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## American Irish Newsletter - January 1994

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

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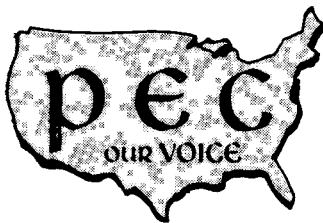
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# AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 19, Number 1

January 1994

## CRIME BILL... *Dangerous Provisions*

By Albert Doyle, Vice President

Fueled by popular indignation at the World Trade Center bombing, the current concern about violent crime in our country and general aversion to "terrorism," the Omnibus Crime Bill is moving forward relentlessly in Congress. Although this legislation traces its origins back to the Reagan and Bush administrations, no hearings have ever been held on it. The Senate and House have passed different versions and the conflicting versions will be the subject of "conference" between the House and Senate in the next few months. The Bill contains a smorgasbord of ideas, some good, some bad. Some of the good ideas may actually reduce crime in our country. The bad ideas can be used to control political activities of all types, including our support of a united, democratic Ireland. These provisions should be opposed strongly not just because of the impact on us, but also since they are fundamentally undemocratic and totalitarian. We have long known that the anglophile Reagan and Bush administrations admired British laws, such as the Prevention of Terrorism Act, without recognizing that the British have no written Constitution or Bill of Rights - both of which make such laws unconstitutional in the U.S. Adoption of these views by the Clinton administration is shocking to us.

Sections of the legislation to which we object are: (1) "Removal of Alien Terrorists" - (what a title!) - which, in certain circumstances, allows the deportation of aliens by "Special Courts" without apprising defendants of the evidence against them, and (2) "Providing Material Support for Terrorists," which sets up criminal sanctions for those supporting "terrorists" by providing, for example, "lodg-

ing" and "transportation" for "terrorists." We do not condone terrorism, but we are aware that ideas such as these can and have been used to obstruct legitimate activities.

Sponsors of the provisions claim they will not be used against persons involved in humanitarian causes and that the alien removal provisions will require the sanction of the Attorney General. This is cold comfort for us. The politicizing of the Justice Department is very well known to Irish Americans who support a united, democratic Ireland. Recall the extreme legal positions taken by the Justice Department in the Joe Doherty case and its use of "national security" and "foreign policy" evasions for refusing to provide information in legal proceedings; the general policy of all recent administrations to completely defer to British policy on all Irish matters, including the recent Gerry Adams visa denial (by the way, isn't it strange that the British can negotiate with Adams but Americans can't hear his views?); and, oh yes, the Justice Department cover-up of the Waco disaster, just to name a non-Irish topic.

Should we trust their objectivity? Given the propensity of the British and other "ally" governments to label their opponents as "terrorists" and our leaders' seeming acquiescence in this, we certainly fear the use of the provisions of the Crime Bill mentioned above to control expression of our views. We are not alone. Major civil liberties groups have the same concerns. What can you do? Start by writing the Action Letters suggested on p. 6 of this newsletter so that these undemocratic proposals will be removed from this legislation.

## Newsbits by Kathy Regan

Cartoon: Figure of John Major at a press conference saying, "It's the British government's one-point plan ... We point the finger of blame at everyone but ourselves." (*Irish Post*, 11/6/93)

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The ordinary people of [Ireland] know that the Hume-Adams initiative is the only thing that has even the remotest chance of bringing a just and lasting peace... The British government is babbling about so-called constitutional parties getting around the table again. However, they know better than any of us that these talks have no more chance of bringing about peace than they did in the past. To proceed with them is a futile gesture, akin to rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. (*Andersonstown News*, 11/6/93)

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The Unionists have no right to a veto over British policy... No national minority has a right to a veto over our future, especially when that's a subterfuge and excuse by the British government for what they are doing. Look at the veto in practice. If the unionists have a veto over partition, what about the rest of the Irish people? ... It isn't just a question for northern nationalists, it's for Irish nationalists - the whole of the island - to say. Also, what are the rights of the British people? Unionists in Ireland make up about 20% of the population. Unionists in the "United Kingdom" are about 1%. The absurdity is that this

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## OUR VIEW

*Northern Ireland has assumed unprecedented importance on the British and Irish political agenda and is finally receiving attention in the U.S. media. All this is good and we pray for positive developments. But there is no certainty that developments will be positive from the standpoint of those who support a united, democratic Ireland. The critical times are in the immediate future.*

*It is possible that the British Government only wishes to achieve a cessation of violence, and, perhaps, only by one side, the IRA, without any meaningful movement on their part toward a political solution.*

