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## American Irish Newsletter - September 1997

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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# AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 22, Number 9

September 1997

## DON'T FORGET THE PEC!

This month, finally, all-party peace talks are scheduled to begin in Northern Ireland. Unfortunately and as expected, most loyalist parties are threatening not to participate. These threats were expected. Certainly after the necessary posturing, they will participate. As so-called proponents of democracy, the loyalists will want to participate in the democratic process that will be necessary to come up with a solution. Once the process is underway, the key work will be public relations. The group with the best public relations support (public awareness) will eventually achieve their ultimate objectives.

We want the nationalist community to have the best public relations support -- to achieve its ultimate objective, Ireland's reunification.

### *So Please Don't Forget The PEC!*

Educating the public is a specialty of the PEC. So is keeping the pressure on our government leaders, such as the President, through our action programs, which is absolutely necessary if democracy is to be achieved. This is also a specialty of PEC.

In other words, the PEC has much important work to do immediately, if American support is to remain strong. Strong support is vital if the peace process is to be successful.

*Don't Forget The PEC* - as many members unfortunately did when the first ceasefire was declared by the IRA - even though we advised all concerned that the ceasefire was a time for all of us to get more involved and not a time for complacency. PEC almost went out of business!

Many members did not renew their memberships and discontinued giving financial support to the PEC. Not only did PEC almost go out of business, but the peace process fell apart.

*So Don't Forget The PEC:* keep your membership up-to-date, participate in all PEC action programs and send generous donations when asked.

PEC is a vital part of securing a democratic solution acceptable to the majority of the people of all-Ireland.

## Send in Your PEC Raffle Books

Please send in your PEC raffle tickets. The drawing will be held on October 18, 1997. The deadline for returning your raffle books is October 14, 1997. This raffle is an important means of support for the PEC. It is also a nice opportunity for you to win a trip to Ireland.

There is still time to order more raffle books. To order call (800) 777-6807.

## Newsbits by Kathy Regan

Julie Livingstone died 16 years ago. Had she not been killed by a "plastic bullet" she would have been 30 years old now. She probably would have been married with children of her own. She might have been playing a key role in building the peace process. We will never know. Sadly her father Archie died last year. He spent the last years of his life, even during ill health, campaigning for the truth about Julie's murder to be told. Fighting to ensure that no other child was killed by these horrendous lethal weapons. Supporting, in his own imitable way, other families who had suffered in the same way as his. He died without justice and in the knowledge that these weapons are still being used on our streets. Knowing there was real risk that more children would be killed by plastic bullets. This is the human face behind the cold statistics that 17 people, 8 of them children would be killed by rubber and plastic bullets. (*Just News*, 6/97)

"This has put fear in us," said Justin Morgan. He said that around Annsborough, Co. Down right through the Troubles, doors were left open at night and teenagers got around by hitching. Not any more. Not since just over a week ago, when men in a silver car picked up his son

*cont. on page 4*

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## OUR VIEW

*One of the most important reasons for commemorating the Great Hunger is to educate the public about the real reasons why over 1.5 million people perished.*

*We set out to counter the myths that The Great Hunger was a natural disaster, a potato famine. We also wanted the British government to acknowledge that the then British government was responsible for this catastrophe.*

*To date, these objectives have been achieved dramatically. Not only has Tony Blair acknowledged British culpability for The Great Hunger, but more importantly the public is becoming more aware of what really happened during the period and schools in New York and New Jersey will now be teaching their students about Ireland's Great Hunger as part of their genocide and human rights curriculums.*

*Our next mission is the continuing PEC campaign to get the United States Postal Service to issue a commemorative stamp honoring both the memory of those who perished during the period and the achievements of those who fled starvation in Ireland and made their way to this country.*

*To achieve this we must keep massive pressure on the Postal Service to issue this stamp. The Postal Service has rejected a Great Hunger commemorative stamp to date. Which is to be expected. They will only change their mind due to continuous pressure from the PEC and Irish America.*

*You can order pre-messaged postcards addressed to the Postal Service from the PEC. All you have to do is get people to sign these cards and mail them to the Postal Service. Our thanks to Connecticut PEC member Frank O'Day, who recently got 350 of these cards signed at the Connecticut heritage festival. We need more members to follow Frank's example and get these cards signed. With your support we will get the Postal Service to issue this stamp.*

## WE MUST DELUGE PRESIDENT CLINTON WITH COMMUNICATIONS

President Clinton must hear from many, many thousands of concerned Americans, on a regular basis, from all over the country. The President's phone # is (202) 456-1111. His fax # is (202) 456-2461. This is the only way he will know that we care and that we seek a democratic solution to the British-Irish conflict -- ultimately, a united Ireland. Such constant activism will also send a clear message to all leaders of the Democratic and Republican parties.

