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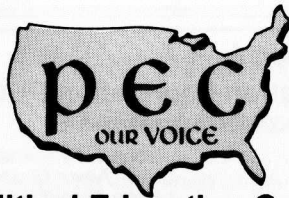
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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 21, Number 4

April 1996

Attention News Media and Congress: *Who Really Doesn't Want Peace?*

Buried in the rubbish, which is the media coverage of Northern Ireland, is a gem of revelation. Who is it who really doesn't want peace? Not the Irish government, not Sinn Fein, not John Hume and the SDLP; no, none of these. It is the Loyalists (UUP, DUP). This is not news to PEC Newsletter readers, of course. But what should awaken the American public to the real nature of the dispute about Northern Ireland is the reason given by the Loyalist politicians (both the Ulster Unionist Party and the Democratic Unionist Party). Their reason is that some unacceptable people have been invited to the talks. Who? Why the Irish, of all people! They object to the participation of the Irish government, the group representing the large majority of the people of Ireland, an island on which the Loyalists dwell, unpleasant though that might be for them. Unfortunately, as is now the routine in these British-Irish Government agreements, the Irish government appears to have given away the shop on this point and given the Loyalists a technical hook on which to make their claim. Article 8 of the Major-Bruton Communique of February 28, 1996 says: "The Prime Minister and the Taoiseach agree that details of an elective process were for the parties in Northern Ireland, together with the British government to determine." In other words, not the Irish government.

The other significant item in the Major-Bruton agreement deals with the possibility that neither Sinn Fein nor the Loyalist parties would take part in the election planning leading up to the negotiations now scheduled firmly for June 10, 1996 (the actual situation as we write). In that case Britain will determine an election procedure, have it enacted by the British Parliament, presumably hold elections, then move on to the June 10 talks. This raises the intriguing possibility that Sinn Fein, excluded from the talks by the IRA's failure to declare an acceptable ceasefire, could simply remain on the sidelines and let the governments come up with a "solution" for Northern Ireland. Unfortunately, any such solution is not likely to provide hope for supporters of a united, democratic Ireland.

CBS Boycott -- Phone Calls Needed

CBS News does it again. On March 13, when reporting Gerry Adams' arrival in the US, CBS news stated that since the IRA resumed its bombing campaign twelve people had been killed. The real figure was three -- three too many.

We have received encouraging feedback on our **CBS Boycott**. One gentleman advised us that he was handed a copy of our CBS Boycott flyer on a street corner in Phoenix, Arizona. Another individual told us he received the flyer through the mail. Both people are now part of the boycott and are urging others to participate. **Spread the word to others!**

Call CBS right now! Let them know you are participating in the boycott called for by the American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC because of the pro-British bias of their national news when covering the British-Irish peace process. CBS's phone number is: (212) 975-4321. **Get others to call!**

Newsbits by Kathy Regan

"The British government counts their innocent victims in thousands at a time rather than two. They supplied both Iran and Iraq during the Gulf War with billions of pounds worth of weapons of mass destruction in the hope -- openly admitted by a former cabinet underling of [PM John] Major -- that both sides would exhaust themselves by killing so many of the other side that it would leave them both weak and in need of rearming. Britain continues to be one of the largest suppliers in the world of anti-personnel mines which, according to the United Nations, are the single greatest cause of injury and death to children in the world today. So, when the British government cries crocodile tears for the victims of Canary Wharf, we would do well to remember that they are responsible for the maiming and death of hundreds of innocent non-combatants day in and day out throughout the world."

(Andersonstown News, 2/17/96)

The British government has invented one "initiative" for every two and a half years since 1968. All failed because they were meant to fail. Those which appeared to succeed were quickly squashed by a combination of British intelligence services with loyalist agitators. . . The present

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OUR VIEW

Unlike in past Presidential campaigns, today Peace with Justice in Ireland is a Presidential Campaign issue. Why? Because concerned Americans made it an issue. Likewise, it is up to concerned people to keep it an issue.