*Robert Heatley's article in this Newsletter gives cause for concern. Will the Major Government's secret deal with the Unionists prevent the Tories from moving forward? Will the Irish Government avoid the mistake they made in the Hillsborough Agreement in which they made serious concessions of principle (conceding the legitimacy of partition) in return for nothing more than "a right to speak . . .," but not to be heard!?*

*We do not wish to be negative and we will support any agreement subscribed by all parties, not just the British and Irish governments, which we see as at least moving in the direction of a united, democratic Ireland. But a "pig in a poke" we won't buy.*

## Imposed Border Economic Drain

by Michael Tuohy, PEC Director of Operations

According to the *Irish News*, a report on the economic cost of partition indicates that the economies on both sides of Britain's imposed border in Ireland have suffered greatly as a direct result of this unnatural division.

Competition for investment between the North and South has adversely affected the living standard of people in all parts of the island.

The report suggests that both economies operating together in a single market would increase the economic well-being of all the Irish people and put them in a stronger position to combat the problem of periphery in the European Community.

## The American Irish PEC

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Britain claims to have no selfish interest in Ireland. But it can be considered nothing less than selfish for them to remain in Ireland when their presence is clearly detrimental to the Irish people.

This leads one to consider whether it was the British government's intention from the outset of partition to remain in Ireland, thereby creating a condition that would eventually force the reintegration of the whole of Ireland back into the United Kingdom.

One must also question why Britain spends millions of dollars lobbying in the United States against the MacBride Principles, arguing that they discourage much needed investment in Northern Ireland, when their very presence in Ireland is far more damaging economically than the MacBride Principles could ever be conceived to be.

## TALKS . . . No More Fiascos

by Robert Heatley, co-founder of Campaign for Democracy,  
a predominantly Protestant organization based in Northern Ireland

Britain's Tory government is comprised of out-and-out imperialists of the old days kind. Not only does it require Northern Ireland Unionist MPs to keep it in office, but it is ideologically committed to colonialism and has no intention whatsoever of conceding political independence, self-determination and self-government to a re-united Ireland. In other words, it has no intention of conceding democracy. Major, Thatcher and others have made this clear over recent weeks.

Either an alternative faction in the British governing-establishment has lost out in the argument (temporarily?) or all the blather about Britain having "no selfish interest" or being altruistically "neutral" was sheer deception to mislead the Irish and international communities. Anyhow, the mask is off. According to British ministers: "Northern Ireland alone must be the unit of self-determination." No other part of the UK or, indeed, the greater part of Ireland, is to have a say. Why? Despite their pretense, this **intransigent** stance, which is the prime cause of violence, has **nothing to do with democracy**. They adhere to it, despite all decolonizing codes of international conduct, because it is the only one that will produce what they wish to achieve: the perpetuation of **their** sovereignty in a country other than their own, in this case Ireland.

Keeping with their notorious reputation, they have striven to be adroit in fabricating a spurious democratic "argument" to gloss over their fundamentally anti-democratic position. When their forebears imposed the boundaries of Northern Ireland, the "unit of self-determination," they fashioned a constituency which they then administered by anti-democratic methods, such as police-statism and religious apartheid - all designed to give them an internally-generated vote which served their purposes.

In other words, they operated a policy of **winning the consent of the Protestants for the union**. It culminated in the sick and squalid society of Northern Ireland. They are still operating that policy, signified most notably by the totally unjustifiable veto on progress which they have conferred **exclusively** on the Northern Ireland outpost of their Pan Unionist front. But the essence of this position, when viewed without prejudice, leaves them exposed for the anti-democrats which they are. Hence, their need to concoct a veneer which is the insinuation (rather than a claim) that Northern Ireland is responsible for the trouble because of how it exercises "self-determination." But this is a falsehood, too. While Section 75 of the Government of

Ireland Act (GIA), 1920, as preserved in the Northern Ireland Constitution Act, 1972, remains as a statute of the Westminster parliament, no such right, let alone power, exists in Northern Ireland's case, **nor should it**. This fact is not nullified by anything which people (some well-intentioned) may choose to read into the Anglo-Irish Agreement or by the farcical 10-year border polls. The fictitious nature of Northern Ireland's "self-determination" was demonstrated the past few days when Thatcher revealed that, when she was Prime Minister, she had contemplated redrawing the border (for security reasons). Did she bother to tell the Northern Ireland Unionists? Did she even consult the Irish government? An awful lot of people are keeping very "mum" on this point. But such behavior on the part of the British vis-a-vis Ireland is an ingrained habit. They can't help it. After all, **NO** Irish person, including the Unionist MPs at Westminster, voted for the present boundaries of the "unit of self-determination," i.e. for the GIA, 1920.

