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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 22, Number 10

October 1997

YOUR ACTIVISM PAYS OFF: DEPORTEE CASES SUSPENDED

In an amazing and unprecedented legal step the Attorney General has brought to a halt the deportation proceedings against a number of former IRA members living in the United States. The order "suspends" the legal proceedings, a notion which the lawyers for the individuals are trying to sort out at this time. The suspensions are clearly related to the current peace process and are intended by the Clinton Administration to encourage that process. While we are not entirely happy with the idea of "suspension", which holds the deportees hostage to actions of others, we also recognize the major importance of the decision to their personal liberty in our country.

We are elated at the confirmation of our constantly emphasized theme -- grassroots action (letter-writing/phone-call, etc. campaigns) is the backbone of lobbying for our cause. There is no doubt that this was a political decision and there is no doubt that PEC's nationwide ongoing letter-writing campaigns in support of the deportees, through our Newsletter *Action Request Program* and *Telephone Hotline*, played a prominent role in bringing about this success.

Letter writing and lobbying worked here, and it recently worked in bringing about another historic PEC success: a British acknowledgment and apology for its responsibility for so much death and suffering during Ireland's Great Hunger. **And letter writing can work again**, for example on our Great Hunger commemoration postage stamp campaign.

The PEC was closest to the support group of one of the deportees, Brian Pearson, who resides near our headquarters. He has the help of a really unusual, never-give-up group from his home area which attracted just about every political figure and newspaper in this area. The only politician that was heavily lobbied and **did not help** was US Senator Al D'Amato from New York. Hopefully all concerned will remember that on election day.

The PEC, through **YOU** the member, did great work to help make the deportee's cases a national issue.

.....

Great Hunger Commemoration Stamp

PEC has been generating a lot of grassroots pressure, through letter-writing/postcard campaigns, on the US Postal Service to issue a Great Hunger Commemoration Stamp. Naturally, the pressure is building on the Postal Service. We are confident that, before the 150th anniversary commemoration period ends in the year 2000, a stamp will be issued, **if we must keep the pressure on.**

Please take the following steps:

- Respond to Action Request # 1 on page 6 directed to President Clinton.
- Order from PEC more postcards to Mr. Tirso Del Junco, Chairman of the Board of Governors, US Postal Service.

Newsbits by Kathy Regan

Electronic Healthcare Systems of Pittsburgh decided to establish a subsidiary on the Falls Road and had been told that it fit in perfectly with the drive to shore up the peace process with jobs. However, six trainees who won places on the training plan developed by the Springvale Training Center have been told by the US Consulate that they don't qualify for visas to come to work in the US for six months in the hope of securing full-time positions in the industry. (*Andersons-town News*, 9/4/97)

An underground bunker discovered below a derelict south Armagh farmhouse is believed to have been evacuated by the army after the IRA cease-fire. As workmen moved in to clear rubble from an old building, they were astonished to discover a trap door carefully concealed in the building which led directly to the modern underground base. Huge coils of TV closed circuit cabling, as well as a range of monitors which would have enabled complete camera coverage of a huge area along the border, were found. An escape tunnel was also in the bunker. An electronics engineer said there was evidence of sound-relay

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OUR VIEW

The IRA ceasefire does not mean Ireland's struggle for democracy and freedom is over. The injustice continues. The British government/Unionist alliance is still determined to keep Ireland divided. What is different now is that the struggle for justice is no longer an armed struggle, but rather a democratic struggle.

With the IRA ceasefire underway and armed struggle removed from the equation, we now have an all-out public relations battle underway. We must work even harder now to rally public opinion behind Ireland's reunification -- the ultimate, democratic solution. The British government and the Unionist parties are also hard at work in the US to win the public relations battle. We must not forget that it was public opinion that brought about the demise of apartheid in South Africa. Public opinion will do the same for Ireland if we all do our share.

Public relations has replaced armed struggle.

A lot of good will exists in America for Irish people. Equally so, within the American community most people don't understand or support Britain's presence in Ireland. We must take advantage of this good will. We must shape public opinion -- at which we are doing a good job -- to pressure the British government, via our government and the media, to prepare for Ireland's reunification.

The Clinton administration, our Congress and media will be a powerful force in influencing the British government to accept the united Ireland solution, if we assert ourselves.