*We are making progress with the Presidential candidates. On Sunday, February 24, on national TV's **Face The Nation**, Pat Buchanan praised President Clinton's British-Irish peace policy and supported granting Gerry Adams a visa. Now there are two candidates **on the public record** as supporting an even-handed American peace policy. There is now only one candidate to go: Senator Bob Dole, the likely challenger to the President in November.*

*There is some encouragement from the Dole camp. PEC received a press statement issued by his office stating his support for the talks now set for June 10 and that the peace process must remain part of American foreign policy. But Dole also stated that, under the present circumstances, he would not have issued a visa to Gerry Adams. Hopefully soon, Senator Dole will go **on the public record** by announcing his position via the national news media.*

The candidates position on granting a visa to Gerry Adams should be of great importance to all of us. They must be questioned on this issue. Right now Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein is allowed entry into the US. Would a new President maintain that policy? Adams is the true representative of the nationalist/republican point of view. If he is not allowed into the US, the voice of a united Ireland would be silenced. The British government would again control US. Irish policy

It is important that you immediately call Senator Dole's campaign office. (See next column.)

Offensive Situations

by Paul Newman, *New York*

Thanks to member Dr. McGuire of Virginia for alerting us to a recent column by syndicated *Washington Post* columnist **Mary McGrory**. McGrory, as usual, scolds the Irish in general about, of course, alcohol. In the past, McGrory has bashed Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams and was in the forefront in calling for his visa request to be denied. Please write the following in your own words or as is to: Mary McGrory, Syndicated Columnist, *Washington Post*, 1150 15 St. NW, Washington, DC 20071

Dear Ms. McGrory:

Kindly refrain from degrading people of Irish heritage for alcohol abuse. Many nationalities have problems with drinking. To single out the Irish reinforces a negative perception fellow Americans have about the Irish race.

Sincerely,

**Send Offensive Situations to: Paul Newman,
9 Deltic Road, New City, NY 10956**

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Pick Up The Phone Right Now!

Call Senator Dole's Office

Make it a habit to call the office of Senator Bob Dole -- phone# 202 414-6400 --**once a week**, throughout the Presidential race or until he makes his position on Ireland a matter of public record. Ask that he go on the public record with his positions on the British-Irish peace process. Ask for his position on granting a visa to Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein and would they adopt an even-handed peace policy.

If they don't hear from you they will ignore the issue.

Use The PEC Telephone Hotline

(A 24 hour, 7 day a week service)

(914) 429-7849

From the North: The Root of the Conflict

by Captain James J. Kelly (ret.) Dublin, Chairman, *United Ireland Forum*, former editor of the *Irish Defense Journal*, has written extensively on politico-military affairs

In introducing the Decommissioning Report in Belfast on January 25, 1996, Senator George Mitchell was asked why there was not more focus on the issue of consent.

Mitchell related this to the British Guarantee as follows: "The concept involves the ultimate constitutional issue of the legal status of Northern Ireland. And as the Downing Street Declaration made clear, there can be no change in that status without the consent of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland, as freely expressed in a democratic process."

He continued: "This is plainly a political issue. It is indeed the ultimate political issue, and therefore outside the scope of our remit, and therefore not addressed in our report.

The British Guarantee (to which Albert Reynolds agreed, incidentally - thus complicating the issue) is the basis of the Unionist veto.

Undoubtedly, there can be no mutual consent among the Irish people as a whole as long as the British Guarantee (Unionist Veto) remains. British propaganda is so effective however, that rejection of the god child of its guarantee, the Unionist veto, is equated with non-acceptance of the principle of consent. This, of course, is the very antithesis of reality, as I have attempted to explain in my submission to the International Body.

On December 17, 1995, the United Ireland Forum made its submission to the International Body on Decommissioning. We focused mainly on the issue of the role of the British Guarantee (Unionist Veto) as the main obstacle to finding a lasting solution to the conflict in Ireland.

Currently, the British Government seeks some form of IRA disarmament prior to all inclusive talks. The Joint Declaration, on which the IRA cease-fire is based, does not seek any such pre-condition to talks, as Albert

Reynolds, the Irish Taoiseach at the relevant time, has categorically and unambiguously confirmed.

If Britain persists in this demand and is seriously concerned with removing arms from the scene, it should, as a quid pro quo, deal with a major anomaly in the Joint Declaration, which, in the view of many Irish nationalists and republicans, blocks any possibility of an agreed peace.

Article four of the Joint Declaration addresses the two conflicting claims to sovereignty in Northern Ireland. The British Government has stated that it has no selfish, strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland.