**Please take at least one of the following steps:**

\* Immediately organize a telephone campaign to President Clinton's office. Have your family, friends, etc. get involved. Advise them to call as often as possible. This important campaign will have a powerful effect.

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**Supported in part by the Emerald Society  
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\* Order pre-messaged postcards addressed to the President from PEC. Order what you can use. Get all your family, friends, relatives, co-workers, etc. to sign and mail them. In a couple of weeks get them to send another postcard. (members can do this on an ongoing basis. Just carry the postcards with you.)

\* Make copies of this issue's R&D, *Northern Ireland: Peace is Possible, I Can Help!* Distribute them to as many people as possible. Remember, you should distribute this R&D regularly, as people should contact the President as often as possible. Constant pressure is needed.

\* Support the PEC financially. Get new members. If possible, organize a fund-raiser for PEC.

**FOR INFORMATION CALL PEC 1 800 777-6807**

*You Will Help The  
Peace Process Succeed.*

**Turn to Action Request #1 on Page 6**

## From the North: Constitutional Change

by Robert Heatley, co-founder of the Campaign for Democracy,  
a predominantly Protestant organization that supports a united Ireland

Given the reaction to their handling of this year's Orange march at Drumcree when the whole of nationalist Ireland, supported by large swathes of international opinion, was outraged by the use of state force against peaceful protestors and the duplicity used to get "some Orange feet on Garvaghy Road," the British government of Tony Blair has been forced to backtrack somewhat. The package for which Sinn Fein was looking in order to be able to go to the IRA for a renewed cease-fire must have been conceded.

When the talking recommences in September all the parties can be present, the obstacles to Sinn Fein inclusion having been set aside by the British government. The unionists, in their rearguard attempt to prevent meaningful talks, are - in this respect - now isolated. But as Gerry Adams has said, there is a difference between being excluded and refusing to attend. Substantive matters will be on the table. However, having got this far, these talks will be anything but plain sailing, whether or not the unionists will be present.

The power which looks after their interests, in its own interest, will be obdurately present. The stumbling blocks will be:

- \* Constitutional change
- \* The proper definition of 'Consent' in the Irish context, and
- \* The triple lock veto on all change to the status quo accorded to the unionists by their colonial master the British government.

In this article it is my purpose to acquaint American readers of some facts as to what is going on in relation to the first point, Constitutional Change. It is hoped that other issues will be covered in subsequent issues of the *American Irish Newsletter*.

According to Ireland's *Sunday Business Post* (8/3/97) as far back as 1993 changes were drafted to Articles 2

and 3 of the Irish constitution and to Section 75 of the Westminster Government of Ireland Act of 1920, by a committee of civil servants which reported to both governments.

Mr. Bruton's Rainbow Coalition welcomed what the *Sunday Business Post* headlined as the Anglo-Irish changes to the Irish constitution. A spokesperson for the present government of Mr. Ahern is reported as suggesting that "no definitive draft for reworking the articles exists at this stage" and in any case, "the issue would not arise until a final solution was in sight." I am presenting below what has been reported as the suggested changes so that the readers of the *American Irish Newsletter* can consider them for themselves and, we hope, join in the debate which will probably arise at some stage.

I hope to contribute the views of the Campaign for Democracy in a further issue of the *American Irish Newsletter* when the available space permits.

### THE IRISH CONSTITUTION

**Article 2. The national territory consists of the whole island of Ireland, its islands and the territorial seas.**

Proposed change:

.... and is the shared inheritance of all the people of Ireland, in their diverse identities and traditions.

**Article 3. Pending the reintegration of the national territory, and without prejudice to the right of parliament and government established by this constitution to exercise jurisdiction over the whole of that territory, the laws enacted by parliament shall have the like area and extent of application as the laws of Saorstát Éireann and like extra-territorial effect.**

Proposed change:

3 (1) ..... Accordingly, the

reintegration of the national territory, which is a primary legitimate objective of the Irish people, shall be pursued by peaceful and constitutional means and shall be achieved, in a spirit of concord and reconciliation, only with the consent freely and concurrently given of a majority of the Irish people in each of the jurisdictions which exist within that territory.

