



Sacred Heart
UNIVERSITY

Sacred Heart University
DigitalCommons@SHU

American Irish Newsletter

The Irish American Community Collections

3-1995

American Irish Newsletter - March 1995

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_ainews



Part of the [European Languages and Societies Commons](#), [Other American Studies Commons](#), and the [Political Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - March 1995" (1995). *American Irish Newsletter*. Paper 88. http://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_ainews/88

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by the The Irish American Community Collections at DigitalCommons@SHU. It has been accepted for inclusion in American Irish Newsletter by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@SHU. For more information, please contact ferribyp@sacredheart.edu.



AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 20, Number 3

March 1995

Boston College Outrage

On January 25, 1995 the PEC commenced a nationwide letter-writing/phone call campaign to protest Boston College's (BC) plan to honor Margaret Thatcher on May 5, 1995. (A copy of the PEC's letter to Rev. J. Donald Monan, SJ, President of Boston College, appears on page four). On that day, BC will present its highest award, The President's Ignatius Medal, to Mrs. Thatcher. The presentation will take place at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City.

To add insult to injury, May 5, 1995 is the 14th Anniversary of the death by starvation of Irish Hunger Striker Bobby Sands, the first of ten hunger strikers to die at the hands of then British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher.

The PEC protest has received the support and help of most major organizations, including the Ancient Order of Hibernians, Friends of Irish Freedom, Irish American Unity Conference and Irish Northern Aid. It is being covered by the Irish American media as well as some mainstream media. Protest demonstrations at BC in advance of the event are being considered. Many individuals, including Catholic clergy and financial supporters of Boston College, are already involved. Activities are under way as far away as California and Washington. *We have only begun!*

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Take the following steps: 1) Reply to our letter-writing/phone call requests in the R&D, *Boston College To Honor Thatcher*. Write and call the BC President's office **often** and don't let them pass the responsibility on to someone else. 2) Make copies of the R&D for distribution at St. Patrick's Day events such as parades, dances, concerts, etc. It is most important that the Irish American community be informed. 3) Continue your efforts right on through May 5 or until the honor is canceled.

Turn to *PEC Letter to Boston College* on page 4 and
R&D Boston College To Honor Thatcher.

To Former PEC Members & Supporters: Your Support Is Needed *More Than Ever!*

As you can see by the above *Boston College Outrage*, your help and support are still needed. We are sending you this newsletter to encourage you to renew your membership or newsletter subscription, and/or to send a donation! We still have much to do to ensure that a just and permanent solution to the English-Irish conflict is found.

Your membership/subscription is expired if the 4 digit number on the top line of your address label on page six is between 9401 (January 1994) and 9502 (February 1995). To charge your renewal call toll free 1 800 777-6807.

TO RENEW OR SEND A DONATION USE COUPON ON PAGE SIX

Newsbits by Kathy Regan

One of the most frustrating things about political life since the cease-fire has been the way in which progress has been held back because we lack rudimentary political structures to effect change. The peace belongs to everyone in northern Ireland, yet the pace of the peace process is being dictated by people who are not accountable to the electorate. Political instability in the Republic did not help. The British government is now demanding decommissioning of weapons and risks upsetting the delicate balance which brought the cease-fires about. While the governments are worrying about these issues, ordinary people and their political representatives want to get on with building a new society. A critical area is policing, yet the lack of direction from those with the power to effect legislation has allowed the policing debate to drift . . . If a major international conference on the economy can be organized and held within months of the cease-fire, why not a full, frank and independent examination of policing? (*Irish News*, 1/9/95)

Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness challenged Sir Patrick Mayhew's demand that the arms issue must be resolved before talks can begin. He stated, "I am seriously concerned by

con't on page 4

INSIDE

From the North 3
PEC Letter To Boston . . 4
CBS 60 Minutes 5
St. Patrick's Day 6
Tuscon Six Update . . . R&D
Boston College Outrage . . R&D

OUR VIEW

Please treat with equal importance the pressing issue of the Boston College controversy and *Our View* below about President Clinton. If you write only two of the requested letters in this issue, write the requested letters to Ms. Nancy Soderberg, Deputy Asst. to the President, and Rev. Monan, President of Boston College.

