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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 22, Number 11

November 1997

Attention News Media and Congress

by James Kelly, *Dublin, Captain Irish Army Intelligence (ret.)*

Conflict resolution demands that the cause of violence be addressed. In the Joint Declaration, Britain presented the opportunity to do so. The Irish people, through their government, must grasp that opportunity if the conflict is to be resolved. This is the only way to permanent peace. So far, the Irish government is failed to do so.

Irish Foreign Minister David Andrews and British Prime Minister Tony Blair stated that they do not envision a united Ireland in the foreseeable future.

It is perhaps not surprising that both leaders should put such a concept on the long finger, when the Irish and British governments are committed to a Framework Document which envisions the reestablishing of Stormont (an internal Northern Ireland government) as part of Britain. As a SOP, the Irish people are to be offered cross border institutions -- a type of mini-European Union with **partition** -- the colonial division of Ireland -- maintained as long as the majority in Northern Ireland desire. The majority in the north are a minority in all Ireland. (See, *Partition of Ireland: The Minority Becomes A Majority pg. R&D*)

In theory, the Irish government is bound by the Irish Constitution to seek partition's abolition. Consequently, the Irish government could be considered remiss, to say the least, in opting for the **partitionist** Framework Document. This is especially so when considering the terms of the 1993 Joint Declaration by both governments, **the original peace document**.

In that document, which made the peace process possible, Britain outlined an Irish Dimension as a peace option when it declared that its aim was to encourage, facilitate, and enable the achievement of agreement between the Irish people as a whole and the Irish people alone 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.

Of course, Britain also guaranteed the Unionist position of maintaining partition. However, the British guarantees to unionism and the Irish Dimension, are mutually exclusive. Obviously, a united Ireland and partition are diametrically opposed concepts. Nevertheless, the British have created an opportunity to put a United Ireland on the table at the peace talks. In this regard, it should be noted that Tony Blair claims to be fully committed to the Joint Declaration. Consequently, **it is beyond comprehension that the Irish government, the prime mover on behalf of Nationalist Ireland (and recognized as such by an overwhelming majority of the Irish people, including Sinn Fein,) should refuse to pursue the united Ireland option, defined by Britain, at the peace talks.**

Many Irish people see such neglect as at least a breach of the Constitution, while others see it as a betrayal of the Irish people. Objective people see it as not auguring well for permanent peace on the island.

Perhaps it is not too late for the Irish government to grasp the nettle or partition, the cause of all political violence in Ireland since its inception.

*****MacBride Principles Under Attack -- See Page 5*****

Newsbits by Kathy Regan

On April 27, a 25 year-old nationalist named Robert Hamil, and three friends were savagely beaten by a gang of loyalists in Portadown, a predominantly loyalist town. The assailants jumped continuously on Hamil's head. Supposedly, the attack lasted up to 20 minutes. Hamil died from his injuries. Witnesses allege that a crew of the Royal Ulster Constabulary (a predominantly loyalist police force) parked just yards away did nothing to prevent the assault from happening. Nationalists have been brutally attacked by the RUC on the Garvaghy Road area during the Orange marching season during the past two years. (AIN-PEC 10/3/97)

After 135 years, and almost a decade of dreary work by the Irish Brigade Monument Project of the Irish Cultural Society of Maryland -- and especially the herculean efforts of **Jack O'Brien (PEC Maryland State Director)** -- the bronze and granite monument to the Irish Brigade takes its rightful place at the Bloody Lane where so many of its gallant officers and men gave their lives for America's cause. (The Irish Volunteer 10/97) **Congratulations Jack. You are a special kind of American.**

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OUR VIEW

As expected, Sinn Fein can be counted upon to raise the subject of a united Ireland at the current peace talks. However, it must be remembered that Sinn Fein is only one part of the nationalist coalition (the Irish government, Social Democratic & Labor Party and Sinn Fein). It is simply not enough that Sinn Fein should be left alone "out front" on this subject.