However, there is a major anomaly in article four of the declaration. The first sentence of the declaration states: *The Prime Minister, on behalf of the British Government, reaffirms that it will uphold the democratic wish of a greater number of the people of Northern Ireland on the issue of whether they prefer to support the Union or a Sovereign United Ireland.*

That means that there is a major anomaly at the heart of Article four between the democratic right of the Irish people as a whole and the "democratic wish" of the majority in Northern Ireland.

The possibility of agreement between the people of Ireland is eliminated by what is in effect a British guarantee to sustain the Unionist position. This guarantee predicates that Unionism cannot and will not move from the status quo. Consequently, it is disingenuous and invidious of the British Government to even suggest the possibility of agreement on an all-Ireland solution while maintaining its guarantee.

The late Cardinal Tomas O'Fiaich stated in 1985, "The present policy of the British Government - that there will be no change of status of

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Northern Ireland while the majority want British rule to remain - is no policy at all. It means that you do nothing and it means that Loyalists in the North are given no encouragement to make any move of any kind. It is an encouragement to sit tight."

It is clear that the British Government is hostile to any advance towards an agreed Ireland "without external impediment." Discussion of the vital constitutional issues as envisaged in article four of the Joint Declaration of December 15, 1993 is effectively stymied. This major anomaly blocking political advance must be dealt with at some stage.

Cardinal O'Fiaich suggested a British formula to change the guarantee: "Just as we brought British colonialism to an end in other parts of the world, we are not going to be in Northern Ireland ad infinitum. Ultimately we would like to see all Ireland ruled by Irishmen. While we are waiting to move out we would like to use our good offices to try and bring conflicting parties together."

If Britain were to make such a statement in advance of substantive negotiations, it could then realistically call for IRA disarmament prior to such negotiations. If it does not choose to do so, the only option left to it is to agree to have disarmament discussed at all-inclusive talks in conjunction with the roadblock to final peace it has erected in article four of the Joint Declaration.

Because of continued British assurances that it will uphold the Unionist [a minority in all Ireland] veto, peace in Ireland is in British hands. To deliver it, all it has to do is play fair with the Irish people as a whole by addressing the real issues, such as the Guarantee, which block progress to permanent peace in Ireland.

For further information contact:
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2726

Newsbits *cont. from page 1*

undemocratic demand for an election and assembly is designed to keep us talking. . . for two and a half years of course, because this is the length of time people were kept talking to each other without result during every "initiative" since 1968. . . we are supposed to talk about this for two years, **becoming more divided among ourselves and from the rest of the citizens who also want democracy.** When the talking is exhausted, when the British government has extracted the last ounce of humiliation and futile activity from it, they will put up yet another "initiative" or impose some other precondition. . . Let us not walk into the trap of two years of useless discussion of an assembly which is only Major and Mayhew's latest nonsense. . . [Let's] organize a political campaign to tell Major and Mayhew's constituents [in England] what they are really doing in Ireland and who their allies are in this. (*Andersonstown News*, 2/3/96)

At the trial of William Orr in 1797, the government used paid perjurers, a packed jury and corrupt judges to secure a conviction. In the same year, a military crackdown was described as follows, "Men were taken from their families and sent to county jails, or the artillery barracks, or put on board the prison tender in Belfast Lough, and kept there for months without trial." So little has changed that one could be forgiven for thinking that this is a discussion of the 1970s rather than the 1790s. (*Andersonstown News*, 2/3/96)

Unionists have no grounds to fear a Labour Government, according to Andrew MacKinlay MP for Thurrock, speaking in Belfast yesterday. The Labour MP, who was addressing the Unionist Labour Group, said "Unionists have no grounds to fear a Labour Government. Tony Blair has made it clear that Labour will not seek to be 'persuaders' but has stated that Northern Ireland's existing relationship with Britain will endure so long as the greater majority [in the north] will it." (*Irish News* 3/12/96)

Thomas F McManus

by Kevin P. Murphy, *Massachusetts*

The Great Hunger also played a key role in shaping American history. One family that fled the Irish holocaust of the 1840's was the McManus family. The McManus's settled in Boston's North End. The North End was a crowded, disease ridden section where refugees of the Great Hunger settled.

Born in these crowded tenements in 1856 was Thomas F. McManus. Thomas grew up in abject poverty. As a good student, McManus attended Boston English High where he developed a keen interest in sailboats. One of his classmates was Louis Sullivan, also the son of refugees from the Great Hunger, who went on to become the Father of the American Skyscraper.

