sandy Carlson** welcomed Coors's move and said: “While the PEC wishes not to focus on beer—and the myths about the Irish and drinking that such an issue can engender—we do wish to make it clear across the board that partition is a political construct and not a cultural one. If Coors and other producers of consumer products wish to market their products to the American Irish, then let them respect our point of view.”

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OurView:

Loyalism Corrupts History

Guest Editorial By Frank Morris, *PEC Great Hunger Awareness Campaign Director*

TWO IRISH stories about arms bear repeating because they reflect the issues at hand in the decommissioning conundrum.

The first was born in antiquity. It seems two families claimed ownership to a particular plot of Irish land. To determine which family was entitled to claim ownership, the families agreed to race to the spot. The first to touch its soil would be the winner and owner of the land. On the appointed day, the families' two boats were dead even as they approached the shore. Then, the O'Neill leader unsheathed his sword, cut off his hand, and flung it to shore, thereby winning the land and gaining everlasting fame for "the red hand of O'Neill."

The other story is today's news (reported in the June Newsletter): "A man who lost his hand in a botched loyalist pipe bomb attack at a neighbor's house is to seek compensation for his injuries, the Irish News has learned. Richard Hastings (28), who was acquitted on Friday of explosive charges, is expected to file for damages after losing his hand when the pipe bomb he was carrying exploded prematurely....Hastings, who was originally charged with attempted murder, was freed on bail of almost 32,000 pounds after the attack in Dec. 1997. The charge was reduced to causing an explosion and possession of explosives with intent when the case came before the courts."

Both of these stories are set in the North of Ireland, though the first story took place centuries before the second. Each story represents a different type of character, however. The ancient O'Neill was extremely courageous. The loyalist would-be killer was a coward.

These tales of the loss of arms are strange. Still stranger is the loyalist demand that republicans decommission their arms while loyalists continue to attack and kill Catholics.

If we were to catalogue our tales in library order, we would surely place the O'Neill saga in Folklore, a story that reflects the cultural and psychological history of a nation, Ireland. The contemporary story, in which loyalists pretend to be peaceful as they attempt to gain the military upper hand on republicans, would come under Horror Fiction. It is, after all, the story of a group of people who won't stop killing their political opponents, though peace is at hand.

American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC

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

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Peace Process Update

August 14

THE RUC attacks hundreds of nationalists protesting a loyalist march on the Ormeau Road in Belfast. Sinn Fein negotiator Martin McGuinness condemns the nationalists in Derry who are responsible for violence there during an Apprentice Boys' march at the weekend. He says the rioters were not republicans, adding that he is concerned, nevertheless, that the British government is urging the Parades Commission to appease unionists by allowing contentious loyalist marches to proceed through nationalist areas.

August 16

Northern Secretary Mo Mowlam says the North faces a security crisis because of the increase in pipe bomb attacks, paramilitary beatings, and the stalling of the peace process. Insisting that the peace process is still alive, she says she will reassess the IRA cease-fire.

August 18

Mowlam meets with the Northern parties before the peace process review begins in Sept. The UUP says that

(continued on Page 8)

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California Adopts MacBride Principles

CALIFORNIA signed the MacBride Principles of Fair Employment into law Sept. 15, bringing to a close a 12-year campaign of American Irish activists.

California's state pension funds will persuade US companies doing business in the North to implement the nine fair employment guidelines named after the late Sean MacBride.

California's state pension fund currently totals a massive \$248 billion.

Under the new law, the state will raise questions at shareholder meetings regarding companies' adherence to the MacBride principles in Northern Ireland.

Eighteen states plus Washington DC and roughly 30 other US cities have now passed MacBride principles legislation as a result of a campaign that began with the PEC in the early 1980s.

Nine out of the 10 largest industrial states--the except Ohio--now back the principles. The California law means that more than half of pension funds in the country are now behind the principles.

Governor of California **Gray Davis** is a long time MacBride Principles supporter.

PEC, Others Cautiously Welcome Patten Report

THE PEC cautiously welcomes the Patten report's recommendation of a human rights-based approach to policing in the North. Congressman **Ben Gilman** calls the report a "good first step" toward police reform. Gilman, like the PEC, is disappointed that the report does not recommend vetting current officers for past human rights abuses and does not limit membership of officers in sectarian associations. House Speaker **Denny Hastart** also welcomes the report, saying it should be a "useful guide to all parties as they continue their efforts to find a just peace" in the North.