3 (2) ..... Pending the achievement of the objective above referred to, the laws enacted by parliament and the executive powers of the government shall have the like area and extent of application of the laws of Saorstát Éireann and the like extra-territorial effect.

### **THE GOVERNMENT OF IRELAND ACT, 1920 SECTION 75**

**Notwithstanding anything contained in this act, the supreme authority of the parliament of the United Kingdom shall remain unaffected and undiminished over all persons, matters and things in Northern Ireland and every part thereof.**

May be supplemented with:

Only so long as it is the democratic wish of the greater number of people of Northern Ireland on the issue of whether they prefer to support the Union or a sovereign united Ireland, and on the basis that it is for the people of the island of Ireland alone, by agreement between the two parts respectively, to exercise their right of self-determination on the basis of consent, freely and concurrently given, North and South, to bring about a United Ireland, if that is their wish.

*Visit the PEC's Website*

*The address for the PEC's Official Website is:*

<http://www.sirius.com/~weet/pec/>

### Newsbits *cont. from page 1*

James, found out he was a Catholic and battered him to death. Sectarianism is deeply rooted in the northern soil, but it has had a sudden and hideous spurt of growth this summer. Three young Catholics have been murdered. Robert Hamill was beaten to death by a gang on the street in Portadown. They shouted, "Die Fenian die," as they kicked his head. Bernadette Martin was shot in the face as she slept in her boyfriend's home in Aghalee. James Morgan is the latest victim. People who almost certainly call themselves loyalists certainly call them loyalists singled out these young people and killed them because they were Catholics. In Belfast, notices have appeared in predominantly loyalist areas. "The Loyalist people have tolerated long enough the nationalist scum that has flooded the area." It goes on to threaten nationalists. Graffiti threatens that landlords that sell to "Taigs" will be shot. Loyalist mobs attacked Catholic homes in North Belfast last week.

*(Sunday Tribune 8/3/97)*

The removal of Irish language signs in the Queen's University students union should not be seen as a victory or defeat for any section of the student population. It simply means that reality has been faced and that the union leadership accepts that signs in Irish have an alienating effect on students from a unionist tradition. The university and all employers are obliged, like all employers, to create a neutral environment for everyone using their facilities. So there was no alternative, when objections were sustained, to remove the offending signs. If the two communities are to find a new relationship - which must be the ultimate purpose of the peace process, in all its manifestations - there must be respect for both traditions, the British and the Irish. When change is brought about, it must be done with sensitivity and in Northern Ireland's charged political atmosphere, in a building where both communities should feel welcome, the use of Irish language on signs was always controversial. *(Belfast Telegraph 7/19/97)*

## Just Another Murdered Catholic

*(Commentary by The Sunday Business Post, Dublin, Ireland, 8/4/97)*

The brutal murder of schoolboy James Morgan at Clough, five miles from Castlewellan, once again confirms the extraordinary casual way in which the six county establishment treats the murder of Catholics. Young James Morgan, who was 16, had no political connections and was not even interested in politics. He was picked up in broad daylight by a group of loyalists, who presumably were cruising around the villages and townlands near Castlewellan looking for a potential victim. He was savagely beaten and murdered with a knife. Later his body was burned by his persecutors before being dumped in a water filled pit which also contained the remains of dead farm animals.

It is difficult to imagine a more brutal form of death befalling any young schoolgoer. James Morgan apparently died for two reasons: he was a Catholic and he was in the wrong place at the wrong time. Very few unionist politicians have bothered to comment on his murder. They did not bother to comment either when two weeks earlier Bernadette Martin, an 18-year-old Catholic girl, was murdered as she lay in bed in a small house in the loyalist village of Aghalee in Co. Antrim.

Neither did any of the media make any attempt to turn the immediate relatives of James Morgan into national figures. There was no "bleeding heart" chat shows on RTE radio or the BBC. The death and burial of James Morgan did not merit a mention on main British TV news.

Morgan and Martin have gone to their graves - just like John Slane, Robert Hamill and Sean Brown before them - in a most unremarkable fashion. In the case of Morgan's murder, the official response was even more inadequate than usual. For days the RUC put about the fiction that the murder was not sectarian.

It is difficult to know what the Catholic community in the six counties, or the Dublin government, can do about these killings. They are carried out with the bestiality that one has come to associate with loyalist paramilitarism. The RUC appears to be unable to do anything. Clough is not far from Loughlinisland, where three years ago six Catholics watching a soccer match on TV were shot in a public bar. The killers still walk free, thumbing their noses at law and order.