McManus learned naval architecture at night school. Soon afterwards he began designing ships. Within a few short years, McManus' designed schooners were in high demand. In his 50 year career, more than 500 schooners, yachts and commercial ships came from McManus designs. Even the British complimented his designs. Famed British yachtsman Sir Thomas Lipton called McManus "The world's premier naval architect and ship designer." At the turn of the century, it was reported in fishing trade papers that, "more than half of all fishing schooners on the East Coast are McManus originals."

He designed many ships at his Dorchester home. McManus and his large family of 12 children became guests of honor in prominent American social circles, including guests of President Theodore Roosevelt at the White House. He became a top American of Irish heritage to integrate into American society. In 1914, he helped found the Boston Fish Pier on Commercial Wharf. The Pier became one of America's largest.

The McManus' designed fishing schooner "Godspeed" became the fastest and largest fishing ship in the world. McManus' work created the New England dominance of the fishing industry in America. Due to McManus, many Irish immigrants became active in Boston's fishing business, a business previously the domain of the native "Yankee" population. In the early part of this century, McManus designed ships won the *America's Cup* and the *Puritan* and *Mayflower* cups. Due to his work, the United States became the undisputed rulers of the fishing and ship racing business. That title was long held by England.

Thomas F. McManus died in the Boston suburb of Milton in 1938. The American Irishman symbolized the rise of Irish America. Born to poverty in Boston's North End to Great Hunger refugees, he became famous and moved to well to do Dorchester and Milton. More importantly though, he symbolized a people who fled oppression and who contributed to the greatness of the United States.

MacBride Passes House and Senate Conferences

The House and Senate Conference (US Congress) has agreed to attach the MacBride Principles to the International Fund for Ireland. All recipients of US money through the IFI would be urged (not mandatory) to abide by the MacBride Principles. The measure now goes on to the full House and Senate for a final vote.

The PEC, which has been at the forefront of the MacBride campaign at the federal, state and local levels, would like to commend all Irish American organizations who successfully lobbied the conference, especially the AOH, the IAUC, INA and the INC.

We would also like to give special praise to a true friend of Ireland, the PEC's own district Congressman **Ben Gilman** (R-NY). He was the driving force behind MacBride and without his efforts, this phase of MacBride would have surely failed.

Israel Can Teach Britain A Thing About Peace

by Sidney Zion, *New York Daily News* 2/16/96

What's the difference between Irish terrorists killing Englishmen in London and Arab terrorists killing Jews in Tel Aviv. As one of my old law professors used to say, "To ask the question is to answer it."

Last week the IRA broke a 17 month cease fire with a bomb in London that claimed two lives and injured many more. The British government reacted by all but calling off peace negotiations in Northern Ireland. Let Gerry Adams, head of Sinn Fein, the IRA's political arm, prove he's in control of the guns, or to hell with the whole business. That was the message from Downing Street and, as usual when the Brits speak, the world nods, particularly in the former colony of America.

On the other hand, Israel. Since the handshake at the White House, some 180 Jews have been massacred by Palestinian terrorists. That's two years and change. Since 1969, when the Troubles came back to Belfast, 100 Londoners have been murdered. That's 26 years and change. And again, two deaths in the past 17 months.

The contrast -- What was the Israeli government's response to the murder of its citizens? "We will not surrender to the enemies of the peace process." Yasser Arafat blamed Hamas, said he couldn't control them, but he'd try, and praised their killers as martyrs in Arabic.

Likud raised the roof in protest, as did many Jews in Israel and the U.S. But Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres held firm and the peace process continued unabated. To the applause of the world and its media.

After the assassination of Rabin, the peace process had run the table in Israel, despite Arafat attending the funeral of Yehiya (the engineer) Ayyash, the Hamas terrorist responsible for the horrific suicide bombings of Tel Aviv buses. Arafat sent his heavenly blessings to Ayyash. The West Bank continued to be turned over to the PLO.

In Great Britain, Prime Minister John Major holds on to a slim majority in Commons. Does the loyal opposition say a word against his policy in Ireland? Forget about it. There is no peace now movement in England re Ireland.

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So what does it mean, what's the difference between Israel and England and why do I raise the question? The difference is that the Israelis want peace, they want it so desperately that they overlook every outrage by Arab terrorists, every violation of pledges by Arafat.