(continued from Page 1)

Unionists give every indication of being quite happy with this situation because, after all, their salaries and their financial perks are still arriving through their letterboxes. The SDLP's deputy first minister designate, on the other hand, was not happy, and he made this plain by handing in his resignation, not that this has caused the unionists, including his partner designate First Minister David Trimble—any obvious concern. He holds onto his lucrative, ego-enhancing post.

Now, however, the Patten Commission report has fallen on the unionists like a lightning bolt from the sky. This commission has had the audacity to adhere to its Mitchell Agreement remit and come up with 187 proposals for the reform of the RUC. This is what has caused the unionists to go ballistic. The commission was a panel of highly reputable international experts in policing, but the supremacist arrogance of backwoods politicians from the hinterlands of Portadown and suchlike places knows no bounds. Trimble is said to have said that he, as someone who had "35 years' experience as a person involved in public life and an academic lawyer (sic) I think the

Patten Report is the most shoddy piece of work I have seen." He abstained from mentioning that a large portion of his public life had been given to the most reactionary forms of Ulster unionism, including William Craig's crypto fascist Vanguard movement.

And so, after Northern Secretary Mo Mowlam, sometimes Tony Blair himself, Bertie Ahern, George Mitchell, the Provos and the "conniving, weak-kneed, SDLP," the unionists were now attempting to add more scalps to their belts—that of the high Tory Chris Patten, and his hapless band of undergraduates in policing. No wonder Patten, who would normally have been phlegmatic in the true upper-class English fashion, lost no time in retorting: "I hope that if he (Trimble) thinks that there are more sensible ways of implementing the (Mitchell) Agreement which he signed, he will say what they should be." We will wait an infinite years for that.

The only thing that remains now to do is for the British government to implement what Mowlam has asked for and to cut the debate on Patten to the end of Nov. There are some weak points in it, but the majority of its proposals ought

not to be contentious in terms of providing Northern Ireland with a police service that measures up to the best standards which ought to apply in a normal democratic society. The implementation of the Patten report would make calls for RUC's disbanding somewhat academic, so thoroughgoing would be its transformation.

The issues of the Mitchell Agreement and the implementation of the Patten Report ought not to depend upon each other, but they do. This could be a fatal flaw in the Commission's recommendation. The new governing body of the Northern Ireland Police Service is to be made up of 19 members, 10 from the Assembly on the basis of d'Hondt party entitlements, the other nine to be nominated by the first and deputy first ministers. What happens if the Mitchell Agreement collapses because the unionists walk away or keep on stalling an Executive? The answer: it would be up to the British government, as the power with the responsibility, to implement every democratic reform specified in the Mitchell Agreement with the unionists having removed themselves from obstructive positions.

Newsbits

IN AN UNUSUAL display, vendors fanned out all across the embattled nominal Serbian Province yesterday far into the remote mountain regions. These savvy entrepreneurs are plying a brisk trade in orange T-shirts with the curious logo, "I No Catholik, Donut Shut" [sic]. On the reverse side is a crude bull's eye with a red diagonal "No" stripe, further emphasizing their fear of being in the cross-hairs of some of the new peace-keepers who are being deployed here. The Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC), Northern Ireland's police force, is contributing 60 of their seasoned officers to Kosovo to help establish rudimentary civil administration and policing. Many Kosovars, the majority of whom are Muslims, fear that RUC officers might mistakenly identify them as Roman Catholics and simply shoot them (or at least arrange for others to do so) on sight. It is hoped that this Northern Ireland police force, with its long-successful experience of policing sectarian communities in Northern Ireland, will bring its expertise here. (*Ankara Sentinel* 7/30/99)