Meanwhile there is nothing to be heard from the main unionist parties but an unrelenting demand that Catholics should hand over the pitiful stocks of weapons that are at their disposal. But do the leaders of the UUP and the DUP believe that this process of decommissioning would take place while the ritual slaughter of Catholic schoolchildren proceeds in the villages on Antrim, Down and Armagh? We think that this is most unlikely.

On one level the task of dealing with the sectarian killers of the Loyalist Volunteer Force (LVF) and other groups now lies with the RUC. But at another level this is surely a job for the wider unionist community. Surely they are not prepared to allow such actions to be carried out in their midst, at a time when everybody should be working to build a better future?

## Congratulations to Ed Walsh

The PEC would like to congratulate member Ed Walsh from Queens, New York. Recently, Ed contacted local libraries throughout Queens to make sure that these institutions had an ample supply of materials on Ireland's Great Hunger.

Due to Mr. Walsh's initiative libraries in Queens have now ordered hundreds of new publications on the Great Hunger. Thank you very much, Mr. Walsh. We hope your example will be emulated by other PEC members throughout the country.

---

# Northern Ireland: Peace is Possible I Can Help!

***Don't Let The Irish Peace Process Collapse Again!***

Please take the following steps:

1. **Reproduce this flyer** and distribute it to family, friends, the general public, etc.
2. **Contact President Bill Clinton.** Contact him at: The White House, Washington, DC 20500 - phone# (202) 456-1111 - fax# (202) 456-2461 - E-mail: [President@Whitehouse.gov](mailto:President@Whitehouse.gov) Include in your message the following:  
*Thank you for everything that you have done to help bring about progress in the Irish peace process. Your continued involvement is vital if there is to be a solution to the conflict. Please keep in mind that the only solution that will bring about a lasting peace is Ireland's reunification. Please use your good office to ensure that the people of all-Ireland make the final decision on any agreement.*
3. **Send a donation to the American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC so that it can continue its necessary and critical work designed to keep President Clinton actively involved in finding a democratic solution to British-Irish conflict.**

To send a donation or for further information contact:

**American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC**

54 South Liberty Drive

Suite 401

Stony Point, NY 10980

Toll Free Number (800) 777-6807

**PEC web site: <http://www.sirius.com/~weet/pec/>**

# British Armed Forces, Loyalists, Killed Patrick Shanaghan

by Sandy Carlson, *PEC Representative*

Five years before his murder, Patrick Shanaghan described the Royal Ulster Constabulary's (RUC) interrogating him on April 9, 1986: "I was made to stand in a sort of crucifix position with my arms outstretched and legs outstretched," the Tyrone native told his lawyer.

"When in this position," he explained, "they proceeded to kick my legs apart to the point where I could barely keep my balance.

"During this time, one of the detectives sat directly in front of me, and he would hit me on the privates with the palm of his hand and sometimes with his foot."

This was one of the ten occasions over six years on which Shanaghan was detained, interrogated, and abused by British armed forces before he was killed on Aug. 12, 1991.

Over the 10 years preceding his death, the British harassed him and his family until he feared for his life daily.

Human rights organizations and Shanaghan's friends and family have said that they have evidence that shows the British armed forces were responsible for the killing. (British-supported killers in Ireland have taken more than 700 lives over the past 25 years.)

They said that the loyalist terrorist Ulster Freedom Fighters, which claimed responsibility for shooting Shanaghan to death, acted under the direction of the British forces.

A community-organized public inquiry heard the submissions and evidence of these organizations and community members on Sept. 17-19, 1996 in Castlederg, Co. Tyrone.

The inquiry followed the government inquest, which found that Shanaghan died of a bullet wound to the chest but did not determine the circumstances of his death. Shanaghan's family and friends were dissatisfied with the official inquest

because it would not consider Shanaghan's statements about being abused during detention, the expert testimony of a forensic scientist, and the testimony of David Cameron, whom Shanaghan had told about British death threats. In addition, the RUC heavily edited the statement of Shanaghan's mother, Mary.

Human rights organizations and family said Shanaghan's experiences in the custody of the RUC; the 16 erratic, destructive house searches he and his mother endured over six years; and the British armed forces' incessant harassment and threats to Shanaghan and others support their view.

They pointed to the loss of the Irish dance enthusiast's security file out the back of a police Land Rover on Jan. 11, 1991, for evidence.

They pointed to the RUC's refusing to allow both Shanaghan's doctor and parish priest to attend to him shortly after the shooting. Shanaghan may have been alive when they arrived, according to testimony.