Is President Clinton backtracking on his Irish peace policy or is he playing politics preparing for the 1996 Presidential election? Certainly we appreciate that the President's Irish Agenda has helped bring the peace process forward. But we are concerned that he is now heading in a pro-British direction. When the President began his Irish peace initiative, he was supportive of the Irish nationalist agenda. But now that appears to be changing.

President Clinton has not spoken out against Britain's stalling of the peace process and his Administration continues the same unjust Reagan-Bush policies regarding Irish political prisoners in the US.

Irish-American complacency is again the culprit! Since the IRA cease-fire many people have mistakenly stepped back, assuming the conflict is over and justice is on the way. While they are silent, the British are hard at work in Washington influencing the Clinton Administration. The Brits have slowed the progress made by Irish Nationalist leaders Gerry Adams, John Hume and former Prime Minister Albert Reynolds.

We cannot allow the British to reverse the Administration's Irish policy. Unless the US keeps pressure on the British, the fragile peace process could crumble. The power is in the hands of the American Irish. If we don't keep the pressure on the administration, we will only have ourselves to blame if the peace process fails. There is a lesson here: we cannot sit back while the British run wild in Washington.

TURN TO ACTION REQUEST #1 ON PAGE 6

Offensive Situations

by Paul Newman, New York

Since 1995 begins the 150th anniversary of the Great Hunger, it is no coincidence that historical revisionism should be ripe. On 12/11/94 cable TV's *The Learning Channel* presented a segment of the 12-part "Connections Two" series. The show was presented by Britisher James Burke. He claimed that the English government had no idea that the Irish were starving and, if they did, they would have helped!

Please write the following letter in your own words or as is to: President, The Learning Channel, Discovery

Political Education Committee (PEC) American Ireland Education Foundation, Inc.

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

National President.....John J. Finucane
Vice-President.....Albert Doyle
Membership Coordinator.....Loretta Fitzgibbons
Recording Secretary.....Kathy Regan
Financial Secretary.....Tom Sheridan

Director of OperationsSean Kane

American Irish Newsletter

Editor-In-ChiefJohn J. Finucane Editor....Stephanie Finucane

Assistant Editors Sandy Carlson.....Albert Doyle.....Kathy Regan

National Headquarters

54 South Liberty Drive, Suite 401

Stony Point, NY 10980

(914) 947-2726 - Fax (914) 947-2599

STATE DIRECTORS: Jack O'Brien, 11109 Belton Street, Upper Marlboro, MARYLAND 20772-(301)336-5167; Leah Curtin, Hibernian Life, 790 Cleveland Avenue, Suite 221, St. Paul, MINNESOTA 55116-(612)690-3888; Kathy Regan, 3045 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NEW YORK 10468-(718) 365-0213; Frank O'Day, 21 Pierce Lane, Madison, CONNECTICUT 06443-(203)245-4739; Bob West, 683 Walnut Road, Wauconda, ILLINOIS 60084-(708)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; Phil Chaney, 662 West 70th Street, Kansas City, MISSOURI 64113 - (816) 363-6523; Kathy Whitford, 15910 Lucille Drive, 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 Drive, Del City, OKLAHOMA 73115 - (405) 677-3623; Elizabeth McElligott, 7747 E. Dale Ln., Scottsdale, ARIZONA 85262 - (602)585-3602; Joe Joyce, 32111 Discovery Ln., Hanover, VIRGINIA, 23069-(804) 994-2218.