Regardless of the final outcome of the process, it is absolutely essential that the "Irish" parties remain united in standing for a united Ireland, if not today then in the future. Failure to maintain the national principle now would deliver a signal to the unionist and the British government, that the nationalist side is not serious about unity. Such a failure by the nationalist side could kill off much of the pro-united Ireland activism in the US. Is this their intention?

This is why it is important that the Irish negotiators not sign off on the peace process until they have solid commitments from the British government, and backed by the US, that British withdrawal and Ireland's reunification are inevitable. Otherwise, their will not be a united Ireland.

As Captain Kelly stated in his lead article, it is particularly galling for the Irish government not to make a strong appeal for Irish unity since the Irish Constitution calls for this. We would go so far as to say, "How dare the Irish government ignore this central principle of their national existence." Rather than standing up for the idea of Irish nationhood they, in effect, made the foolish opening move of offering to give up the claim to unity as part of a then unknown settlement. It is not too late for them to rectify this but it will be imperative that Irish Americans hold their feet to the fire on the subject.

The leaders of the involved governments have the responsibility to make certain that Ireland's children will never again have to take up arms to fight against British colonialism and injustice.

Turn to Action Request #2 on page 6

1997 Raffle Winners

We are happy to announce the winners of our 1997 annual raffle which was held October 18: first prize of 2 tickets to Ireland or \$1,200 cash: **Andrea Meyer**, Kettering, Ohio

The three \$100 consolation prize winners are; **Thomas J. Prindaville**, Somerset, New Jersey; **Marge Harrigan**, New Smyrna Beach, Florida; and **Robert J. Sullivan**, Hoboken, New Jersey.

We are especially grateful to all who supported the raffle. We give a special thanks to all who sold extra raffle tickets.

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Educate The Public

Getting the right information out to the public, right now as the peace process gets underway is critical. For this purpose, and for your convenience, we reprint in this issue an excellent article, *Partition of Ireland: The Minority Becomes A Majority*. Distributing this information is necessary so that the public understands the cause of the conflict. Distribute this article as an ongoing project.

We Remind You Again!

Please order postcards to President Clinton (about the peace process) and to the US Postal Service (supporting a Great Hunger Commemoration stamp). To order call Toll Free 888 492-7878, E-mail: AIPEC@aol.com - or write: American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC, 54 South Liberty Dr., Stony Point, NY 10980. Specify how many of each postcard you desire.

From the North by Robert Heatley, *Belfast, Northern Ireland* (Co-founder of Campaign For Democracy, a predominantly Protestant organization)

We shall soon see if this new British government is prepared to face up to the facts of what it must do in order to resolve the so-called Northern Ireland problem which is, in reality, a British problem of de-colonization. At this stage one must take Mr Blair and his Northern Ireland Office team, headed by Dr Mo Mowlam, at their word and presume that they are genuinely seeking to lay this problem to rest.

It has been pointed out elsewhere that if Mr. Blair were to pull off such a coup, he would go down in history as one of England's most significant prime ministers -- especially when he has a concurrent momentous task to carry out. This is whether or not to accept Britain's admission to the European Union's impending single currency, the Euro. It would seem that, with regard to Ireland, his commitment to the present colonialist hold on the North will make life difficult for him. He could turn out to be yet another failed British statesman.

One thing that could make him foul up is the force of old habit. Reason may tell him that the British no longer have a selfish, strategic or economic interest in remaining in Ireland: but, what about a political interest? If the answer to that question is yes, as seems likely, then anything that comes out of the present talks will not be a settlement. A failure such as this would be likely to have immense consequences for a continuance of the ceasefires, regardless of what wiser counsel might advise.

Mr Blair's bona fides will be tested in how he handles the Northern Ireland unionists and their implacable resistance to change. Those inside and outside the talks will do their best to perpetuate the Orange/Unionist dominance of UK state-structures within the North and their non-recognition of the Irish national rights of at least 43% of the community. If the talks look like they are addressing these matters, then Mr. Blair could be faced with a united unionist rebellion, although, with the depletion in the British Conservative Party, it would be 1912-1922 history repeating itself, a farce.