Indeed, Shanaghan supporters pointed to the RUC's bragging about killing the 33-year-old Irish nationalist for evidence. One detective told Sean McPeake during an interrogation, "I can tell you that we did set up Paddy Shanaghan," according to evidence that McPeake gave at the public inquiry.

"The RUC felt that it was futile arresting him and dragging him in there continuously, as he never would speak to them," McPeake added.

The British had on several occasions told Shanaghan they would kill him. While interrogating him in February 1990, detectives at Castlereagh told Shanaghan, "We won't miss next time." Shanaghan had survived an attempt on his life the year before.

Shanaghan's family and neighbors told the inquiry that they

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believe the armed forces wanted to kill him because they could not intimidate him.

He would not move to the south of Ireland, as one British soldier warned him to do. He would not act as an informer, as detectives have asked him to do.

Based on this information and other evidence, the public inquiry, the Belfast-based Committee on the Administration of Justice, the London-based British Irish Rights Watch, the Derry-based Pat Finucane Center, and the international Human Rights Watch/Helsinki say they believe justice has not been served by the British government's cursory investigation of this killing.

These human rights organization say the issue of British armed forces collusion with loyalist terrorists must be investigated further and the RUC must not be involved in this investigation of itself.

Referring to Shanaghan's lost security file, Jane Winter of British Irish Rights Watch said: "When information concerning someone goes missing in such circumstances, especially when they are later murdered by loyalists it is a very strong indication of possible collusion. Warnings about personal safety in such cases look more like threats than any attempt to protect the victim."

Winter said, "There ought now to be an independent judicial inquiry with full powers to subpoena witnesses and obtain discovery of documents, in order that the whole truth about Patrick Shanaghan's murder can be revealed."

## For Further Information Contact:

**American Ireland Education  
Foundation-PEC**

54 South Liberty Drive  
Stony Point, NY 10980

(800) 777-6807

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## Don't Ask the Unionists What Equality Means

by Brian Feeney, *excerpted from Irish News, 7/23/97*

"Equality of treatment" or even just "equality" are the essential new words in any statement Sinn Fein people put their names to.

Clearly it's something of great importance to Sinn Fein. It has now superseded "parity of esteem" as the essential element in any outcome from negotiations.

The reason is self-evident. On July 20, Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern talked about the need to deal with complex issues, including "trying to find out what parity of esteem means."

He's a bit out of date. It didn't take Sinn Fein supporters very long to work out it means nothing. No British minister has ever used the phrase. It has never appeared in British documents anywhere outside the carefully-worded Downing Street Declaration and the Framework Document.

On the other hand, it doesn't take very long to work out what equality of treatment means. Any guy holding up a street corner in Strabane or Newry or Coalisland can tell you.

So watch out for Bertie Ahern dropping parity of esteem, a civil service concept, impossible to measure, nice words to placate the Irish negotiators in 1993, but devoid of any load-bearing capacity.

Equality of treatment operates at various levels. Naturally, Sinn Fein demand equality of treatment for themselves because that signifies equality of treatment for the people they represent. But the "equality agenda" mentioned by Sinn Fein president Gerry Adams is an altogether different beast.

It's the 1990's version of the shopping list of reforms demanded by civil rights activists in the 1960's. Then the demand was fair treatment for all in voting, housing, jobs, and so on. They believed the Unionist government couldn't concede fairness because

their administration was inherently unjust and based on unfairness. They were right. The unionist system collapsed.

The modern demand is for equal treatment of two communities in the north, British and Irish on the basis of being British and Irish. To concede that, the British government will first have to recognize explicitly the existence and rights of an Irish community living here.

Sinn Fein believe that if equal treatment in law and symbols and administration were guaranteed, then the purpose for the existence of unionism would cease to exist. Attachment to England would confer no advantage. Britishness would offer no privilege.

There's a lot in that because the purpose for the existence of unionism has been to prevent equality of treatment. Sadly, they fear equality as a threat to their own existence.

Fundamentally, the position is this. In 1886, when the majority of men in Ireland first cast their vote, the writing was on the wall. Britain was loosening its ties to unionism.

Since then, Ulster Unionists have devised any means they could to avoid living on equal terms with the rest of the people on this island. That included making a deal with the Kaiser in 1912, fighting the Kaiser in 1914, armed insurrections against London or the threat of it, and running their own corrupt junta from Stormont.

Currently, we're seeing another attempt to avoid the day when they must talk on equal terms with the others on the island.