NATIONAL MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES CONSULTANT: John Hatch, PEC-AIEF, 54 South Liberty Dr., Stony Point, NY 10980 - (914) 947-2726

NATIONAL ORGANIZER: Pete Foley, 3177 Villa Avenue #3H, Bronx, NEW YORK 10468-(718)933-7196

Supported in part by the Emerald Society
NYC Fire Department

Networks, 7700 Wisconsin Avenue, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Dear President:

Your segment of "Connections Two" about Ireland's Great Hunger deceives the public. British moderator James Burke claimed that England knew nothing about the "Famine". Reputable writers, such as Cecil Woodham Smith in *The Great Hunger* and Thomas Gallagher in *Paddy's Lament*, make clear that England knew about the potato blight and did nothing effective to prevent the deaths of two million people. During this period England knowingly exported from Ireland enough food to feed the population twice over. I urge that you discontinue airing this program and, instead, air *When Ireland Starved* by Radharc Productions of Dublin. For information contact the American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC at 914 947-2726.

Sincerely,

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

From the North

by Rev. Des Wilson, *Director, Springhill Community, Belfast*

John Major's Conservative Party, numerically weak in the British House of Commons, sometimes has to rely on the votes of the Ulster Unionists. The unionists use their tiny vote to sway Major's government in their direction. The 1916-1922 Irish members frequently paralyzed the British parliament with the same kind of tactics. The ability to make Major dance to their tune seems one reason why the Official Unionist Party is publicly behaving with some dignity these days. In times gone by they would have been jumping around, raging about the Pope and threatening rebellion if they did not get their way - or inciting the British military to refuse to obey orders. Nowadays, a quiet word in Major's ear does the trick and they have not ranted for quite some time.

The British government has been even more favorable than usual to the unionist cause. Peter Temple-Morris, a British Conservative and co-chairman of the London/Dublin inter-parliamentary body, has said out loud that it is time for the British government to pay more attention to nationalists and less to unionists.

That Peter Temple-Morris should say this is unusual but not surprising. A government which depends for survival upon the votes of a handful of the few remaining anti-democrats in Europe is hardly worth holding together.

When a general election comes in Britain - and it could come this year - Major could be defeated, and the unionists would not matter to him any more, or he could return with a larger majority and the unionists would not matter to him any more either. Or he could return with a small majority and have to depend upon them again. It is unlikely that Major would remain leader of his party in such a case.

However, in the north of Ireland events are taking on a momentum of their own. Bertie Ahern, leader of the Fianna Fail party, came to West Belfast with two close advisers. He was warmly received by large numbers of people who welcomed him, somewhat wryly, asking where his party had been all these years. He met Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein, visited the Conway Mill and then walked into the Unionist headquarters downtown where he had a lunch and a good chat.

A few years ago such a series of actions would have been greeted with

demonstrations on the street by Paisley's D U P and a closed door by the other unionists. Nowadays talking is taken for granted, at least between official unionists and the southern parties. Paisley called a press conference which was attended by few and led to nothing. Although he did not seem to notice, the old days were passing rapidly.

British television aired an arrogant and propagandist program, although it treated Gerry Adams with more respect than British state television usually does. Clearly, the British public is being prepared for the rapidly approaching day when their government, after years of abuse, will be negotiating with him.

While all this was going on, a little sideshow was taking place in north Belfast. The parties which emerged from the British loyalist paramilitaries were preparing to challenge the official unionists, Paisleyites and Alliance Party unionists, in a by-election for local council seats. These emerging ex-paramilitary parties want to take power and influence away from the unionists who held and abused them for the past 70 years. They say they represent the unionist working people and in a real sense they do. Their campaign is the first realistic challenge from within the unionist fold to the traditional unionist alliance among business, farming and church interests.

That by-election is being watched with exceptional interest. And the challenge - fragile, undependable and lacking political experience - is

the best hope that one day the unionist working people may break free from their bosses and unite in common interest with their nationalist and republican fellow citizens who have suffered worse under the same masters.

They do not know it, but they are going along the road Wolfe Tone wanted them to go.

Cardinal Daly Begs Brits for Forgiveness

Primate of all Ireland, Cardinal Cahal Daly made history last month as the first Catholic cleric to preach at Canterbury Cathedral since the Reformation. However, it is really what he said that will go down in history. His words have already caused an uproar.