Our task will become easier as violence is no longer associated with nationalism/republicanism. With your help, we will use these dramatic changes to recruit new members and supporters. Recruit a new member today and write the letters requested on page 6.

Loyalist Groups Step Up Violence

by Alan Murray

(Reprinted from Sunday Life, September 7, 1997)

The RUC believes the UDA and UVF are close to renewing their terror campaigns. It is claimed the IRA has reined in its units to ensure a six week 'sanitization period' to allow Sinn Fein's entry into the talks process on Tuesday [Sept. 15].

But security sources said loyalist paramilitaries were moving towards violence. Sources said a kneecapping in the Shankill's Snugville Street [loyalist area], the attack on a 23 year-old Carrick man and the shotgun attack on the home of a former PUP member in Antrim are evidence of growing unrest.

Tension is mounting within the UDA whose political wing, the UDP, has yet to make a formal decision on whether to participate in the talks. UDP talks delegate David Adams said a letter from Mo Mowlam last week had not allayed his

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National President.....John J. Finucane
Vice-President.....Albert Doyle
Membership/Subscriptions Coordinator.....Loretta Fitzgibbons
Recording Secretary.....Kathy Regan
Financial Secretary.....Tom Sheridan
Director of Operations.....Sean Kane

National Headquarters

54 South Liberty Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980
(914) 947-2726 Fax (914) 947-2599

E-Mail Address: AIPEC@aol.com

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

STATE DIRECTORS: Jack O'Brien, 11109 Belton St., Upper Marlboro, MARYLAND 20772-(301)336-5167; Leah Curtin, Hibernian Life, 790 Cleveland Ave., Ste. 221, St. Paul, MINNESOTA 55116-(612)690-3888; Kathy Regan, 7 Balint Dr. Apt. 714, Yonkers, NEW YORK 10710-(914) 395-1995; Frank O'Day, 21 Pierce Ln., Madison, CONNECTICUT 06443-(203)245-4739; Bob West, 683 Walnut Rd., Wauconda, ILLINOIS 60084-(847)526-6520; Terry Deem Reilly, 1123 Clarkson, Denver, COLORADO 80218-(303)837-9443; Ned A. Delaney, 1211 El Grande St., Lafayette, INDIANA 47905-(317)474-2546; Larry Doyle, 2036 Calhoun, Bellevue, NEBRASKA 68005-(402)292-5291; Kathy Whitford, 15910 Lucille Dr., Cleveland, OHIO 44111- (216) 251-7551; Andy Kelly, 168 S Coeur D'Alene Street-102E, Spokane, WASHINGTON 99204 - (509) 747-7431; Nancy Love, 201 North Prairie Ave., Waukesha, WISCONSIN 53186 - (414) 542-4767; Dr. John T. Giesen, 1107 Ironwood Dr., Coeur D'Alene, IDAHO 83814 - (208) 667-7459; Hal Cousins, 905 Shalimar Dr., Del City, OKLAHOMA 73115 - (405) 677-3623; Elizabeth McElligott, 7747 E. Dale Ln., Scottsdale, ARIZONA 85262 - (602)585-3602; Robert J. Fuhrel, 1901 Rio Canyon Ct. #202, Las Vegas, NEVADA 89128-(702) 255-9619; Sean Kane, 372 Harvard Ave., Hillside, NEW JERSEY, 07205-(908) 810-8895; Mary Holford, 6555 Tam O'Shanter Dr., San Jose, CALIFORNIA, 95120-(408) 268-4548; Mike Flannery, 3065 Prestwicke Dr., Edgewood, KENTUCKY 41017-(606)341-9028.

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

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

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party's concerns over the issue of consent "It hasn't entirely resolved that muddle and we'll be looking for a public re-affirmation that the consent of the people of Northern Ireland is at the heart of this process," he said. The PUP -- the political wing of the UVF and RHC [Red Hand Commandos] -- is not satisfied with the Secretary of State's undertakings on the review of live sentences.

Spokesman William Smyth said the assurances weren't worth the paper they were written on. However, fears of a feud with former UVF members in Portadown have eased. Despite the shotgun attack on the former PUP man's Antrim home, the LVF in Portadown told Sunday Life they would resist being drawn into a feud. "We don't see that a feud would serve loyalists at this or any other time," said one LVF figure. "Whoever is promoting the feud idea in Belfast is not serving loyalism."