The latest in a long line of controversial conclusions to complaints against the police has left critics asking if the public purse is paying for RUC unaccountability. Continuing queries have been raised by observers who see millions of pounds in compensation following complaints over police actions but see few policemen disciplined or prosecuted as a result. Earlier this week it emerged the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) would not recommend the prosecution of policemen in a case where a prisoner was kicked "martial arts-style" in a Castlereagh Holding Center cell and subsequently awarded record damages. In the wake of the system's latest apparent failure, figures have emerged to suggest a lack of official

action when police are found to have acted outside the law. West Belfast man David Adams (40) suffered a broken leg, two fractured ribs, a punctured lung and multiple cuts to his face, chest, and body while he was in police custody in Feb. 1994. In a subsequent high court civil action, Justice Kerr discounted RUC accounts of how the republican prisoner's injuries were suffered, finding in favor of Adams.... (*Irish News* 8/11/99)

I [a Canadian journalist] spent the morning being beaten and forcibly dragged by the hospitable Northern Ireland police force, whose disbanding has been called for by everyone from the United Nations to Amnesty International.... I was with the residents of the lower Ormeau Road. We were protesting peacefully by sitting on the road against a sectarian march by the Apprentice Boys. For our efforts, we were beaten, batoned, dragged, and nearly run over and crushed by armored vehicles. The RUC was in full riot gear.... They came en masse. We were unarmed and defenseless.... We linked arms to protect one another and avoid being dragged out of sight to await who knew what... I was dragged, had a shield smashed onto my knees as I sat there, hit, batoned, my clothing torn, then carried off upside down. Once they heard my accent, I was given the option of walking while three officers escorted me. I have bruises everywhere. I am unbelievably sore. So goes the peace process in Northern Ireland.... (*AIN-PEC* 8/14/99)

Shock revelations that the RUC made secret compensation payments to the widows of two Catholic men killed by loyalists have sparked demands for security chiefs to come clean over the cases. The families of Terence McDaid and Gerard Slane sued the security forces when it

emerged British army agent and UDA/UFF intelligence officer Brian Nelson played a pivotal role in the 1988 killings. They received an estimated £50,000 each in an out-of-court settlement but had always believed the payment was made by the Ministry of Defense. Now documents obtained by the *Irish News* have confirmed payments were also made by a force that claimed it had no knowledge of the murders--the RUC. A document drafted by the Police Authority for Northern Ireland (PANI) and presented to Chris Patten's Independent Commission on Policing... says that in the early 90s, in line with its statutory role to oversee and approve such settlements, PANI refused to sanction a settlement the RUC sought to present to the families of two people killed by paramilitaries. The authority insisted that the police failed to provide it with a satisfactory explanation "about the nature of the RUC's liability," although it was stated that "the RUC had no involvement in the matter." It is understood PANI's refusal eventually led to the NIO's stepping in to pay the RUC's share of the settlement, bypassing the authority. (*Irish News* 8/12/99)

British soldiers shot dead an unarmed Derry teenager in 1972 [during Operation Motorman] from a distance of seven feet and later claimed he was 25 yards away, inquest notes have revealed. Now the family of... Daniel Hegarty is demanding that army authorities publicly accept responsibility for his death and state he was completely innocent. [From recently-obtained inquest notes, the family has learned that]... Soldier B said he fired three rounds, striking two of the teenagers at a distance of 25 yards ... But the detective inspector who headed the investigation into the shootings... told the inquest that the blood stain caused by the shooting was just seven feet from the soldier's position. (*Irish News* 8/12/99)

Connecticut Musician Celebrates Ireland

By John A. Moran, Connecticut

PEC MEMBER **John A. Moran** has written songs that celebrate Ireland, the American Irish experience, and his hope for peace in Ireland. Moran, who has performed over the years at Irish festivals and other gatherings in Connecticut, has given recordings of his songs to Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams and to the Irish government. Samples from his songs follow.

An Irishman's Prayer

*Since 1165 this land's been torn apart
To satisfy the greed of foreign kings
across the sea
Through the years the flag's been
stained
With the blood of Ireland's people
North, South, East, West
Have fought and died
To set old Ireland free*

Chorus

*Let's purge our souls of hatred
O Lord! Please hear our call!
Let each one of us remember*

*There's one God over all
Orange for the North
The South's forever Green
And white is what we pray for
Peace and unity between*

*Some children waken every morn'
To a future bleak forlorn
Another day of fear and hatred
Spawned by a foreign land
For their sake let's solve our problems
We need no stranger's hand
Let them leave our soil
Break down the wall
That splits our tortured land*

Chorus

*We helped save the world from dark-
ness
A thousand years ago
Our saints and scholars roamed the
earth
And taught the world to see
That peace and understanding
Could save all mankind so
Once more listen to their teachings
And pray along with me*

What is an Irishman?