During his homily the Cardinal begged the British people to forgive the Irish people for the hurt the Irish have inflicted on the people of Britain throughout history and especially in the past 25 years. His remarks have an uproar in the Nationalist community in the North. Community leaders are conducting a petition drive repudiating Daly's remarks.

"Cardinal Daly has never had the support of the people of West Belfast. He has never supported any of their specific concerns or problems—he's too busy trying to impress the Chief Constable of the RUC and the Archbishop of Canterbury," said community activist Brenda Murphy.

Dr. Daly's remarks paralleled what Archbishop of Canterbury Dr. George Carey proclaimed by during a recent Dublin visit when he apologized for what the British have done to the Irish during the centuries. Dr. Carey's remarks were barely reported in Britain and Ireland, but, because of Dr. Daly's international reputation, his remarks were reported worldwide.

Newsbits *con't from page 1*

Mayhew's assertion that further progress in the talks with Sinn Fein and loyalist representatives can only take place after substantial movement is made on the arms issue. It's about time that the British government found the imagination and courage to move the process forward instead of looking for obstacles to place in the path of progress. History will not look kindly on those who squander this historic opportunity to solve this age-old conflict by presenting non-issues as obstacles to peace." (*Irish News* 1/6/95)

At a private meeting, Patrick Mayhew reportedly said, "To some extent we have got to help Mr. Adams carry with him the people who are reluctant to see a cease-fire, who believe they might be betrayed by the British government... If the hard men say, 'What did Gerry Adams do, we have called a cease-fire but got nothing sufficient in return?'" then Mr. Adams will take a long walk off a short plank and be replaced by someone much harder." (*Irish News* 1/9/95)

John Bruton's overtures to the unionists showed nothing new from the Dublin government. The Downing Street Declaration still reigns supreme and those ever so cantankerous unionists must be treated with kid gloves in case they bite the hand of friendship being held out by Dublin. If the word "no" were removed from the English language, the unionists would be struck dumb... John Bruton should forget the sweet talk. He should leave the British government in no doubt that he will use the considerable clout of the Irish worldwide to address the real issues at stake. Mr. Bruton won't prod the British into action by pledging his undying support for unionists. The British government must cut the apron strings which bind them to unionists. For it's only when the unionists are forced to stand up for themselves that they will agree to come to the negotiating table to hammer out a peace settlement which best serves their interests. (*Andersonstown News*, 1/14/95)

PEC Letter To Boston College

Dear Rev. J. Donald Monan, S.J., President

January 25, 1995

The American Irish Political Education (PEC) is a committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation is a leading Irish American activist organization, supporting a united, democratic Ireland through peaceful means since 1975. We have been advised by several members that Boston College intends to honor Margaret Thatcher, former Prime Minister of the U.K., with your Ignatius Medal on May 5, 1995.

As you might surmise, we would not be supportive of honors to Mrs. Thatcher at any time because we regard her as having had a major negative influence on the search for a peaceful, democratic solution to the Northern Ireland problem. That search for a peaceful solution is at a critical point at the moment and we believe that had Mrs. Thatcher been in power, it would never have advanced to its present posture. Without belaboring the point, we would cite her famous "Out! Out! Out!" response to the Irish Government's suggestions for possible solutions after the New Ireland Forum and her claim that Northern Ireland was "as British as Finchley." Many more examples of her intransigent attitude and anti-Irish prejudice could be listed, but we presume you are aware of the history of the "Iron Lady."

Several things make this award particularly offensive just now. It is being presented on the anniversary of the death of Bobby Sands, the first to die of the ten Irish hunger strikers. Many people believed at the time that those tragic, polarizing deaths could have been avoided if some small gesture of compromise had been made by Mrs. Thatcher. In fact, the British Government ultimately made concessions, but too late to avoid the bloody results with which we are all now familiar. Also repugnant to us and many others is the choice of this enemy of Irish freedom during a year which will see many events commemorating the 150th anniversary of "The Great Hunger", the Irish famine which resulted in the deaths and emigration of millions of Irish and which was brought about by the cruel mercantile policies of British Governments whose economic theories were the antecedents of Mrs. Thatcher's own reactionary political philosophy. Good taste would suggest she stay away. And lastly, all of this from Boston College, a school which owes its very stones to the descendants of the famine victims of these Thatcherite policies!