[The LVF (Loyalist Volunteer Force), a British terrorist organization, has been conducting its own campaign of violence throughout much of the loyalist ceasefire.]

From the North by Robert Heatley, *co-chairman of Northern Ireland's Campaign for Democracy, a predominantly Protestant organization*

Sinn Féin, having signed up to the Mitchell Principles, is now in the all-party talks although, at this point, there is a strong chance that all of the unionist parties will decide to stay away. Only the Ulster Unionist Party is toying with the idea of 'proximity' talks.

They are universally in a tantrum. Having had their decommissioning of paramilitary arms ploy taken away from them by Mitchell, they have now decided to walk out on to even thinner ice. They have upgraded their 'consent' stratagem for sabotaging progress at the talks. The danger for them, at long last, is that the concept of consent is being given the analytical scrutiny by others to which it is entitled.

In my previous article I mentioned that 'consent' was likely to be one of the topics which would scupper long sought all-party talks. For unionists 'consent' means **their** consent (and **their's** only) couched in their 'greater number of the people' as if Northern Ireland is a democratically valid entity. They have been smugly deploying this stalling gambit in the secure knowledge the (or so they thought) British government, whatever its political hue, would be backing them to the hilt. But lately they have been given a jolt.

As a result, all the unionist/loyalist parties had threatened to ditch the talks to one degree or another. The reason? Dr. Mo Molam, NI Secretary of State, has upped and said, 'I don't define it (ie. consent) in numbers necessarily. I don't necessarily define it in a functional, geographical sense ...' Consternation and hysteria in the unionist camp. They interpreted this statement to mean a Judas type betrayal from the British government.

Mo Molam was forced to retract somewhat. It was explained that her redefinition of consent did not apply to Northern Ireland's place within the United Kingdom. It applied to any agreed outcome which might emerge from the all-party talks, a seeming very unlikely occurrence. However it was

also made clear that the status quo is not an option and the Union would have to be renegotiated, in line with the British government's devolution plans for the rest of the UK. The bete noire of unionism, change, was on the cards and it would have to accept that fact.

In that context Ms Mowlam's definition of consent was in and it was the position of the two governments, both of which were responsible to electorates whose interests are affected by the Northern Ireland imbroglio. Consent meant a majority on both sides of the community and, presumably, in relation to all matters that were on the table for the talks. None of this assuaged the unionists of course and so, at this time of writing, the British have been forced to do something which they said they never would do: act as 'persuaders'. Mr. Trimble (UUP President), has been called to London to be persuaded of something, presumably to get into talks.

Finally, regarding the 'principle' of consent, for the unionists troubles appear not to have come singly. It seems that their insistence upon the Northern Ireland **gerrymandered** 'greater number' having the monopoly on consent, to the exclusion of the British people (to whom they illogically claim to belong) and the rest of the Irish people, may soon be about to boomerang on them. Presently, the unionist bloc's average electoral vote is 50.3%. However, the reformist unionist party, the Alliance, gets around 66% while the combined vote of the SDLP and Sinn Féin is set to rise to 44%.

These latter three parties have combined on the Belfast City Council to produce, for the first time ever, a nationalist mayor. The 'greater number' ball-game is fast slipping away from the unionists. Not having had to think for the past 70 years, all of these recent happenings have thrown the unionists into a head-spin. This has been one result, as some of us had predicted, of the IRA disappointing them with a renewal of its ceasefire.

Articles 2&3: Campaign for Democracy View

In my previous article, we drew attention to attempts by British civil servants to **rewrite**, with Ireland's rainbow government, articles 2 and 3 of Ireland's Constitution. We conveyed the proposed changes as reported in the Sunday Business Post. Needless to say, we the **Campaign for Democracy**, reject these changes. This is an attempt by Britain to muddy the waters and set the Unionist veto in a new context.

However the matter is not urgent since even the political parties in the Republic do not contemplate acting prior to an agreed outcome from the all-party talks which, at the moment, looks as unlikely as it ever has been. At this stage we need not waste too much space on the topic except to make two points:

1. The Irish Constitution is a product of Ireland's democratic struggle to free itself from British colonialism. Some sections of Irish society (north and south) believe it can be updated in some respects, but not in the way that **unionist politicians** are demanding, with their focus on articles 2 and 3. Ireland's democratically achieved constitution is the property of the Irish people **alone**. It cannot in any way be equated with the Act of Union (1801), the Government of Ireland Act (1920) and the Northern Ireland Constitutions Act (1972), all of which were imposed by Britain, a colonial power, and are therefore anti-democratic.