But what is the significance of all this for the re-starting of a talks "process"? It should be absolutely clear. Stage 1 should be inter-governmental and about getting the Westminster parliament to enact

legislation conceding de jure self-determination, **exercisable in conjunction with the rest of the Irish nation**, to that section of the Irish people from whom it is withheld. We understand Mr. Kevin McNamara's reasons for thinking that joint authority (or such like) might provide a softer short-term expedient. The Irish government should take his advice, however, that "... to abandon Articles 2 and 3 as a unilateral peace offering would be short-sighted and counter-productive."

The British disagree. Asked about reports that the two sides were considering a deal in which the Irish would trade Articles 2 and 3 for a British declaration that she had no interest in perpetuating the division of Ireland, one source (British) referring to declarations by Peter Brooke and subsequently by Sir Patrick Mayhew, said, "they already have that." Unfortunately, they also have declarations by Major and Thatcher. Despite what he said at Bodinstown, Reynolds could not buy a pig in a poke like that: or could he? Any Irish government suckered into such a "bargain" would be a laughing stock internationally.

Only when the conflict of sovereignties had been resolved at stage 1, with a democratic outcome, would it be worthwhile (in terms of securing peace) to move on to further stages. At this point the involvement of all the Irish people, including the unionists, would be credible because only then could they exercise their new-found sovereignty in fashioning to **their** liking a new Ireland, one in which protected rights and guarantees for a pluralistic society could be inbuilt.

If the British fail to agree to that Irish suggestion for talks, then the Irish government would be well advised to await the return of a different kind of British government (which might not be too far off) and hope for someone of Mr. McNamara's democratic outlook with whom to negotiate. Rather than lending credibility to time-wasting British formatted talks, they would be better off campaigning internationally in diplomatic circles to activate the support that exists for the Irish case.

Newsbits *con't from page 1*

1% will be given a veto if 99% of the rest of the British people decided that they wanted to do something. The reality is that the partition of Ireland and the British jurisdiction is contained in the Government of Ireland Act. It's an Act of the British Parliament and the British will change that whenever it sees fit. It has done so with the B-specials, Stormont, the Hillsborough Treaty. The unionists were never part of any legislative or other measure taken by the British in the last 20 years. The British always did it over the head of the unionists. (*Andersonstown News, 11/13/93*)

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In December, 1847, the House of Commons rushed through the Crime and Outrage (Ireland) Act "to combat the upsurge in agrarian crime." People were starving to death and yet landlords were pressing for rent and evicting those who could not pay. A few had the strength to fight back and so there was "agrarian crime." The Act resulted in thousands of additional troops being rushed to Ireland where they set about sorting out the "agrarian crime." (*Irish Post, 11/20/93*)

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Hundreds of people took part in a rally in support of the Hume/Adams peace initiative at Dublin's General Post Office. They turned up to welcome a group of ten women from Derry at the completion of their grueling 180-mile week-long walk from Derry to Dublin in support of the initiative. (*Analysis, 12/9/93*)

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A CHURCH of Ireland bishop yesterday rejected claims by Ulster Unionist John Taylor that large numbers of Protestants were forced to flee from the Republic after it was established. Dr. Roy Warke, Bishop of Cloyne and Ross, said relations were very good between Catholics and Protestants in the Irish Free State after the British left in 1922. Protestants growing up in the new State did not consider themselves as anything but Irish and saw Ireland as their home. (*Irish News, 12/9/93*)

## *My First Visit To Northern Ireland*

by Kevin W. Dorrian, *New York*

I recently spent two weeks in Belfast with my father who, along with my mother, emigrated to America 34 years ago. This was my first trip to Ireland and it has profoundly changed my outlook on life. In the two weeks I was there, four Catholics and one Protestant were murdered.

The first murder occurred not far from where I was staying. The victim was a 48-year-old Catholic mother of four who had just finished reading her children a bedtime story. She went downstairs to answer the knock at the door but, before she had time to open the door, she was gunned down by the Ulster Defense Association (UDA).

This incident struck a particular nerve because the murdered woman was a friend of my cousin at whose home I was staying. Also, my cousin's young daughter was a good friend of one of the murdered woman's daughters.