*....They come from Connemara,
Kilkenny, and Tyrone
From Cork and Kerry, Wexford,
Meath, Tipperary, Down
Armagh, Fermanagh, Cavan
The midlands and the glens
North and South, East and West
They're all true Irishmen*

*George Washington, in dire need to
Fight the English Crown
Brought Barry from old Wexford
and men from County Down
They left Ireland by the boatload
To fight for America
One-third of all his rebels
Were from Ireland, far away*

*To Bantry Bay and Queenstown
They were shipped in by the droves
To Cardiff jail and penal farms
Transported by the Crown
They tamed the land and tilled the soil
And fought in Subla Bay
From deep despair with courage rare
They built Australia*

God bless each son of Ireland...

Hayden Addresses Employment Inequality

CALIFORNIA state Sen. **Tom Hayden** has called for renewed attention to workplace equality in Northern Ireland.

Hayden, who recently visited the North, wrote to former Sen. **George Mitchell** in advance of his upcoming deliberations on the Mitchell Agreement.

Hayden pointed to new data that claims that American firms operating in the North are employing fewer Catholics than before the Agreement.

He described the economic inequality experienced by Catholics as a "nonmilitary threat to the peace process" and pointed to the drop, from 43 to 39 percent, in the number of Catholics employed in US firms here.

Clinton Urges all Sides to Rethink Identity

PRESIDENT **Bill Clinton** has accused some Northern Ireland leaders of putting "their whole identity" into continuing violence. He urged all sides in the conflict to trust each other enough to lay aside their arms.

"We have got to help them let go," he said in Aug. while in Mass.

Clinton said peace would not flourish in Northern Ireland if its leaders did not put total faith in the agreements that could create it. That could start, he said, by laying down arms without insisting that some other faction went first.

"Some of these folks have been doing this for so long that their whole identity is caught up in the continuation of the conflict," Clinton said.

"We have got to target those critical decision-makers and give them an image of a life they can have that is meaningful and rich. We have got to help them let go."

The President's remarks mirrored the PEC's July editorial, in which we said that nationalists should force loyalists to rethink their identity by refusing to confer importance on loyalist marches. A healthy sense of identity, we said requires an open, creative response to the world and the possibilities it presents.

The Committee Challenges Free Speech Standards

Excerpt from the Aug. 9 *New York Times*

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The book *The Committee: Political Assassination in Northern Ireland* by investigative journalist Sean McPhilemy has challenged not only British state claims that it has not colluded with loyalist paramilitaries to kill nationalists but also democratic standards of free speech.]

The various challengers of the book—who range from a pair of luxury car dealers in Portadown to the leader of Northern Ireland's Ulster Unionist Party, David Trimble—have literally hunted the book around the world in an attempt to stop sales. Their efforts have prompted some publishing giants to halt distribution in the US and Britain. The campaign raises significant questions about the libel jurisdiction in the age of the borderless Internet.

The Committee—which was published in the US by...Roberts Rinehart—has not been published or generally sold in bookstores in Northern Ireland or Britain, where libel laws are more restrictive than in the US. But the book remains there from on-line booksellers.

In fact, the Internet enabled *The Committee* to become one of

Amazon.com's 10 best-selling books in Europe for a time....But such sales have forced American publishers and distributors to confront the reality of British standards.

In June, a demand by Trimble and his lawyers prompted Amazon to withdraw *The Committee* from its site in Britain, though the book is still on sale at a lower price on its American site. Several other on-line booksellers with British Web sites have also pulled the book....

Trimble...has singled out Amazon.com with a lawsuit. He denies the book's allegations that he was aware of the influential committee and provided political cover for its members. He is demanding an apology and compensation from Amazon, partly because the Web site listed its own review of the title along with critical letters from readers.

"At the moment, we are concentrating on the UK side because the publication would be in the English jurisdiction," said Paul Fox, a partner with Henry Hepworth, the firm of solicitors representing Trimble. "But once that is resolved, we may turn our guns on the American side."