2. Quoting barrister Seamus O'Tuathail's lecture at Desmond Greaves School in Dublin, "articles 2 and 3 are a necessary statement of the extent of the national territory and of the ultimate aim of a jurisdiction to legislate for all [Irish] people following the reunification of Ireland. The articles are a necessary rebuttal of the British" (note: not the Northern Ireland unionist, RH) "claim to sovereignty over the six counties contained in Sec. 75 of the Government of Ireland Act, 1920."

Newsbits *cont. from page 1*

equipment having been used which would enable personnel to monitor conversations at long range. Also uncovered were lines of wiring extending underneath nearby fields towards the border where it is thought cameras were fitted, but since removed. (*Belfast Telegraph*, 9/10/97)

The British army's new surveillance airship is being tested in the skies above northern Ireland. Gear on the craft can record conversations on the ground and track suspects at night with cameras that detect body heat. The new ship operates at around 2,000 feet and is quieter and less expensive than choppers or fixed-wing airplanes and could replace them. Tests are being carried out with the support of the RUC (which feels it would be an asset for it) and the Northern Ireland Office. (*Belfast Telegraph*, 9/10/97)

A survey conducted by Coopers and Lybrand for BBC has found that more than half the loyalist population of northern Ireland wants unionist leaders to hold face to face talks with Sinn Fein. Other results were that almost half of those surveyed believe that no IRA weapons will ever be surrendered, two-thirds of the Catholics believe the IRA ceasefire is genuine but only one in 10 Protestants feels it is. (*PA News*, 9/10/97)

As the world mourns Princess Diana and sympathize with her children, let us give a thought to the children of northern Ireland. Many of them have lost parents due to state violence and cover-up. Many have never known their fathers because of unjust convictions and sentences without compassionate leave. Who feels for these children? Who even knows they exist? Let the world remember Diana. Let us not forget our children The recent vote for a Scottish parliament was held on the 700th anniversary of William Wallace's victory over the English at Stirling Bridge and was overwhelmingly favorable to Scottish nationalism. (*AIN-PEC* 9/16/97)

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Cambridge Irish Hunger Monument

A Grassroots Success

by Kevin P. Murphy, *Massachusetts*

On Wednesday July 23, 1997, the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts dedicated its memorial to the victims of the Ireland's Great Hunger of the 1840's. According to the Cambridge city officials, over 3,000 people turned out for the unveiling at Cambridge Common in the heart of busy Harvard Square. The site is just a few yards from the site where George Washington took command of the American Army in 1775. The site is in an extremely busy area as Harvard University and key subway, bus and trolley lines are nearby.

Irish President Mary Robinson was the keynote speaker at the event. Robinson, in her talk, stressed concern over present day hunger throughout the world. The memorial's dedication came in less than one year from the time when a group of Cambridge citizens representing many different ethnic groups decided to erect a monument to honor the memory of the many Irish victims of British oppression during the Great Hunger. The participation and fund-raising was totally grassroots and those with a desire to help, regardless of their position in life,

Even Boston's Great Hunger Memorial has been planned and developed by only a select few with political or financial ties. Cambridge though brought many people together and got the job done.

The statues were built by Maurice Harron of Co. Derry, Ireland. They depict a woman cradling her dead child and bidding her young son off to immigrate to America. The statues are large and are a new landmark in historic Harvard Square.

Congratulations and thank you to the fine citizens of Cambridge for remembering The Great Hunger with a memorial.

The Cambridge success emphasizes the importance of involving grassroots people of **all backgrounds** and not depending entirely on help from our political, religious, labor, etc. leaders who often prove to be self-serving and even destructive to what we are trying to do. Remember! For the most part these people have their own agendas.

.....

Walt Disney Studios and Boston's PBS WGBH Channel 2 are presently working on a three part series on The Great Hunger and Irish immigration to America. The working title for the project is "Long Journey Home: The Irish in America."