The next day the two young girls spoke of attending the funeral and the now-motherless child said, "...they put a bullet in my mommy's head. What would you feel like if they put a bullet in your mommy's head?" Even sadder are the comments made by the UDA the next day when they said they were sorry, that they meant to kill the father, who also was in no way involved.

The other murders were equally senseless. The only connection I could draw between the Catholics was that they were all businessmen. The Protestant corrections officer was murdered because the UDA felt he was treating Catholic prisoners with the same kindness and compassion as he did Protestants. This was reinforced in a letter written by a republican prisoner to the deceased man's family describing him as a

very kind and just man who treated all prisoners with dignity.

One of the murders vividly points out the injustice which has been created and perpetuated by the British. The UDA randomly walked into a hairdresser's on the Falls road and gunned down the owner in broad daylight. The two gunmen had first tried to enter the two adjacent businesses, a butchers and a fish and chip shop, but were foiled. In the hours preceding the attack, the area was saturated with British soldiers. **Oddly enough, at the time of the attack, there were no soldiers or police around.**

After the incident, the area was once again saturated with RUC and British soldiers. The crowd that had gathered was furious over the fact that a check point had been placed not far from the murder scene, as if the murderers would still be in the area. The British soldiers were taunting the crowd with comments such as "Fenian bastards" and even went so far as to crush an old man's leg between two Land Rovers.

These events would be considered abhorrent in any other country and necessary remedies would be taken to correct the situation. But, to the British, this is considered "an acceptable level of violence." The time has come for the British to admit their mistakes and let go of their last colony. They must agree to allow the United States to be the medium through which a peaceful settlement is reached. **I hope that President Clinton has the courage to make good on his "envoy" proposal.**

# *Analysis:*

## *Human Rights and Legal Defense in Northern Ireland*

by Ned Delaney, *PEC Indiana State Director*

*Analysis: Human Rights and Legal Defense in Northern Ireland*, (Prepared by: Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, 330 Seventh Avenue New York, NY 10001, February, 1993), examines two matters of serious concern involving the legal profession in Northern Ireland: (1) the premise that defense attorneys in Northern Ireland continue to be subject to official abuse and intimidation and (2) the unsolved killing of Patrick Finucane, a prominent Belfast solicitor active in defense and civil rights cases.

Information was gathered during a fact finding mission in August and September of 1992. This mission included: John J. Gibbons, Chief Judge (retired) of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit; Richard J. Hughes, Professor of Law at Seton Hall University; Michael Posner, Executive Director of the Lawyers Committee; and Martin Flaherty, Associate Professor of Law at Fordham University.

The mission breaks its summary of findings into six areas: Allegations of Intimidation, The Murder of Patrick Finucane, General Emergency Provisions, Access to Lawyers, Detention Practice and Conditions, and Complaint Procedures.

### **Allegations of Intimidation**

Most allegations of threats against lawyers focus on police detention centers. Frequent references depict detectives conducting interviews as bullying and threatening detainees. Disparaging and threatening remarks frequently target the detainee's solicitor. The most serious allegations of harassment to solicitors involve death threats. Sources reveal that authorities constantly try to drive a wedge between clients and solicitors by alluding to the solicitor's competence. Solicitors complained of anonymous threats, break-ins, and buggings. Public officials

frequently speculate that awards for complainants alleging police mistreatment frequently go to help support paramilitary activities.

**The Murder of Patrick Finucane**  
Patrick Finucane was murdered in 1989, after remarks made by MP Douglas Hogg pertaining to solicitors "unduly sympathetic" to paramilitary groups. The Lawyers Committee report implies the existence of credible evidence suggesting collusion between elements within the security forces and loyalist paramilitaries in Finucane's murder.

The report links the murder to Finucane's effective legal advocacy in politically sensitive cases. (Evidence also emerged during the Brian Nelson trial linking the British Army to Finucane's murder.) The mission report suggests evidence involving the RUC: "They refused to discuss any aspect of the Finucane case on the grounds that its investigation is ongoing."

### **General Emergency Provisions**

Two emergency measures serve as cornerstones of a system designed to obtain convictions in cases involving suspected paramilitaries: the Emergency Provision Act of 1991 and the Prevention of Terrorism Act of 1989. Under the PTA, an individual may be held for up to seven days without charge - extensions are frequent. Confessions are frequently obtained under duress. There are no trials by jury. The "right to silence" may be admissible as guilt.

### **Access to Lawyers**

The PTA and EPA delay access of lawyers to their clients. The EPA allows 48 hours before allowing a client consultation with their solicitor. A consultation can be restricted to one half hour, and the 48 hour delay can be reinstated for up to 48 periods. The EPA can also censor a solicitor from discussing the case with

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anyone.