A matter of power -- John Major and the Tories want to stay in power. They don't give a damn about peace in Ireland if peace in Ireland means a no confidence vote in the London parliament. And to keep their seats in parliament, the Tories need the votes of their pals in Northern Ireland.

So for the past 17 months, during the cease-fire in Belfast that secured peace on the streets of London, Major diddled Gerry Adams in the manner born of English imperialism. Divide and conquer. Divide Sinn Fein from the IRA and hope for the worst.

In practice, this meant holding the Catholics' feet to the fire: No talks until the IRA unilaterally laid down its arms. Major knew this was a condition that could not be met. So he waited and waited, and presto! The IRA hit the East End.

Was it the fault of Major and the Tories? They didn't lay the bomb did they? And they will leave the door open to peace in Belfast - if Gerry Adams can prove he's in charge.

Imagine world opinion if Shimon Peres said the same thing about the PLO. The Prime Minister of Great Britain would be the first to ask for sanctions against Israel in the United Nations.

If it weren't for the double standard, the Brits would have no standard at all. We know that, but it pains me to say that it probably wouldn't be much different in the former colony.

For further information contact:
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Summit Failed to Provide Required Assurances

Vincent Browne, *Irish Independent* (3/12/96)

On February 15th, six days after the breakdown of the IRA cease-fire, Gerry Adams said: "The absence of (all-party) negotiations led to the breakdown (of the cease-fire). The commencement of negotiations, therefore, provides the way forward. Any new process must contain copperfastened and unambiguous public assurances that all-party talks (involving Sinn Fein) will be initiated by both governments at the earliest possible date."

However persistently they protested otherwise, the point of the joint communique issued in Downing Street last Wednesday, February 28th, was to provide such copperfastened and unambiguous public assurances that all-party talks will begin on June 10th next.

John Bruton said in the Dail that afternoon: "Regarding participation in all-party negotiations, both governments are agreed in paragraph 5 (of the joint communique) that Sinn Fein participation is dependent only on a restoration of the IRA cease-fire."

The joint communique was a considerable diplomatic achievement by Bruton. Unfortunately the exercise fell short of the "copperfastened and unambiguous public assurance that all-party talks involving Sinn Fein would begin on that date.

At the press conference in Downing Street that followed the publication of the communique, Major was asked: "Is Sinn Fein going to be accessed to all-party talks conditional on one thing only - the restoration of the cease-fire - or are there going to be other preconditions or what they would describe as stalling tactics?"

This was the key question. Bruton sought to answer it in the Dail a few hours later with his assertion that the "only" precondition was the restoration of the IRA cease-fire.

However Major had other ideas. His response to the question was: "We set out quite clearly in the communique... that there has got to be a cease-fire and then at the outset, at the moment the discussions between the parties begin, there has got to be a discussion about the Mitchell Report in all its aspects: paragraph 30 (on the need for Sinn Fein to reassure other parties of their commitment of exclusively peaceful and democratic means) and the related aspects, dealing with adherence to the principles (of the Mitchell Report) and dealing with the question of decommissioning to the satisfaction of the parties, so that begins as the first item on the agenda."

So that, although technically all-party

talks would begin with only one precondition (a resumption of the IRA cease-fire), the talks would not get off the starting blocks until four further preconditions were met. These are (i) a discussion of the Mitchell Report "in all its aspects" (ii) Sinn Fein reassuring other parties of their commitment to exclusively peaceful and democratic methods (iii) commitment and adherence to the six principles stated in paragraph 20 of the Mitchell Report to the satisfaction of all the parties and (iv) discussion of the Mitchell suggestion on what is known as "parallel decommissioning" again to the satisfaction of all the parties.

These caveats make a nonsense of the commitment to all-party talks involving Sinn Fein only on the condition of a resumption of the IRA cease-fire. Indeed if they are to stand, they guarantee that there will be no all-party talks even if there is a cease-fire. And of course they ensure that there will not be a cease-fire, at least until they are removed.

The requirement that "at the moment the discussions between the parties begin," that there had to be a discussion of the Mitchell Report in all its aspects, even on its own, would make progress on all-party talks virtually impossible. Just think of the leeway this would give to the Ulster Unionists to nitpick through the report "in all its aspects," aspects yet unseen and never intended.