The series is scheduled to appear on PBS on January 26, 27 and 28, 1998. Disney's Vice-President Paul Villadolid was quoted in the Boston media as stating that, "Disney is proud to be part of such an epic film." WGBH, PBS' Boston affiliate is located in the Allston section of Boston which is across the Charles River from the Cambridge Great Hunger Memorial. Thanks to PEC members like you, the media and corporate America are remembering The Great Hunger and its historical significance. Other so called Irish groups and the US Postal Service should follow the trend and support famine memorials throughout the United States and a commemorative stamp.

PEACE PROCESS RESERVATIONS

by James Kelly, Dublin, Ireland

In the wake of IRA reaction to the Mitchell Principles in mid-September, Seamus Mallon, Social Democratic and Labor Party deputy leader, said the IRA comments about consent showed "how far out of step the IRA are with the position of the Irish people." He went on to claim that the IRA position "runs counter to the position of the Irish government, of the Irish people, of the (SDLP) and opinions expressed in the Joint Declaration."

This was the basis of Mr. Mallon's reply to the IRA statement that "any political consent requirement must have a straightforward 32-county context and must be defined within the context of British withdrawal and encompass all the people of Ireland."

In claiming to speak for the Irish people, Mallon chooses to ignore the constitutional position of the Irish people, which has been defined by the Irish Supreme Court as making pursuit of a United Ireland by the Irish government a "legal imperative." Surely, logic dictates, that such a government and the people for whom it speaks, are not in a position to jettison the thirty-two county concept of Irish nationhood in favor of the **British partition** policy.

Mr. Mallon also calls on the Joint Declaration, the basic peace document that brought about the ceasefires, to back his claim that consent must be at the discretion of the Northern Ireland majority -- the old and long-standing British guarantee to back unionism.

In paragraph 4 of the Declaration, however, the British government introduced an Irish Dimension, stating that its aim is "to encourage, facilitate and enable" the achievement of agreement between the Irish people **alone** and the Irish people **as a whole** without **external impediment**. It accepted that such agreement, may, **as of right**, take the form of agreed structures for the island **as a whole**, including a **United Ireland**.

In the first sentence of this vital paragraph 4, Britain states its constitutional position, guaranteeing the unionist position in Northern Ireland as long as the majority there so desire.

It is clear to any objective observer that the guarantee to unionism and the Irish Dimension, enunciated by Britain in the same paragraph, are diametrically opposed political concepts, thus mutually exclusive.

In such circumstances, it is exceedingly strange and, indeed, counter to reason, that an Irish negotiator like Seamus Mallon, representing an Irish nationalist party like the SDLP, opted for the British constitutional position prior to any negotiations.

It is exceedingly strange also that Mr. Mallon chose to condemn consent in the context of a thirty-two county Ireland, when the core principle of consent was spelled out by the British government and agreed to by the Irish government in the context of the Irish Dimension, predicating the possibility of a United Ireland solution.

Surely, such consent has constitutional connotations. Among others, US Senator George Mitchell, the chairman of the peace talks recognizes this. Yet Mr. Mallon is apparently ready to concede consent and give an effective veto to unionism prior to negotiations, contrary to the terms of the Joint Declaration.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair has gone out of his way to indicate that he is fully committed to the Joint Declaration. Nevertheless, his government may well support the British Partition position at the peace talks. If, however, Irish politicians also support Partition, we are in "Alice In Wonderland" country. Sadly, if the Irish dimension, inclusive of the principle of consent, is jettisoned by Irish representatives, the outlook for permanent peace in Ireland may be jeopardized.

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In effect, if the British guarantee of the unionist position is allowed to prevail, unionism is encouraged, indeed committed to stand firm with its back against the bulwark of the guarantee.

This undemocratic guarantee has held Ireland in thrall for most of this century. It must be addressed. **It is the duty of Irish representatives to do so.**

In fact, if the constitutionally bound Irish government, backed by Sinn Fein and the SDLP, pressed the Irish Dimension, inclusive of consent, with energy and resolve, they could succeed in having Britain acknowledge the illogicality of its contradictory position under paragraph 4 of the Joint Declaration. The end result of this could be a British acceptance that permanent peace demands an eventual British withdrawal.

The Irish people do not demand an immediate withdrawal but if, in June next year, at the end of the current phase of peace talks, Britain issued a statement or declaration on the following lines, the political position on the island of Ireland would greatly stabilize:

We are not going to stay in Ireland forever. Ultimately, we would like to see Ireland ruled by Irish people. While we are waiting to depart we will use our best endeavors to ensure the creation of new political structures in Ireland to bring nationalist and unionist together in a mutually acceptable independent all-Ireland solution.