Despite the assurances from various British governments that on no

account must the people of Northern Ireland (a euphemism for the unionists) be coerced, it is clear that Mr. Blair, if he wished to genuinely resolve the problem, would have to decide which road to take. Northern nationalists and republicans are not going to be satisfied with minor tinkering with the system or their rights being categorized as "concessions." While no democrat is in favor of any section of the Irish being coerced, it is incumbent to look at the reality of the situation.

As Martin McGuinness has noted: "British policy in Ireland, particularly since the 17th century, has depended on special legislation, martial law, special courts and coercion acts. In the 120 years since the Act of Union until partition, over 100 coercion acts were passed." After partition the British government devolved these responsibilities to the **Unionist Party dominated Northern Ireland government** -- a one-party regime which lasted for 50 years -- until misgovernment and the emergence of the Northern Ireland Civil Rights Association (NICRA) caused it to collapse.

This British experiment having failed, the British government was forced to step in again and, with "direct rule," apply its own crisis management techniques of repression. But, as we have said, no democrat wishes for any section of Irish people to be repressed. Fortunately, that is not the real problem. There is nothing to prevent Mr. Blair, who is the de facto head of government, from persuading the Northern Ireland unionists that it is in their own best interests to realize, and accept, that fundamental changes are in the offing.

Given that even this British government is not yet ready to forego its colonialist strangle hold on the

North with, say, some form of a declaration of an intention to disengage from Ireland (and the seeming reluctance of Irish governments to press this issue), then Mr. Blair must make it clear that whatever emerges from these talks is not a final settlement, but a transitory stage in a process-- a process whose final destination includes the reunification of a self-governing Ireland. Even if these talks fail and the two governments have to put before the people in a referendum (the definition of consent being given a democratic content, not the unionist one) proposals derived from such as the Frameworks Document, the same criterion should apply.

Meanwhile, while the British insist upon continuing to rule the North, any resuscitated devolved assembly which they are intent upon imposing, as part of their overall scheme for the UK--aimed at keeping Scotland and Wales within the fold -- must not resemble in any shape or form the old, discredited, Stormont. It should be given extensive legislative and executive powers, shared on a 50/50 basis by both sides of the community, with additional powers accorded to newly established all-Ireland institutions. According to the Campaign for Democracy, "Northern nationalists must not only have equality (in all spheres) within Northern Ireland for so long as it remains within the United Kingdom, but their national rights must also be guaranteed in both legislative and institutional terms."

At this stage, these are perhaps the minimum demands that the UK government must be prepared to deliver, regardless of Northern Ireland unionist resistance, if there is going to be a reasonable prospect of progressing in the peace process.

Support The Irish Peace Process !

For information contact: **American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC**,
54 South Liberty Dr., Stony Point, NY
10980 -- Toll free # 888 492-7878

Newsbits *cont. from page 1*

Orange Order members who joined Catholics in an ecumenical prayer breakfast for peace in Belfast were branded "hypocrites" by Protestant fundamentalists. Guests arriving at the event were called "Lundys" and "traitors" by a group of Free Presbyterians and members of the Independent Orange LOdge. Among the protesters was Democratic Unionist Party leader Ian Paisley. (*Analysis 10/97*)

When asked how he would handle the IRA, Tory MP, former British Cabinet minister and "historian" Alan Clark replied, "The only solution for dealing with the IRA is to kill 600 people in one night - let the U.N. and Bill Clinton and everyone else make a scene - and it is over for 20 years." ...Despite these and other remarks, Mr. Clark was this year again nominated by the Conservative Party [to seek reelection in which he was successful]. This took place at the Conservative Party's annual conference ...(*Irish News, 10/8/97*)