We urge you to cancel this unfortunate invitation. In any case, would you please advise us as to the procedures followed by Boston College in selecting Mrs. Thatcher and whether her selection was promoted by particular individuals in or outside of the Boston College community?

As we understand it, the criteria for selection as the recipient of the Ignatius Medal is that the person is one of "outstanding accomplishment in human endeavors whose careers are enriched by a religious dimension." It would seem that many tyrants might qualify under the "human endeavors" standard but we do wonder about the "religious dimension" of your honoree..

*Very truly yours,
John J. Finucane, President*

Make The Hunger Commemoration A Success *Educate The Public*

Everyone, including students, can ask teachers, professors, etc. to include the Great Hunger video, *When Ireland Starved*, in their curriculum. The video is available through the PEC (see page 6).

Also, you can send us the names of people you want informed about the Great Hunger and we will send them an informative brochure. Your efforts will be critical to the success of the Great Hunger Commemoration.

Boston College To Honor Margaret Thatcher On Irish Hunger Striker Bobby Sands's Anniversary

Reproduce & Distribute

On May 5, 1995, the 14th Anniversary of the death of Irish Hunger Striker, Bobby Sands, the first of 10 hunger strikers to die at the hands of the British Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher, Jesuit-run Boston College (BC) will honor Mrs. Thatcher with their prestigious President's Ignatius Medal. The basic criteria for one to receive the medal is that the person is one of "outstanding accomplishment in human endeavors whose life has been enriched by a religious dimension." The award will be presented at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel in New York City.

To add insult to injury, 1995 begins the commemoration of Ireland's Great Hunger (1845-1850) when 2 million Irish people were starved to death by the English government. Boston College owes its existence to the Great Hunger immigrants and their descendants.

Demonstrate Your Outrage!

1. **Protest to:** Rev. J. Donald Monan, SJ, President, Boston College, Chestnut Hill, MA 02167 or call (617) 552-3250. **He is responsible for all Boston College activities.** Use the sample letter below as a guide for your letter or phone call.

Sample Letter

Dear Rev. Monan:

I respectfully insist that you cancel BC's honor, the President's Ignatius Medal, to Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, for which as President you are responsible. As you know, Ms. Thatcher has a history of violating the rights of Irish Catholics. To add insult to injury, you are honoring her on May 5, the 14th anniversary of the death of Irish Hunger Striker Bobby Sands. This is also the time when we begin the commemoration of Ireland's Great Hunger, when up to 2 million Irish people were starved to death by their English oppressor.

Sincerely,

2. **Solicit the support** of His Eminence John Cardinal O'Connor of New York, in whose archdiocese this event will take place (Address: 1011 First Avenue, New York, NY 10022 -- phone # (212) 371-1000), and His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Law. of Massachusetts (Address: 2101 Commonwealth Ave., Brighton, MA 02135 - phone# (617) 254-0100). Cardinal O'Connor is a supporter of peace with justice in Ireland. **MESSAGE:** *Ask that they intervene to cancel this controversial event.* When contacting Cardinal O'Connor, include that the event is taking place in his archdiocese. They have the authority to intervene.

3. **Make copies** of this flier and distribute them to as many people as possible. Be sure to pass them out at the different St. Patrick's Day events -- parades, dances, concerts, etc.

4. **Send a donation to help expand this campaign.** Makes checks payable to PEC-American Ireland Education Foundation and mail to address below. Donations are tax-deductible.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION contact: PEC-American Ireland Education Foundation, 54 South Liberty Dr., Suite 401, Stony Point, NY 10980 or call (914) 947-2726.