It is an outcome at which Irish representatives must at least aim.

Get Involved in the Irish Peace Process

For information contact:
American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC, 54 S Liberty Dr., Stony Point,
NY 10980--Ph# 1 800 777-6807

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Opportunity For Timmons & Kelly Of The Casement Accused To Appeal?

by Sandy Carlson, *Connecticut*

When two British army corporals attacked a nationalist funeral cortege in Belfast nine years ago, they in effect sentenced some mourners to life imprisonment.

Following the soldiers attack the IRA shot the corporals dead. Although the British acknowledge that they never apprehended the persons who pulled the trigger, they nevertheless convicted more than 20 men of murdering the soldiers on the grounds that they were in the cortege before the killing. These are the Casement Accused.

Two of the convicted, Belfastmen Sean Kelly and Michael Timmons, have been trying to appeal their convictions since they were sentenced in 1988. They say they are innocent. A judgment by British law lords this month could provide the key to their release, however.

Judges are considering the use or misuse of the Principle of Common Purpose as it was applied to the case of Englishman Phillip English, in a separate court case.

Kelly and Timmons -- along with Pat Kane, whose conviction was overturned June 20, 1997 -- were convicted of murder based on this principle. (The Casement Accused are also awaiting the release of the judgment in the Kane case.)

If the law lords judgment on the English case is critical of the Principle of Common Purpose, Kelly and Timmons could have grounds for appeal.

In their cases, the judiciary reasoned that the men were responsible for murdering the corporals because they were identified on film evidence as being near the corporals car before the murder. Under the Principle of Common Purpose, they are responsible for murder because they were near the scene where it took place. Kelly and Timmons say the pending judgment is not the only grounds for appeal, however. "There was no premeditation, no meeting of minds, no criminal intent, no conspiracy -- in fact, one of the elements which the law requires as proof of murder apply to this case," they said recently.

Most of the arrests following the incident in Casement Park were based on the media's visual evidence, much of which was altered for the court proceedings: color was either added or removed, and a number of film clips were synchronized, thereby distorting the actual rate of movement in the film. The prosecution also used the army helicopter video of the incident. The army video was so blurry that even then-Secretary of State Tom King admitted "it took some time to clarify what was taking place." Only four out of 200 RUC officers were able to identify men from the video. In addition, the judiciary often acted as their own witnesses by making identifications on the video evidence.

In the case of Kelly, the judiciary found that the video evidence was not strong enough alone to find him guilty. To compensate for the dubious video evidence, the court used Kelly's exercising his right to silence to infer guilt.

Kelly and Timmons are not alone in claiming their innocence. Their families, the Belfast-based Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ), Amnesty International and other human rights groups, the American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC, and six US Representatives have urged the secretary of state for Northern Ireland to refer the case back to the appeal court.

Three years ago, the congressmen called on then-Secretary of State Patrick Mayhew to "reconsider [his] actions and carefully re-examine the [Casement Accused] cases, the human rights violations they represent, and any new evidence that might develop."

The congressmen had pointed out that Amnesty International and "numerous respectable human rights organizations have been utterly damaging in their assessment of the fairness of these -- trials."

The killing of the soldiers in March, 1988, came in the wake of a long month of violence involving the British army, loyalists, and republicans. The British army's elite Special Air Services

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unit had murdered three unarmed IRA members in Gibraltar. Then, loyalist gunman Michael Stone attacked the funeral of the Gibraltar Three, killing three more nationalists. At the funeral of one of Stone's victims, the two British soldiers drove into the cortege and fired shots. The mourners removed the soldiers from their car and then stripped them to search for concealed weapons. The IRA drove the soldiers away and shot them.

YOU CAN HELP

...these young and innocent men win their freedom. Please write the letter below and have others do the same.

Write the letter below to: Dr. Majorie Mowlam, Secretary of State, Northern Ireland Office, Stormont Castle, Belfast BT4 3ST, Northern Ireland

Please direct that the cases of the Casement Accused, Sean Kelly and Michael Timmons, be returned to the Court of Appeal. Please direct that these innocent men be released.

Keep Support For The Peace Process Strong!