### **Detention Practice and Condition**

Accounts from detainees of physical and psychological abuse are numerous. Though closed circuit television is evident in interrogation rooms, authorities refuse to activate them during interrogation sessions, claiming the tapes could fall into the hands of paramilitaries.

### **Complaint Procedures**

In complaint cases involving suspected paramilitary activity, the RUC is accountable only unto itself. In this area, the mission report reveals the Northern Ireland system to be highly inadequate. According to the report, "The RUC's record in handling complaints of harassment and intimidation of lawyers is poor." It is implied that attorneys generally have little confidence in the accountability of police.

The Northern Ireland Office has responded to the Lawyers Committee report. With respect to intimidation, the NIO states: "The attitude of both the Government and the RUC to the sort of behavior you allege in this section is unequivocal. If such behavior takes place, it is totally unacceptable." However, Deputy Chief Constable, M. McAtamney, continues: "The shortcomings of the draft report are such as to lead me to the conclusion that it does not merit detailed comment..."

Readers should be aware that the Lawyers Committee report is corroborated by studies conducted by the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, Amnesty International, U.S. Helsinki Watch, and the Committee on the Administration of Justice. Copies of the Lawyers Committee report on Northern Ireland may be obtained from the LCHR and the American Irish PEC.

### **JOIN OR SUPPORT**

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# Plantation and the Penal Laws

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by Stephanie Finucane

By 1609 British subjugation of Ireland had been going on for almost 450 years. However, both the previous Norman Conquest (1169-1485) and the Tudor-Stuart Conquest (1485-1610) failed in fully colonizing Ireland. During the 1609 Plantation of Ulster, the British conquered the leaders of the native Irish Ulster families and sent them fleeing to Europe. Britain took over 4 million acres of Ulster, including Donegal, Derry, Tyrone, Fermanah, Cavan and Armagh. (The three remaining counties of Ulster, Antrim, Down and Monaghan, were taken later). The Irish were cast aside, "driven like wild fowl or beasts, from the rich and fertile valleys of Ulster, which had been theirs from time immemorial, to the bogs and the moors of the barren crags - where it was hoped that they might starve," writes Seumas MacManus in his book *The Story of the Irish Race*.

The Plantation brought over a foreign people who "spoke differently, worshipped apart, and represented an alien culture and way of life," (Darby, J. ed. *Northern Ireland: The Background to the Conflict*) and who were given land under the written condition that they hate the native Irish: "They were bound never to alien the lands to Irish, to admit no Irish customs, not to intermarry with the Irish, not to permit any Irish other than menials to exist on or near their lands" (MacManus). The settlers were further distanced from the native Irish by their tight ties to Britain commercially, culturally and politically, and their economic superiority via efficient farming techniques and greater availability of capital.

A settler's son recorded the character of these settlers, describing them as "scum . . . who from debt, or breaking, or fleeing justice, or seeking shelter, came hither hoping to be without fear of man's justice" (MacManus). It was on behalf of this caliber of people that the native Irish were "relegated to a state below

servility, because the Planters were not allowed to employ the native Irish as servants in the new town(s) which they built" (Darby).

The 1690 Battle of the Boyne finally secured the subjugation of Ireland and precipitated the draconian Penal Laws. By 1692, the Irish Parliament in Dublin was exclusively Protestant, enabling easy passage of this series of brutal acts against Catholics. The Laws received great criticism. French jurist Montesquieu described them as "conceived by demons, written in blood, and registered in Hell" (MacManus). MacManus also cites Professor Lecky, a "Protestant of British blood and ardent British sympathy," who, in his book on the history of Ireland in the 18th century, describes the Laws as "an instrument employed by a conquering race (the Anglo-Irish) supported by a neighboring Power, to crush to the dust the people among whom they were planted." The Laws have been compared to the color bar and the 'Jim Crow' laws in the U.S.

The Penal Laws set out to destroy the native Irish Catholic community. Catholics were "barred from every form of public office; they could not join the army or the navy, they could not vote, nor be elected to Parliament; nor could they be members of the legal profession. The Catholic priesthood was expelled from the country and was liable to be hanged, drawn and quartered if they returned. All forms of Catholic education were made illegal, and Catholics were barred from sending their children abroad to study. But the most important effect of the Penal Laws was on the system of land ownership, the root of all political power. The laws prohibited Catholics from buying land, taking mortgages on it, or leasing land for more than thirty-one years" (Downing, T. ed. *The Troubles: The Background to the Question of Northern Ireland*). The Laws ended

primogeniture (inheritance of an estate by the oldest son), requiring Catholic estates to be divided equally among sons. Any son who became a Protestant automatically inherited the entire estate. As a result, Catholic land ownership declined: in 1641 Catholics owned 59% of Irish land. By the mid-1800s it was down to 7% (Downing).