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

Tuscon Six Update: Pre-trial solitary confinement and other atrocities

by Nancy O'Neill, Attorney, Arizona

Michael Martin, a 38 year old unemployed man from Dundalk, is the latest body added to the cast of the now infamous Tuscon Six case taking place in Arizona during the last two and a half years. Martin was shot and arrested on April 20, 1994 in South Armagh by plainclothes RUC police in what citizen witnesses described as an assassination attempt.

The incident began when two RUC men, driving an unmarked RUC police car, passed Martin driving on the road and pulled to a stop ahead of him, demanding Martin to stop. The two men fired shots, hitting Martin and the car. Martin drove off and was followed in a high speed chase that ended with Martin crashing.

At this time a pair of gloves allegedly containing traces of explosives were found, one inside and the other near Martin's car. These gloves are the "evidence" the prosecution claims link Martin to the Tuscon Six case. He faces charges that he conspired to purchase weapons for the IRA.

Since the shooting, Martin was incarcerated in an English prison until extradited to the Federal Correction Institute in Tucson, Arizona, December 20, 1994.

During the extradition proceedings, the English judge threw out five of the six counts on the indictment for lack of evidence. To date, the US prosecution is still arguing that they can prosecute all six counts, even though that is contrary to the US's extradition treaty with England. The US government indicted fourteen men in the Tuscon case and has yet to convince a jury to convict any of them.

Since Martin arrived in Tucson, he has been held under the most extreme conditions anyone familiar with the case has ever seen. Reminiscent of Joe Doherty's experience in the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City, Mr. Martin was in solitary confinement, allowed out of his cell for one hour, five days a week. During each of those five hours, he was taken to an exercise yard measuring about 20 feet by 15 feet. He was not allowed in the yard with any other prisoner. All of the other prisoners in the "special housing unit" are allowed

out in the exercise yard with a couple of other inmates. Often Martin was strip searched on his way back from the yard, despite the fact that he is accompanied by a guard and is handcuffed every step of the way.

Even though there is an excess of \$200 on Mr. Martin's commissary account, it took three weeks before he was able to purchase anything. He was incarcerated for more than three weeks before he was able to get a stamp to send a letter to his wife and three children. Letters from his lawyer have been opened by prison officials in blatant violation of his Constitutional rights. Mr. Martin was told that any letters he sends out will be opened and read, although this violates prison policy, which for pretrial prisoners does not allow censorship of outgoing mail.

Mr. Martin is handcuffed and the handcuffs are then chained to his waist while he is meeting with his attorneys or talking on the phone, which makes it impossible for him to take notes or participate with his defense in a meaningful way. There have been times when a guard is in the room listening to him while he makes attorney calls. He is moved from cell to cell each week. He is allowed only one phone call to his family every 90 days.

The US government has asked the judge to hold Mr. Martin in detention without allowing him to post

bail. It is clearly the government's intention to keep Mr. Martin incarcerated for the longest possible time in spite of his innocence and likely acquittal. At the conclusion of a pretrial hearing in Tucson on January 25, 1995, US District Court Judge John Roll denied Martin bail. Less than a year ago, Judge Roll presided over an eight-week trial which resulted in a verdict of innocence regarding six others accused in the Tuscon Six case.

Michael "Mixie" Martin is originally from Mullaghbawn, County Armagh, married to Teresa Meegan Martin. He has three children, ages 2, 6 and 8. He and his family were living in Dundalk at the time of his arrest.

Mr. Martin is currently incarcerated in the Federal Correction Institute at 8901 S. Wilmot, Tucson, Arizona 85706, Inmate Number 03360-196. He is represented by Michael Addis of the law firm of Addis & Sherman, 300 N. Main Street, #201, Tucson, Arizona 85701-8230. Phone #: (602) 882-0662, fax #: (602) 882-8503.

Denis Leyne of the Tuscon Six Dies

Denis Leyne, one of the Tuscon Six arrested in November 1992, died in his sleep at his home outside Totonto, Canada on February 4, apparently from a heart condition. He was 57. A County Cork native who became the vice president of Royal Canadian Bank, Leyne, along with his co-defendants, was held in an Arizona jail before being awarded bail and was subjected to a long, arduous trial which concluded in an acquittal in April 1994.