PLEASE RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER to PEC or a new newsletter subscriber. **New blood is needed** if we are to provide the strong and constant support needed for the peace process.

Order Postcards To President Clinton

President Clinton must constantly receive letters, postcards, phone calls, etc. in support of Ireland's reunification.

Please order pre-messaged and addressed postcards to President Clinton from PEC. We have plenty in stock. Get you family, friends, business associates, etc. to sign and mail them.

To order the President Clinton postcards, or postcards supporting the Great Hunger stamp, write to PEC or call 800 777-6807. Be sure to let us know how many cards of each you want.

John Devoy: Irish Patriot

by Seamus Metress, *Great Lakes Irish Studies, University of Toledo*

John Devoy, once considered by the British to be one of their most dangerous enemies, was born in 1842 in Kill, County Kildare. He was the son of a man the local people considered a historical scholar. The Devoy cottage was said to be a meeting place for revolutionary nationalists in the area. Devoy's father, as the only local subscriber to *The Nation*, was said to have read the "revolutionary" paper to those who gathered at his home. The elder Devoy also served as a local Repeal Warden (seeking to repeal the Act of Union) and later a secretary of the local Young Ireland Club.

Devoy's mother was Elizabeth Dunne. During "Black 47", following the failure of the Devoy potato crop, the family moved to Dublin. John attended school taught by the Christian Brothers and later took evening classes at Catholic University. It was here that he became interested in the lectures of Eugene O'Curry, the noted Irish language authority. O'Curry's ideas strongly influenced Devoy's view of Irish culture and history.

In 1861, John took the oath of the Irish Republican Brotherhood and joined the French Foreign Legion to prepare himself to fight for Ireland. He returned to Ireland in 1862 and became a leader of the IRB in County Kildare. In 1865 he became the republican organizer for Irish soldiers in the British army.

In this position, Devoy was able to pass on information to Colonel Thomas Kelly, the Fenian Chief of Staff, about British army units and army posts. He also had accurate information on the number of Fenians and unsworn Irish in the British army.

Devoy began planning the capture of the British army barracks at Athlone, Mullingar, and Newbridge. Athlone's stockpile of 30,000 rifles was the prime target.

The British wanted Devoy out of the way. They attempted to arrest

him at his father's house but, with the help of his family, he escaped. Ironically, at the time he was being sought, he helped free James Stephens, the Fenian Chief from Bridewell prison. Stephens travelled to France, but Devoy's luck was running out.

On February 22, 1866, Devoy was finally captured by the British. To assure that he would not again escape capture, the British sent a force of 100 to apprehend him. He was held in Dublin's Mountjoy Jail until February 1867. He was then convicted of felony and treason and sentenced to 15 years of penal servitude. He served time along with other Fenians in Millbank, Portland, and Chatham prisons in England. However, after five years he was released on the condition that he go to America.

In early 1871, along with fellow Fenians Jeremiah O'Donovan Rossa, Charles Underwood O'Connell, Henry Mullender and Captain John McClure, Devoy arrived in America to a hero's welcome. New York embraced the rebels with a massive public parade.

In 1873, Devoy joined Clan na Gael, an American organization. He and William Carroll of Philadelphia, began to draw up plans for an Irish revolution. The Clan began sending money and arms to the Irish Republican Brotherhood.

In 1874 Devoy organized a committee to rescue Fenian prisoners in Freemantle, Australia. He and his group purchased a boat and secured a crew. The boat, named the *Catalpa*, sailed from Bedford, Massachusetts in April 1875 under a New England yankee, Captain George S. Anthony.

The rescue mission was successful even though there were some close calls at sea. When the *Catalpa* arrived in New York with the freed prisoners, there was a rousing reception. The mission, that was funded by the Clan na Gael, cost \$15,000.

Devoy earned his living in the newspaper industry and worked for many influential newspapers, including the *New York Herald*.

In 1881 John Devoy founded *The Nation*, a New York weekly with an Irish nationalist focus. He had to suspend publication in 1885 after some disastrous financial losses and because of its endorsement of James Blaine for President in 1884, which lost the paper many readers.

He reentered the publishing business in 1903 with the publication of *The Gaelic American*, through which he supported Sinn Fein. He served as editor until his death in 1928. The paper was a strong supporter of the Irish language movement in Ireland. Through the newspaper, he skillfully probed the weakness of a variety of British legislation aimed at Ireland.