Recently, a very popular [British] television show, *Eastenders*, had a three-episode storyline in which the characters traveled to Ireland. However, by the end of the first episode, it was clear that the Irish were being portrayed very negatively - they had pigs roaming the streets, they were violent and drunks. Viewers protested vehemently. Although they apologized for any offense caused by the program, the broadcasters refused to change the episodes which had not yet been aired, even though one of them was at least two days away. The episodes were broadcast "as is" and additional protests were ignored. Hopefully, those who were offended will refuse to watch future shows and will let the advertisers know why. This will send a clear message that stereotypical portrayals of the Irish are not acceptable. This will also send a better message than that sent by the Irish government. Unfortunately, they seemed more concerned about the effect of the telecasts on tourism than on their anti-Irish content. (*AIN-PEC 10/17/97*)

Another Chapter of Irish Charity

by Bob West, *Illinois*

Each November our President reminds us the season has again arrived for giving thanks for God's blessings of the preceding year. Upon inquiry of the origin of Thanksgiving Day, newspapers usually reply that it originated with New England Puritans in the 17th century after a period of great distress, due crop failure. Some say Thanksgiving Day happened a few years after the Pilgrims landed in 1620, and others say it was at the time of the Indian War, 1675-76. The exact year the feast began is not known, although there is no doubt it celebrated the fact that the people's distress was relieved.

First, in 1736, in Boston a writing by Rev. Thomas Prince was published entitled *A Chronological History of New England in the Form of Annals*. The New England Historic-Genealogical Society says: "No man that has ever lived in New England can be said to have done more for its history than the Rev. Thomas Prince; his literary labors were constant for nearly half a century and his greatest literary work was his incomparable *New England Chronology*, which, for extreme accuracy, was probably never exceeded by any author in any similar work."

Under *Annals of the Year 1631*, Prince relates the distress in the Colony of Massachusetts Bay during winter 1630-31, saying: "As the winter came on, provisions are very scarce (in the Massachusetts Bay) and people necessitated to feed on clams and mussels and ground nuts and acorns, and those were got with much difficulty in the winter season. Upon which people grow tired and discouraged, especially when they hear that the governor himself has his last batch of bread in the oven. And many are the fears of the people that Mr. Pierce, who was sent to Ireland for provisions, is either cast away or taken by the pirates. Upon this a day of fasting and prayer to God for relief is appointed (to be on the 6th of February). But God, who delights to appear in the greatest straits, works marvelously at this time; for on February 5, the very day before the appointed fast, in comes the ship, *Lion*, Mr. William Pierce, master, now arriving at Nantasket laden with provisions. Upon which joyful occasion the day is changed and ordered to be kept (on the 22nd) as a day of Thanksgiving..." The *Lion* came from Ireland.

It seems curious that the Puritans did not call upon the "mother country" for the much needed provisions. Ireland apparently was the only country in the world which sent relief to the suffering colonists only eleven years after the Pilgrims landed. Michael O'Brien, author, submits this as the earliest record of a celebration of Thanksgiving Day in America.

Second, in 1675-76, the War with King Philip, Chief of the Narragansett Indians, was bloody and devastating in the extreme. The New England Historic-Genealogical Society in 1848 stated: "The Colonies suffered more in proportion to their numbers and strength than was experienced during the (American) Revolutionary struggle..." Ireland promptly provided relief to the sufferers, an event known in New England *Annals* as "The Irish Donation". No other country but Ireland is recorded as coming to the rescue of the famished colonists, and whether or not the fact that natives of Ireland were resident in the ravaged districts may have been the incentive does not appear, but the question of nationality or religion did not interfere with the proper distribution of the charity. The ship, *Katherine*, that sailed from Dublin, Ireland, August 17, 1676 and arrived in Boston about 10 weeks later, brought the relief. A grateful acknowledgement of the event published by the New England Historic-Genealogical Society said: "One hundred and seventy-one years after this time the people of Massachusetts had an opportunity of reciprocating the gift of benevolence wafted to these shores by the good ship *Katherine* of Dublin when they organized a fund for the relief of the distressed people of Ireland suffering from the effects of the famine of 1847." Thus we see that Thanksgiving Day in 1676, probably in November, was an especially joyous one in New England.

Can The Brits Be Trusted?

A leaked British document has revealed that British government ministers are under orders to limit meetings and avoid "social contact" with Sinn Fein members.