Fox conceded the difficulties of stopping a book from circulating across borders with a few computer clicks, but, he said, "That doesn't mean that you shouldn't try. The reason why I'm bothering is to establish that the book isn't true," he said.

Ingram Books Group, the largest American book wholesaler, also stopped stocking and distributing the title in July after it received letters from a Belfast law firm demanding a halt and invoking the name of Trevor Forbes, a former assistant chief constable in the Royal Ulster Constabulary who denies the book's claim that he provided intelligence for the secret committee.

In New York, Barnesandnoble.com has received similar letters but is still selling the hardcover and paperback versions on its Web site. [T]wo brothers, David and Albert Wesley Prentice, have taken a more traditional approach, filing a \$100 million libel suit in a Washington court against the publisher and author in connection with the book's allegations that the [brothers] used their various businesses in County Armagh to finance the activities of unionist terrorists and murders.

"I think that as the world becomes more globally literate—the more we read each other's books, each other's magazines and newspapers—the more

Irish Reporter Faces Jail Time for Protecting Source

SUNDAY TRIBUNE writer Ed Moloney could face a prison term for refusing to turn over to the RUC his notes of an interview 10 years ago with loyalist William Stobie, charged with the 1989 murder of Belfast lawyer Pat Finucane.

Maloney faces an unlimited fine and/or six months to five years in prison for refusing to hand over the notes.

On June 27, the *Sunday Tribune* published Maloney's story making a series of allegations over the case,

including claims that in 1990 officials abandoned an arms trial against Stobie after he threatened to reveal his warnings to the RUC. Stobie was charged only after Metropolitan Police Commissioner John Stevens reopened the Finucane case. Moloney has known of Stobie's role for 10 years but agreed not to publish details until Stobie agreed to his doing so.

Moloney says members of the Stevens team visited his Belfast home to demand all material he held in

connection with the case. When he refused, they obtained a court order under the Prevention of Terrorism Act demanding the material. In Aug., Maloney began legal action to have the order overturned. The court sided with the police.

The National Union of Journalists (NUJ) is supporting Maloney as he battles to protect the confidentiality of his interview notes.

Influential US politician and controller of New York City \$90 billion

likely you're going to see litigation about that literature crossing borders," said Sandra Baron, executive director of the Libel Defense Resource Center, a New York information clearinghouse on libel and privacy issues.

"It may expand the pool of potential plaintiffs, and that may be something that distributors have to pay attention to if they're going to sell books about non-US residents and sell them overseas," she said. "They may expect to be sued."

At the center of this dispute is McPhilmey's book, which grew out of a documentary that was shown on Britain's Channel 4 in 1991. The program, researched by McPhilemy's television production company, contended that a "committee," an influential group of some 60 middle-class professionals in the Protestant community in County Armagh, had coalesced in the late 1980s and forged links with British special police forces and unionist terrorists to preside over nearly 60 killings of Republicans and Catholics.

The outcry that followed the program had a drastic effect on McPhilemy. He was forced to close his production company after newspaper reports in London contended that the story was a hoax and accused him and his researchers of deceptive reporting....

The credibility of the program was

undermined by the changing statements of a critical unionist source for the original program, James Alfred Sands, who was the only direct witness to provide the producers with taped, detailed descriptions of the committee's structure, meeting locations, and members, along with the supposed plots behind various murders. Sands later recanted, then withdrew that declaration, saying in a sworn statement in May that the RUC had threatened him with prosecution or death if he did not recant. Finally, he recanted yet again, backing away from his support for the program.

It was partly because of the libel litigation that McPhilemy continued the investigation of a conspiracy in Northern Ireland, which eventually resulted in the book, *The Committee*.

"I had to decide whether I would stand by the program or whether I would continue the investigation into the murder conspiracy or follow the advice of people who said you cannot expect to win," the author said last week. "I decided my duty was to pursue the story..."

But the lawyer for the Prentice brothers, William W. Taylor, said the publisher should not have been surprised.

"They have no choice, because the book was not published in the UK,"

Taylor said. "Their only opportunity to get a forum for the truth or falsity was in the US."