Devoy was an expert at getting at the British through American politics. He continuously fought to defeat any attempts to lead the U.S. into an alliance with Britain. In one instance he used a book by the British Ambassador James Bryce, *The American Commonwealth*, to defeat a treaty attempt. On the day of the vote in question, Devoy reprinted from Bryce's book an attack on the U.S. Senate. He made sure every Senator got a copy. The U.S. Senate destroyed the treaty the Ambassador was pushing with a plethora of amendments and reservations.

Devoy was deeply involved in the Irish Nationalist movement. It was he that influenced the IRB and Clan na Gael to nominally support Parnell's fight against landlordism. He was the architect of the "New Departure" policy, which attempted to combine militant republicanism with constitutional nationalism.

Devoy's whole life was dedicated to the cause of a free Ireland. This great Irish rebel leader died September 29, 1928 in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He died with only part of his dream realized, for the six counties remain unfree. His remains were returned to Ireland and buried in Glasnevin Cemetery in Dublin.

Action Requests

Write the letters below, preferably in your own words, or as is. Be courteous. Have friends, organizations, business associates do the same.

Mention that you are a member of the American Ireland Education Fdn.-PEC.

1. Honorable Bill Clinton President

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

Message: Please direct the Postal Service to issue a Great Irish Hunger Commemorative Stamp. Thank you for your positive action concerning the Irish nationals facing deportation.

2. Irish Ambassador

Irish Embassy
2234 Massachusetts Avenue
Washington, DC 20008
Phone# 202 462-3939
Fax# 202 232-5993

Message: I urge Prime Minister Bertie Ahern to direct the Irish government delegation at the peace talks to call for a United Ireland and that the solution be determined democratically -- by the majority of the people of all-Ireland.

Sinn Fein's Trip to USA a Major Success

The recent trip to the USA by Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams MP, Martin McGuinness MP and Caomighlin O Caolain TD was a big success.

Their first engagement was a reception at the Phoenix Park hotel in Washington, DC. They addressed an capacity crowd, which included Rep. **Ben Gilman**, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, **John Sweeney**, International President of the AFL-CIO and Rep. **Peter King**. Many PEC members also attended, including the PEC President **John Finucane** and Director **Sean Kane**.

The purpose of the trip was to ensure that American support for the peace process remains strong. The delegation met with Clinton administration figures, including National Security Council advisor Sandy Berger, and friends in the US Congress.

Everywhere they went, they stressed one point over and over: **just because there is an IRA ceasefire underway, do not be fooled into thinking that your help is no longer needed.** Adams repeatedly urged people to work through "campaigning organizations such as PEC."

While in Washington, the delegation made a plea to the Ulster Unionist Party, urging them to live up to their responsibilities and take part in the talks. Adams said that he had been advised that unionist supporters were telling Party Leader David Trimble to negotiate with Sinn Fein. Adams stressed the need for agreement between nationalists and unionists, and sought to reassure them that republicans had no wish to dominate them, or for the unionists to leave Ireland, and that unionists had a big part to play in the creation of a new Ireland.

Adams also met separately with the leaders of Irish American activism. Both PEC President John Finucane and Executive Board Member Agnes Mallon participated in this important meeting. Adams expressed the nationalist community's appreciation for the support of American activists.

The Sinn Fein delegation attended several events in New York City, including a sold out \$500 a plate fund-raiser at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel and a public rally (full house) at the Roseland Ballroom. The turnout sent a message to all the world, that Irish America and friends, stand four square behind the cause of a united Ireland and Sinn Fein participation in the talks.

Martin McGuinness was well received at a business reception and a public rally in San Francisco as was Caomighlin O Caolain in Chicago.

To Join Or Renew Your Membership PEC-AIEF

- [] New Membership \$25 [] Membership Renewal \$25
[] Senior Citizen \$20 [] Student \$10
[] Additional Donation \$ _____
[] Donation Only \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Members receive the monthly *American Irish Newsletter*.

Name _____

Address _____

Town/State/Zip _____

Phone number () _____

Name of your Congressman/woman _____

Make checks payable to AIEF. Mail to 54 South Liberty Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980. To charge your membership or renewal, or for information, call (800) 777-6807 (Visa/MasterCard only).

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Address Correction Requested