Guidelines for Contact with Sinn Fein states that Sinn Fein representatives should not normally be invited to receptions, dinners or other social gatherings. On occasions when it might be appropriate to extend invitations to elected Sinn Fein representatives, departments must apply to the government for permission.

Nonetheless, the document advises on measures to project an image of impartiality toward Sinn Fein. One section states that contact between Sinn Fein and junior officials "on purely constituency matters" should continue as before "to avoid any accusation of disenfranchising the Sinn Fein electorate."

MacBride Principles UNDER ATTACK !!!

Recently, the Securities Exchange Commission proposed new rules on the filing of shareholder resolutions and invited public comment on the proposals. **The deadline for comment is November 24, 1997.** The proposed rules would have a profound impact on any future filing of shareholder resolutions, particularly those dealing with the MacBride Principles for Northern Ireland.

Shareholder proposals filed by Church groups and pension funds have played a major role in raising the issue of fair employment practices by companies operating in the north. They have brought the Church's voice advocating human rights into the Board rooms and stockholder meetings of companies across the US.

The proposed new rules would severely diminish this voice! For example, the votes required for the re-submission of a shareholder proposal would increase to 6% (1st year), 15% (2nd year) and 30% (3rd year) from the current 3%, 6%, & 10%. Additionally, an issue such as a company's operation in the North, would have to deal with \$10 million of a company's revenues in any given year. These two changes alone would cripple the shareholder work on the MacBride Campaign.

Take The Following Urgent Actions:

(TURN TO ACTION REQUESTS #2 ON PAGE 6. TO CONTACT Senator Al D'Amato, head of the Senate Banking Committee.) He can play a major role in defeating these anti-MacBride proposals. We hope that he goes public with any actions that he takes, not just on this issue, but on the Irish issue. He should be playing a major role in the Irish peace process and supporting a united Ireland, just as he promised when he first ran for the US Senate. **Also contact your US Congressional Representative.** Their address is House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515. To call any US Senator or Representative dial 202 225-3121 and ask for them by name. **Internet users** can also contact: Jonathan Katz E-mail to: rule-comments@sec.gov. Your comments should refer to File No. S7-25-97. **Respond well before the deadline, November 24, 1997.**

Use Your Clout! Respond To All Action Requests

Prejudice.....British Perfidy..... and 2/3rds of Ulster

by Frank Morris, Jr., *Pennsylvania*

The rabid rantings of the Rev. Ian Paisley, coupled with the misconception that northern Ireland's primary problem is religion, have led many to tar all of Ireland with the brush of bigotry.

While Paisley denounces Catholicism, the Papacy, and republicans/nationalists who strive to be reunited with the South, the Republic -- since its inception -- has evidenced little prejudice in religion or in gender. For example, nine out of ten people in Ireland are Catholic, and yet they elected Douglas Hyde, a Protestant, to be their nation's first President.

Another Protestant, Sean T.

O'Ceallaigh, succeeded Hyde. To date, Ireland has had seven Presidents, two of whom were Protestants and one a woman, Mary Robinson, who married a Protestant. Unlike in Britain where there is no constitution, the Irish Constitution permits any citizen of the island of Ireland -- North and South -- to run for president. *(Currently four women and a man have been nominated for President -- two of the women are from northern Ireland.)*

Ireland's capital, Dublin, with a population that is at least 88% Catholic, offers another example of freedom from bias. In the sixties, Ben Briscoe, a Jew, was elected Lord Mayor of Dublin. He

must have performed admirably because his son, Robert Briscoe, also Jewish, won the Lord Mayor's job some years later.

Obviously, the people of the Republic of Ireland are not bigoted. *(Compare them to the likes of Paisley -- the Vicar of Vindictiveness; the Bishop of Bigots.)* The people of Ireland are hard working, cheerful, and intelligent. They long for the unity that was denied them in 1921. At that time, Britain cast aside the peoples' democratic vote for independence and declared 6 of 9 counties in Ulster to be British as they were the greatest area within which the pro-British Protestant Ascendancy could be maintained. Those 6 counties (2/3 of Ulster) became "Northern Ireland."