In Britain, booksellers can face libel sanctions. But it is extremely rare for a bookseller or a distributor here to be drawn into the tangle of a lawsuit....

Still, the book keeps selling—with more than 55,000 hardcover and paperback copies in print, and more scheduled for production next week. The title's chief distributor, Publishers Group West in Berkeley, California, is preparing to finance another paperback printing because Roberts Rinehart cannot.

Charles Winton, chief executive of Publishers Group West, said he wondered whether *The Committee* was merely the first of many books that will raise the issue of whether publishers will have to satisfy libel standards in all countries if titles circulate internationally via the Internet.

"To the greater degree that English becomes the world's language," Winton said, "we are seeing the first example of the tactic where if you feel wronged, you have to fight it in the US."

**To order *The Committee*
Contact Irish Books & Media
1-800-229-3505
Say you are placing a PEC order**

pension funds, **Alan Hevesi** also has spoken out in support of the Belfast journalist. Hevesi said: "It is very, very troubling. What various authorities are doing to Moloney violates every principle of journalistic ethics and free press that we enjoy in the United States. I recognize the laws are different [in Northern Ireland] but the principles shouldn't be different."

Hevesi, as custodian of New York City's pension fund, oversees one of the world's largest pools of investment capital. The fund has invested \$6.3 billion in 134 corporations that have a

presence in the North. The comptroller said that he supports Maloney and that he will look into the issue, adding, "I think the focus of the authorities is in the wrong place."

Chairman of the Belfast branch of the NUJ Robin Wilson said Moloney had the branch's full support. In mid-Aug. Wilson said: "The sanctity of journalistic sources and notebooks is paramount in a democratic society. Only if journalists are able to fearlessly pursue the truth and their contacts are able to speak to them without fear of exposure can genuinely free media exist."

Moloney has been adamant that, whatever the outcome of the court case, he will not give his notes to the police.

He said, "I am not going to hand over the notes. My livelihood is at stake here and if I were to hand the stuff over, no one would ever trust me. It would be the end of my career."

The journalist said he hoped members of the press here recognized the potential effects of his case for all journalists: "This doesn't just affect me. It has negative implications for the future of Northern Ireland journalism."

Action Requests

Please make the telephone calls to the presidential contenders listed below. Mention that you are a PEC member.

Contact:

Democrats

Al Gore 202-263-6000

Bill Bradley 888-643-9799

Republicans

George Bush 513-637-2000

Elizabeth Dole 703-525-9100

Telephone the potential contenders in the 2000 presidential election and ask them to state their position on the Irish peace process. Tell them that you are a member of the American Irish PEC. Encourage these politicians to publicly pledge that they will continue the important work that the Clinton Administration has begun. Ask these political leaders to publicly state that they will continue to support US participation in the peace process, visas for Sinn Fein members, and the Walsh visas. Ask these potential candidates to pledge to take an active position in favor of employment equality in the North as well as in the protection and promotion of human and civil rights.

(continued from Page 2)

Mowlam should confront Sinn Fein about the state of the IRA cease-fire but raises no questions about the recent upsurge in loyalist violence.

August 19

Two nationalist families abandon their homes on a street in Portadown, bringing to 20 the number of homes there that nationalists have abandoned as a result of loyalist violence. Loyalists attack a Catholic mother in the largely Protestant town of Kilkeel. The Irish government is concerned that the RUC has arrested many nationalist residents' group members on the Ormeau Road. The loyalist paramilitary groups Ulster Volunteer Force and Red Hand Commandos, linked to the Progressive Unionist Party, says they are not ready to begin disarming.

August 20

The RUC charges civil rights protestors from the Ormeau Road with a variety of offenses stemming from loyalist parades in the area.

August 21

A Northern Ireland Office spokesman says that there is no mechanism to automatically exclude from the peace process parties allegedly linked to paramilitaries if the governments find the armed groups have breached their cease-fires. The British would halt the release of political prisoners, instead. Sinn Fein says any suspension of prisoner releases could effect its participation in the peace process review.

August 23

The Police Authority in Northern Ireland recommends to the Patten Commission investigating the RUC that the RUC train with the Republic's police, the Garda. The authority also recommends that each force could have its members seconded to the other.

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