Help Make The English-Irish Peace Process Work!

CONTACT:

PEC-American Ireland Education Foundation,
54 South Liberty Drive, Stony Point, NY
10980, or call 1 800 777-6807

Published by the PEC-AIEF March 1995

CBS 60 Minutes Obstructs Peace Process

Irresponsible Journalism Continues To Misinform Americans

by P. Johnson Swayne, Maryland

The CBS 60 Minutes segment, "Life and Death in an Irish Town", produced by London-based John Tiffin and which aired January 15, 1995, presented a journey back (after 20 years) to Strabane in the north of Ireland. The feature skillfully interwove footage from 1974 with 1994, but also artistically portrayed the aging of the real people chosen to tell their stories -- then and now.

The feature would have been a masterpiece if as much care had been taken to present the truth. The omissions of pertinent information and the slanted inferences kept the producers legally clean -- but morally tainted. Morley Safer, the original host, again guided the return trip. Safer solemnly intoned the purpose of this return visit: "1) to see how Strabane changed in two decades; and 2) to see what effect there might be on the fragile cease-fire in Ulster."

The "most bombed and battered community in Northern Ireland" was the initial description given of Strabane. From the viewpoint seemingly invented by the producer, not only is Strabane presented as an example of the horrors of tribal warfare, but the entire problem in the north of Ireland as well. "What's it all about?" Safer asks. The answer: "Hatred, mistrust, murder, revenge!" Through the painful interviews with wives and mothers whose husbands and sons had been murdered, we see only neighbor pitted against neighbor. Safer asked a Protestant lady just who was responsible for the deaths and, ultimately, "the Troubles?" She quickly replied, "I blame the IRA," and then added: "Of course, the Loyalists are just as bad." Much footage of a number of tombstones stating: Killed by IRA Terrorists. No tombstones were shown stating: Killed by British forces or British Loyalists. An elaborate military funeral of a corporal in the UDR was shown and only a passing glance of a poorer cemetery with a tombstone of an Irish Republican Army member killed by his own bomb. Get the picture? Is it responsible journalism to abhor terrorism no matter where it rears its ugly head? You choose.

Only one reference is ever made to Britain: "The British government has poured billions into these restoration projects in a deliberate policy to

force people to choose 'Reason over Rubble!'"

Twenty years have made a striking difference in Strabane. Where ugly shells of buildings once stood and Irish Catholic children threw rocks at British armored trucks called Pigs, we see only new shops, homes, etc., and groups of people in friendly conversation. Referring back to the agony of murders and the devastating effects on people's lives Strabane has endured, Safer concludes with: "There is no logic to tribal warfare be it in Rawanda, Bosnia or Strabane."

How many times do we have to explain? The problems in the north of Ireland are primarily political and economic. They manifest themselves along religious lines because Irish Catholics do not possess the rights of full citizenship in the British colony known as Northern Ireland. Is it not interesting that the confusion is perpetuated especially in the American media? Perhaps an unbiased documentary could be presented by 60 Minutes uncovering the agendas of those responsible for perpetuating the myth of tribal/religious warfare!

(Ed. Note: The explanation of the conflict presented by Mr. Safer and his producer in London is the same explanation presented to the media by the British government!!!)

Make A Habit Of Calling President Clinton

(202) 456-1111

While we always need letters written to President Clinton -- you can never send enough letters to him -- we also need a steady flow of phone calls to his office. This is what you call "making an issue." And don't forget, one letter or call to President Clinton represents the views of 1,000 people. That's clout!

Get into the habit of frequently calling the President's office and get others to do the same.

Ask the President to fulfill his campaign promise not to pursue judicial action against Irish nationals on behalf of the British government; to pressure the British government to stop stalling the peace process and begin all party talks; to recommend that the MacBride Principles be used as fair employment guidelines for any US investment in Northern Ireland.