The Laws were concocted "for the aggrandizement of a privileged caste, which with its flunkey and sycophant hangers-on never totaled more than one-sixth of the population of Ireland," writes T. A. Jackson (*Ireland Her Own: An Outline History of the Irish Struggle*). He continues: ". . . this iniquitous Code . . . conceals the political subjection of a distinct people to special super-exploitation, combined with social segregation and humiliation, all under a cloak of zeal for a particular religion. That this religion was the Established Religion of the imperial country shows this pretended zeal as the imperialist hypocrisy it was."

In 1994 Britain still portrays the mess she created in Ireland as a religious war in which Catholics and Protestants cannot live together. How strange it is for Britain to hide behind a religious excuse when she, in the early half of the 17th century, transformed herself overnight from a Catholic country into a Protestant country over a technicality: to allow the King to get a divorce. Sadly, Britain's legacy of lies continues. (*The Story of the Irish Race*, hard cover, 737 pages, available from the American Irish Awareness Committee for \$18.95 plus \$2.50 p&h).

## JOIN OR SUPPORT The American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC)

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# Washington Update

by Peter J. O'Malley

The PEC's national peace vigils during the week of November 10 - 17 were quite successful. The U.N. vigil on November 10 was attended by approximately 80 peace demonstrators and several dignitaries and representatives from various Irish groups.



Peace supporters rally at Ralph Bunche Park opposite United Nations in New York City.

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On November 15 the PEC, along with Representative Richard Neal (D-Mass), organized 17 members of Congress to speak on the floor of the House of Representatives on the issue of Northern Ireland. These Congressional Special Orders were broadcast throughout the country on C-SPAN. Through the activities of the PEC, these Special Orders were scheduled to appear on Britain's BBC 1 on Friday, November 26, 1993.



From left to right: U.S. Senator Robert Dole, PEC President John Finucane and Congressman Benjamin Gilman. Finucane recently met with Senator Dole and strongly urged that he get involved in finding a just solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland.

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The November 17 vigil in Washington, DC capped off the week's activities by focusing greater attention on Northern Ireland in Congressional circles. The vigil itself will be part of a documentary film for a PBS television special on Northern Ireland to be aired in February of 1994. Tentatively, this special will focus on the nationalist point of view in Northern Ireland, Ireland and the United States. The PEC was instrumental in getting Rep.

Neal and Rep. Robert Menendez (D-N.J.) to appear in the documentary.

In total, the PEC's Washington, DC activities have cemented our relationships with Congress and have reached out to new and different Members to add their voice to the chorus for peace in Northern Ireland. These activities are just the beginning. We must continue to work with Congress and build broad support for our issue. We need to work longer and harder to make sure this "window of opportunity" is kept open.



Peter O'Malley (center), PEC Government Action Team Director, speaks with Washington, D.C. school children on the issue of peace in Ireland at the Lafayette Park vigil, as Rita Mullin of the Irish National Caucus looks on.



### Action Requests

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

#### Action Request #1

The pending Crime Bill legislation, (See article on page 1), has a few dangerous provisions that threaten our constitutional rights. **Write:** Hon. Charles Schumer, House Committee on the Judiciary, 2449 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Dear Congressman Schumer:

I consider the provisions of the Crime Bill regarding "Alien Terrorist Removal" and "Providing Material Support for Terrorists" to be undemocratic, unnecessary and probably unconstitutional. I urge you and your colleagues to delete them from the final version of the Crime Bill. We can fight crime without resorting to totalitarian measures to stifle dissent.

Sincerely,

#### Action Request #2

In addition to the above letter to Congressman Schumer, a key player in his capacity as Chairman of the Crime and Criminal Justice Subcommittee of the Judiciary Committee, please write similiar letters to your own U.S. Senators and House Representative. **Write:** Hon. (Senator's Name), U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510, and Hon. (House Representative's Name), U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. If you do not know the names of your congressional representatives, contact your town hall.

With your support there is a good chance these un-American proposals can be removed from the Bill.

**Due to our new printing schedule, the Newsletter will arrive in the mail within the first 10 days of each month.**

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