Today, too, a referendum is in order. Who should vote? The six counties of northern Ireland or all 32 counties of Ireland?

PARTITION OF IRELAND: the Minority Becomes a Majority

"Ulster will fight and Ulster will be right" was the war cry in 1920 of the pro-British loyalists when the treaty between Ireland and England was being negotiated. Actually, there should not have been any debate on independence for all of Ireland because, at the last general election in 1918, when all Ireland voted, more than 80% of the people voted for a free and sovereign nation. But England refused to grant democratic rule to Ireland.

England told the Irish delegates that the province of Ulster would be temporarily separated from the rest of Ireland until an accommodation could be reached with loyalists in Ulster. The alternative given to the Irish was an "immediate and terrible war." When the Orange-English leaders took another look at Ulster, they found that, in six of Ulster's nine counties, the nationalists (predominantly Catholics) were in the majority and could, conceivably, vote Ulster into a united Ireland in their time. England unilaterally changed the rules of the game by excluding three of Ulster's counties that had a strong nationalist majority. Gone was any illusion of fair play--do it our way, or else.

This partitioned Ulster, now "Northern Ireland," had no historic or natural geographic boundaries, only borders drawn solely to ensure loyalists' perpetual domination. England then illegally turned over the government of the new state to the Orange Order and made a non-interference

covenant with them, giving them free rein to discriminate and gerrymander as they chose. Matters relating to "Northern Ireland," now a part of the United Kingdom, were never discussed in the British Parliament. Catholics were always treated as second-class citizens. Now, under the Orange government, conditions for Catholics grew intolerably worse. In the words of Sir James Craig, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland (1921-1940): "I have always said I am an Orangeman first and a politician and member of the parliament afterwards -- all I boast is that we are a Protestant parliament and a Protestant state."

Former Primer Minister Basil Brooke (1943-63) said: "I recommend those people who are loyalists not to employ Roman Catholics, 99% of whom are disloyal.... You people who are employers have the ball at your feet. If you don't act properly now, before we know where we are we shall find ourselves in a minority, instead of the majority. I want you to realize that, having done your bit, you have got your Prime Minister behind you."

In response to incitement by their leaders, loyalists vented their feelings on Catholics by burning out whole sections of nationalist areas and leaving hundreds dead, injured, and homeless.

In 1968 when civil rights groups, including some Protestants, held peaceful protest marches, they were set upon and beaten by

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Orange mobs while the police turned their backs or joined the mobs.

You Can Help

The key to a permanent end to violence in Ireland and a just solution, satisfactory to the majority of citizens of all Ireland, is an aggressive, long-term and even-handed diplomatic involvement by the President of the United States and our Congress. Such a commitment by our government can only **be maintained** if people like you routinely keep the pressure on our government's leaders.

Influencing our leaders to make that commitment will not be hard, **IF** we are willing to work together through the democratic process.

*For information
on how you can help, contact:*

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

The American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC (AIEF-PEC), founded in 1975, is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization. AIEF-PEC is a national network of caring people who seek to reunite Ireland through peaceful means. We welcome as members and supporters all people, regardless of ethnic or religious background.

RUC and Loyalists Seem To Think Crime Will Pay

by Sandy Carlson, *Connecticut*

If their actions since the IRA's latest ceasefire are anything to judge by, the Royal Ulster Constabulary (RUC) and loyalist thugs must think criminal brutality will pay a political dividend. Both groups have been involved in a series of events that, considered together, make up a pathetic litany of political at-a-lossness.

Consider the following:

. Catherine Ramsey, Patrick McGuinness, and their children were forced out of their north Belfast home in June following a loyalist gang's attempt to break their door down with metal bars. The attack occurred shortly after an RUC armored vehicle left the area.