Ad Hoc Irish Committee Names New Co-Chairmen

WASHINGTON -- The Congressional Ad Hoc Committee for Irish Affairs has announced the appointment of two new co-chairmen, Rep. Pete King (R-NY) and Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA). Congressmen King and Neal will join with long-time Co-Chairmen Reps. Ben Gilman (R-NY) and Tom Manton (D-NY) in setting the agenda for this important panel which plays a major role in influencing US policy on Ireland. Gilman is also the new chairman of the International Relations Committee.

To check if your US Representative (Congressman/woman) is a member of the Ad Hoc Committee, call them at (202) 225-3121.

Action Requests

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

1. Ms. Nancy Soderberg
Deputy Asst. to the President
Ground Fl., West Wing
White House
Washington, DC 20500

Request: I am concerned that President Clinton is backing off on the Irish peace process. Please request that he urge the British to begin all party talks and grant amnesty to all Irish political prisoners in the US

2. Senator George Mitchell
Special Asst. to the President
U.S. Department of State
2201 "C" St., NW
S-1R, Rm 6311
Washington, DC 20520

Request: Please recommend that the MacBride Principles be used as fair employment guidelines for any US investment in Northern Ireland, as requested by Representative Ben Gilman, Chairman of the International Relations Committee. I await your reply.

Things To Do For St. Patrick's Day

As we requested in the last two newsletters, take advantage of upcoming St. Patrick's Day festivities (parades, dances, concerts, etc) to distribute literature. If you can, set up an information table. Make copies of the *Reproduce & Distribute* articles from our newsletters. **This is a perfect opportunity to distribute this issue's R&D, Boston College To Honor Margaret Thatcher On Bobby Sands's Anniversary.**

It is also important that you copy and distribute the R&Ds, *Ireland Needs Speaker Gingrich's Support* and *Ireland Needs Senator Dole's Support*. If you can only distribute one R&D at this time, make it the Boston College one and save the Gingrich and Dole R&D's for another time. While it is most important to have a steady flow of letters to Dole and Gingrich, we need many letters to Boston College right now!

WE HAVE PLENTY OF UPDATED, PRE-ADDRESSED POSTCARDS to Speaker Gingrich, Senate Leader Dole and President Clinton. You can get people to sign these cards

at dances, concerts, etc. Make sure you collect and mail them. We have plenty of extra newsletters that we will gladly send you for distribution. We also have plenty of copies of *Chapter Four* from *Paddy's Lament* (regarding Ireland's Great Hunger) available. As 1995 begins the commemoration of Ireland's Great Hunger, you will have a great opportunity to make the public aware of this great tragedy and win support for Ireland's freedom from English tyranny. To order, call 1 800 777-6807. Order immediately as it will take up to ten days for delivery.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY GIFT IDEAS!

Enroll family members, friends, etc., for a six-month subscription of our newsletter for only \$7. We need all the help and support we can get, especially more letter writers. Why not give someone a copy of the video, *When Ireland Starved* (\$29.95) and/or the books, *Paddy's Lament* (\$10.95) and *The Great Hunger* (\$13.00). Add \$2 for postage and handling. (Add 50 cents for each extra item). **New York State residents add sales tax.** To charge, call 1 800 777-6807. Visa or MasterCard only -- minimum charge \$25.

Attention Virginia Members

A MacBride Principles Bill will again be introduced in Virginia. Last year the Bill cleared the Virginia Senate but was tied up in the House. **We need the help of all members in Virginia** to make MacBride a success in 1995. Members should contact Virginia State Director, Joe Joyce, at 32111 Discovery Lane, Hanover, VA 23069 or call 1 804 994-2218.

To Join Or Renew Your Membership PEC-AIEF

[] New Membership OR [] 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 PEC-AIEF and mail to 54 South Liberty Drive, Suite 401, Stony Point, NY 10980. For information call 1 800 777-6807.

PEC-American Ireland Education Foundation
54 South Liberty Dr.
Stony Point, NY 10980

Non-Profit Organ.
U.S. Postage
Paid
Garnerville, NY 10923
Permit No. 29

Address Correction Requested