During 1994-97 they succeeded with the inherently absurd ploy of decommissioning [the IRA's surrendering of weapons]. That's gone. Now they're searching for a way to drag out or undermine the IRA cease-fire again so that months will pass before

there are negotiations, in the hope that violence will break out again and they won't have to face the evil day.

Unionists seem to believe no one noticed they have been sitting around a table with the fronts for loyalist terror groups who haven't surrendered any arms (and won't), whose ceasefire is conditional and therefore not permanent, whose military wings during the talks have been shooting and bombing and carrying out every form of activity unionists demand the IRA to cease.

Unionists complain the IRA have killed their kith and kin and are not wedded to democracy. Yet the SDLP are sitting across from the convicted multiple murderer (John White, UDA) of two of their members.

Convicted loyalist terrorists, men who have planned and carried out the random murder of Catholic victims, regularly meet in and out of Castle Buildings.

The SDLP is sitting with unionists who conspired with loyalist terror groups to overthrow a democratically-elected system of administration in the north. [Sunningdale, 1974]

So please, no unionist lectures on democracy and exclusively peaceful means.

Of course, British prime minister Tony Blair can't make unionists sit down on equal terms with everyone else. They'll keep up the nonsense until the autumn ... until they've thought up proposals to place before the talks because ... unionists haven't a clue what they want from talks. They have no idea of the shape of the north they want because they never believed they'd have to negotiate for real.

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**For further information contact:**

**American Ireland Education  
Foundation-PEC**  
54 South Liberty Drive  
Stony Point, NY 10980  
(800) 777-6807

## Action Requests

*Write the letters below (or call), preferably in your own words, or as is. Be courteous. Have friends, organizations, business associates, etc., do the same. Mention in your letters that you are a member of the American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC.*

### 1. President Bill Clinton

The White House  
Washington, DC 20500  
Ph# (202) 456-1111  
Fax# (202) 456-2461

**Message:** Urge your office to promote an agreement in the Irish peace process that will be supported by the people of all-Ireland. Also, as a confidence building measure in the peace process, please end the unjust deportation proceedings against the seven Irish nationals in the US.

### 2. Mr. Jim Nicholson

Chairman  
Republican National Comm.  
310 First Street SE  
Washington, DC 20003

**Message:** Urge that your party take an active role in support of peace with justice in Ireland. It is of the utmost importance to American Irish voters that your party support the peace process and the right of the Irish people to national self-determination.

## Is There New Hope for Deportees?

The White House has reportedly given assurances that with the restoration of the IRA cease-fire, the cases of Gabriel Megahey, Brian Pearson, Noel Gaynor, Robbie McErlean, Kevin Crossan, Charlie Caulfield and Matt Morrison will be reexamined by the Clinton administration.

If this is actually the case then there is good reason to be optimistic. However these assurances must be taken with a grain of salt. Vague promises by Clinton officials are not usually something to bet the farm on. The fact remains that after the previous IRA cease-fire, many of the prosecutions of these Irish nationals were either initiated or stepped up. If because of the new cease-fire these cases are set to be reviewed and looked upon in a more favorable light, why wasn't this the case during the IRA ceasefire of 1994?

Furthermore, it is not fair to make these men and their families hostages to the political process in Northern Ireland. While there is now great hope for the peace process, as we have seen in the past, that could all change. Must these families, these children be forced to remain in limbo and fear for their future as the process drags along?

It is also difficult to see the logic behind this move. While the PEC is delighted that the ceasefire has been restored, it is important to note that loyalist killings are still ongoing even if the Combined Loyalist Military Command (CLMC) is still officially adhering to its cease-fire. One of the main features in the defense offered on behalf of these men is, that if they are returned to the North of Ireland, as prominent republicans they and their families would be prime targets for Loyalist terrorist gangs. In the Brian Pearson case, Judge Philip Williams ruled that this was a genuine and very real threat.

How come the Clinton administration threatens to deport these men when there is no cease-fire in Northern Ireland and they would be very real targets for assassination, yet with the cease-fire restored and that threat is diminished somewhat, they are more inclined to allow these men to stay? That's logic for you.

The PEC urges the Clinton Administration, both President Clinton and Presidential hopeful in 2000 Vice-President Al Gore, to intervene in these cases and end the deportation proceedings against these men immediately as a confidence building measure in the peace process. One can not speak of peace on one hand and undermine it on the other hand by seeking to break up American families through political deportation. Clinton and Gore have to show some good faith.

**See Action Request #1 on this page**

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