. Loyalists hurled petrol bombs at homes in North Belfast in the early morning of September 28. The attackers use a crossbow to aim some of the deadly missiles at the home of widowed mother-of-three Margaret O'Neill. Attackers also used a ladder to position themselves behind a "peace line" wall to aim the petrol bombs. Residents blame the Royal Ulster Constabulary for failing to protect them.

These attacks follow British paratroopers' instigating trouble in North Belfast on September 26, when petrol bombs, bricks, bottles, and iron bars were used on nationalist homes. On this night, a patrol of three jeeps full of paratroopers waved British flags and shouted sectarian abuse at nationalists in Roe, Rosapenna, and Rosevale streets.

. The September 14 mail brings a Russian made bullet sent by loyalists to a family in the Ardoyne area of North Belfast. (Loyalists have killed more than 100 civilians in the Ardoyne.) A note addressed to a

republican who does not live at the address tells him to "watch your back, because we are going to get you We have enclosed a present, plenty more, but sadly for you, not in the post. Your old pals on the Shankill."

. Since the start of the school year, loyalists in Portadown subjected Catholic schoolchildren to sectarian abuse as the students made their way to and from school. The RUC have not intervened.

. The RUC in Derry admits eight weeks into the IRA ceasefire, that they were still recruiting informers from the nationalist community. Meanwhile, a British army bunker was discovered under a derelict house in South Armagh. The discovery coincides with a dramatically increasing number of reports of British army and RUC harassment and incursions into the Republic of Ireland.

. Loyalist intimidation of Catholic churchgoers in Ballymena at Harryville resumed the evening of September 20, after a break of almost three months. Mass-goers on their way to church were forced to run a gauntlet of sectarian abuse as they pass a gang of about 50 loyalists and a heavy RUC presence.

. Loyalists caused fire damage to a church in Kells, Antrim on September 29 when they threw a petrol bomb through a church window. The attack occurred as the sectarian campaign at Harryville got underway.

. A 21 year-old former Royal Irish Regiment soldier admitted to making and planting a device in Markethill on September 27. The RUC released the man without charge following questioning, pending a report of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

. Loyalists sent a parcel bomb

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September 29 to the family of Colin Duffy of Lurgan, County Armagh. The package, which is later declared a hoax, was addressed to Duffy's wife, Susan.

Clearly, loyalists and the RUC have failed to respond to the change in the political climate for peace. Their behavior is, after all, loyalist politics as usual. The violence of late seems to be an attempt to stall political talks until the loyalists can think of what it is they want -- other than the same old dominant social position in Northern Ireland.

This is a new experience for the RUC and the loyalists, who have never had to fight for their existence. The British government have unequivocally supported them in their campaigns against Irish nationalists since the inception of the Northern Ireland state. They were part and parcel of Britain's effort to subdue Ireland; the British government did their talking. However, now that the British are talking with the Irish government and Irish political parties (apparently sincerely) about a peaceful future for Ireland, the job security of these sectarian thugs may be in jeopardy.

It is possible that the anti-nationalist violence of late is no longer pro-British. It may be the direction less by-product of a pathological police state coming unhinged. We may be witnessing the death throes of loyalism. Only a successful outcome to the peace talks can deliver the autopsy report. Only a successful outcome to the peace talks will end the foregoing tale of horror.

Support The Irish Peace Process

For information contact:
**American Ireland Education
Foundation-PEC, 54 South Liberty Dr.
Stony Point, NY 10980
Phone# 1 888 492-7878**

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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 communications that you are a member of the American Irish PEC.

1. Mr. Bertie Ahern
An Taoiseach
Upper Merrion Square
Dublin 2, Ireland

Message: I insist that you make achieving Ireland's reunification your priority in the peace process. It is your responsibility to make sure that Ireland's children will never again have to take up arms to achieve freedom and justice.

2. Hon. Al D'Amato, Chair.
Banking Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Phone# 202 224-6542
Fax# 202 224-6821
E-m senator@dpm.senate.gov

Message: Please demand that the SEC not disenfranchise shareholders by the proposed rule change that would prevent the MacBride Principles shareholder resolutions from succeeding, as requested by the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility.

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