Then add in the requirement that Sinn Fein reassure the other parties of their commitment to exclusively peaceful and democratic methods. How could this be done with parties determined not to be reassured? Equally, how could Sinn Fein satisfy parties determined not to be satisfied of their commitment to the Six Mitchell principles? And as for parallel decommissioning....

The IRA has stated that there will be no decommissioning before agreement on an overall settlement. This is unsatisfactory and menacing, but it is a reality, and the Mitchell Commission's brief was to find a way through the impasse between that refusal and the British and unionist insistence.

The Mitchell Commission's resolution of this impasse was the recommendation requiring all parties to the negotiations to commit themselves to the six principles. Re-introducing the decommissioning precondition at the outset of all-party talks clearly frustrates the whole purpose of the Mitchell Report and makes a nonsense of the purported acceptance of the report.

It is true that the Mitchell commission did refer to parallel decommissioning. This comes in paragraph 34 of the report. It states "the parties should consider an ap

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proach under which some decommissioning would take place during the process of all-party negotiations." Clearly there can be no reasonable opposition to the proposal to "consider" such a proposal, but to make this a new precondition on talks is quite a different matter.

And as John Major has stated it, agreement on parallel decommissioning would become a precondition of progress "the moment the discussions between the parties begin." He said that "there has got to be a discussion dealing with the question of decommissioning to the satisfaction of all the parties."

We know full well that "the satisfaction" of the two main unionist parties will require at least a start to decommissioning and then further decommissioning during the course of talks," a more intractable demand than that which gave rise to the Mitchell commission in the first place.

Bruton tried to soften this in a part of the text he read a few hours later in the Dail: it is evident from the script that this was a late addition. Dick Spring tried to soften it further the next day. He said: "Decommissioning is by no means the only item on the agenda, nor should the commitments we seek be exploited to avoid serious negotiation on the many other questions to be addressed." But what worth have such protestations from the Taoiseach and Tanaiste when Major says the opposite, or appears to.

There is a way around this. It is as follows: a new public assurance that, given an electoral mandate and acceptance of the Mitchell six principles, all-party talks will go ahead: that while decommissioning will be discussed at the outset of talks, agreement on that will not be a requirement to progress to other issues; that a clear statement of acceptance of the Mitchell principles will suffice and that talks will proceed without procedural or other roadblocks of any kind, irrespective of who threatens not to turn up.

We have been "tantalizingly close" to a permanent cessation of violence. No surrender of genuine principle is now required to copperfasten that. But political will and determination are required.

For further information contact:

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We're Making Progress With The Candidates

PEC's ongoing campaign to get all Presidential candidates publicly committed to the Irish peace process is picking up steam. On Sunday, February 25 on *Face The Nation*, Pat Buchanan took a step in the right direction. He praised President Clinton's efforts for peace in Ireland and supported his granting Gerry Adams a visa.

On March 10, on national TV, Senator Bob Dole expressed his support for the peace process. But he did not support granting Gerry Adams a visa. If Adams is silenced in the US, so too will be his message of reunification be silenced. This is exactly what the British government wants.

This important progress with the candidates is due in large part to your financial support and participation. Your letters, phone calls and faxes to the candidates were very influential. Very important is your financial support which enabled PEC to place candidates' positions advertisements in two newspapers in New Hampshire and Georgia prior to those states' primaries. Keep up the pressure!

By public record we mean the candidates' positions must be reported by the mainstream news media, included in their public campaign and press conferences. To read about it in an Irish American publication is not sufficient.

With your continued financial support, PEC will continue to place similar ads in newspapers across the U.S., right up to the election. We must make sure that all concerned Americans are fully aware of just where the candidates stand on the peace process. Peace with justice in Ireland is a Presidential campaign issue, not just the Mid-East and Bosnia.

When The Candidates Contact You!

When you get mail from the campaign offices of the Presidential candidates (and candidates for US Congress in your district), mail them a copy of the cut out below. If they call you, read them the message. Demand that they publicly support our issue. It's your right.

(cut here)

Dear candidate:

I cannot support any candidate who does not publicly support our government's Irish peace policy and who has not made clear to the British government that they will not support returning America to a blindly pro-British policy on Ireland.

Signature _____

NEW VIDEO RELEASES

1. RIVERDANCE THE SHOW -- The Celtic dance show is a national sensation in Ireland and Britain and now the US. The Riverdance video is finally available in the United States.

Breathtaking, thrilling and visually stunning, **Riverdance-The Show** is the ultimate celebration of the very best in Irish culture. This video captures the exhilarating 78 minute show performed by the original cast, live from the Point Theatre, Dublin, Ireland.

Riverdance-The Show, composed by Dublin born Bill Whelan, features a cast of eighty with a host of international performers, including the unique talents of American dancers Michael Flatley and Jean Butler, with the haunting sound of the Irish choral group Anuna and the dynamic energy of the Irish Dance Company.....\$24.95

2. UNCENSORED VOICES: WAR OR PEACE IN IRELAND -- Is a riveting, uncompromising look at the current prospects for peace in the north or Ireland and features rare archival footage of the Civil Rights Movement, Bloody Sunday, the Hunger Strikes, as well as footage of Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams' historic visits to the United States.

Uncensored Voices tears away the curtain of silence and censorship that has surrounded the war in Ireland and reveals the hidden story of the fight for human rights and justice over the past 25 years. Included are interviews with some of the leading figures in that struggle: Bernadette Devlin McAliskey, Fr. Des Wilson, Mary Nelis, Eamon McCann and Oliver Kearney, all of whom were censored by Britain.

Uncensored Voices features an exclusive interview in Federal Prison with Jimmy Smyth, who escaped from the infamous Long Kesh Prison outside Belfast in 1983, along with 37 other Irish republican prisoners. Smyth recounts the story of life in Belfast during the 1960's and 70's and how, along with an entire generation, he was swept up into a war that has ravaged that corner of the world since the introduction of British troops in 1969.....\$29.95

To order: send check or money order payable to American Ireland Education Foundation, 54 South Liberty Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980. Include \$2 P&H for first item. Add 50 cents for each additional item. **New York State residents add sale tax.**

To charge: call 1 (800) 777-6807 Tuesday thru Friday (Visa/Mastercard only).

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.

1. Larry King
CNN
820 First St, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Message: When you interview the Presidential candidates, please ask them if they would continue the even-handed approach of President Clinton regarding the British-Irish peace process and their views on granting Gerry Adams a visa.

2. Taoiseach John Bruton
Upper Merrion Square
Dublin 2, Ireland

Message: You must keep the pressure on the British govt. and not allow them to further stall the peace process. You should also resist all British attempts to divide the Nationalist consensus. You are the Irish leader. Prove it.

**Renew
Your Membership**

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Smear Campaign Against Jean Kennedy-Smith by State Department

US Ambassador to Ireland, Jean Kennedy-Smith, was reprimanded by Secretary of State Warren Christopher for allegedly trying to ruin the careers of two diplomats who disagreed with her support for the issuance of a visa for Gerry Adams in 1994.

The two diplomats allege that, after they expressed their dissent through the normal State Department channels, Mrs. Kennedy-Smith went "on a rampage," shut them out of embassy functions and important meetings and effectively tried to ruin their careers. The Ambassador was also accused of being more concerned with Irish issues than American interests.

This is an outrage. Jean Kennedy-Smith is the best ambassador that the US has ever sent to Dublin. If not for her efforts, there would never have been a ceasefire and the peace process never would have advanced to its present stage.

As for the actual circumstances surrounding the reprimand, four diplomats disagreed with Kennedy-Smith on the Adams visa and sent their dissents to the State Department. We find it odd that Mrs. Kennedy-Smith would choose only two out of the four for punishment. In all likelihood, the two diplomats are probably little more than disgruntled employees trying to smear Mrs. Kennedy-Smith because of their failure to gain promotions.

More importantly, the US State Department has been infamous for its pro-British bias on Irish matters. The State Department has opposed President Clinton's Irish peace policies at every turn. It is widely known that there is a lot of resentment for the increasing role that our government and especially President Clinton and Ambassador Kennedy-Smith have played in the Irish peace process. Many in the State Department long for the days of the blindly pro-British policies of past administrations.

The reprimand of Jean Kennedy-Smith is little more than a State Department attempt to embarrass her and her family and to rebuff the Clinton peace policies.

The State Department would like nothing more than for a return to the time when the main function of the Dublin embassy was the throwing of lavish cocktail parties, with ambassadors like Bush appointee William Fitzgerald, whose main contribution to the Irish political scene was his inability to identify the two traditions in the north of Ireland. If this were to occur, then US policy on Ireland could once again be made at 10 Downing Street, as the State Department would like. Perish the thought!

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