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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 19, Number 4

April 1994

Attention Congress And Media

To understand the cause of the conflict in Ireland see *Partition*, the first Reproduce & Distribute in this newsletter. If you have any questions relative to the conflict in Northern Ireland, please give us a call at (914) 947-2726.

We Have Moved!!!

We have expanded our operations. Our new address is:

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC
54 South Liberty Drive, Suite 401
Stony Point, NY 10980
(914) 947-2726

THE DOWNING STREET DECLARATION

by Albert Doyle, Vice President

At the time of the Downing Street Declaration it was hailed far and wide as the dawning of a new day in British-Irish relations concerning the north of Ireland. The euphoria was particularly heady from the Irish side, although the hyperbole exceeded by far the substance of the document. Mr. Major knew better. From the start he assured the uneasy northern unionists that they need not worry; that there would be no real change as a result of the agreement because of the veto right over change given to the unionists by this and other documents. Of course he might have been uneasy himself about his alliance with these 17th century throw-back reactionaries, but having struck a Faustian bargain with them as the price of retaining their Parliamentary support -- vital to his political survival -- he was compelled to tough it out, even to the absurd point of denying that he had made a deal. (See "Deal Threatens Irish Peace Talks", *American Irish Newsletter*, September 1993)

Well, as usual, actions speak louder than words in politics. As predicted at the time of his unionist bargain, Mr. Major has now produced a proposal to create a Parliamentary Select Committee on Northern Ireland and proposes to give the unionists a dominating position on the committee, far out of proportion to their numbers. To their credit the Labor Party has protested. As background, remember that for many years the London Parliament kept hands off the affairs of the north, letting the notorious Stormont regime run the artificially created statelet. This was convenient for all concerned. Britain was able to maintain its iron grip on the north through its loyalist stooges, but at the same time they could avert their gaze from the blatant sectarian, undemocratic actions of their agents.

When the odor of this system became too ripe and noticed by the rest of the world, Stormont had to be abrogated and direct rule ensued; hence the "need" for the Select Committee. But what about the famous "processes" called for in the Downing Street Declaration? Wasn't that supposed to be the vehicle for changing things in the north of Ireland? Does it reveal that they never intended anything to come from the Declaration, other than an IRA surrender, of course?

Newsbits by Kathy Regan

A plea to Republicans to take a huge psychological step and back the Downing Street declaration was issued by Taoiseach Albert Reynolds....He also insisted that republicans and nationalists would have to accept that however well-founded their objections to the imposition of partition and to Northern Ireland as a political entity, it's people cannot in the last resort be out-voted and coerced into a united-Ireland (Analysis, 3/3/94).

Sinn Fein has given a cautious welcome to John Major's plea for peace. The republican movement has yet to respond officially, but Sinn Fein have shown an interest in what is seen as a softening of tone by Downing Street. Direct talks between the British government and Sinn Fein are vital if republicans are to accept the Downing Street declaration, said Martin McGuinness at Sinn Fein's ard fheis in Dublin. Mr. Gerry Adams said that was the only way the Downing Street declaration could help republicans decide if it improved the nationalist and republican position. Mr. McGuinness also said that comments from John Major, Patrick Mayhew and Douglas Hurd showed the British were tentatively grasping with new realities. There are clear signs that many of them

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OUR VIEW

As of now it appears that Sinn Fein will not deliver the IRA cease-fire, which is the price demanded by the British and Irish Governments in order for Sinn Fein to participate in the promised "processes" called for in the Downing Street Declaration. Of course the value of that place at the table has always been doubtful, given the loyalist veto power over any change provided in the Declaration -- a veto over Democracy in Ireland. In fact, it was doubtful that the loyalists would sit down with Sinn Fein, even if they had produced an IRA cease-fire.

Predictably we will now witness a propaganda onslaught from London and Dublin claiming that Sinn Fein's position has prevented any progress in Northern Ireland. This is, of course, only a smokescreen for the failure of the two governments to come up with any new ideas. We must not let the governments get away with using Sinn Fein's position as an excuse to back away from their promises to initiate the processes called for in their Declaration. If they do this we can only conclude that the vaunted Declaration never really had any processes in mind and was only designed to secure the surrender of the IRA - period. Yes, it would be best if Sinn Fein were a party to further discussions but we see no reason why the promised processes for changing the political structure in the north of Ireland cannot start without them for the time being.

After all, the Declaration is an agreement between two sovereign governments - not involving Sinn Fein or any other political party - and in the final analysis any action for change will have to come from those governments. So let them get on with the "new political framework" and the "creation of new institutions and structures" called for in the Declaration. Their failure to do so now will cause all concerned to conclude that the Declaration was never intended to change anything - only to get an IRA cease-fire. We certainly hope this is not the case. The ball is now in the courts of London and Dublin.

Offensive Situations

by Andy Kelly, Washington State Director

Our new policy for *Offensive Situations* is as follows. Andy Kelly will first contact the offending companies, institutions, etc. in an effort to resolve the situation. If the situation is not resolved in this manner, he will then ask the members to write to the offender.

Local *Offensive Situations* should not be referred to Andy. These situations should be handled by the local community. Only matters national in scope should be directed to Andy.

Send Offensive Situations To: Andy Kelly, 168 South Coeur D'Alene Street - 102E, Spokane, Washington 99204

Political Education Committee (PEC)

American Ireland Education Foundation, Inc.

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

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Did You Send Your Donation

... in response to our recent solicitation sent to you in the mail? We need your support so that we can meet the increased demands placed on the PEC because of the peace process unfolding in Ireland.

Keep Your Membership Up-To-Date

If the 4 digit number on the first line of your address label on last page of the newsletter is 9404 or less, your membership has expired.

Keep The PEC Financially Strong

From the North

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

The problems of Northern Ireland stem from an artificial boundary created in the interests of Britain's imperial policies between 1919-1921. That is to say, it suffers from an artificial border created by an imperial government that could not hold all the territory it had interests in. Just as imperialists in the Middle East and other regions receded into newly defined areas, the British, pressed by revolution and unable to hold the whole island of Ireland, receded into the northeast corner and set up a regime to take care of their interests for the next fifty years.

We have to set the problems in Ireland in an historical context, otherwise we will be led astray to believe the most bizarre explanations of the nature of the conflicts - for instance, that they are caused by the inability of Protestants and Catholics to live together in peace.

Such interpretations are both wrong and foolish - wrong because they ignore the real reasons why an imperial government treated Ireland in 1919-1921 exactly as it treated the Middle East and Africa during the same period; foolish because if we misunderstand the problems we shall waste time and resources trying to solve problems which do not exist while ignoring those

which do. In such imperial arrangements made after World War I, tribal, ethnic and religious groupings and aspirations were ignored and boundaries set according to imperialists' wants.

Significantly, in the Middle East some of the same people were involved in drawing up the artificial boundaries as were involved in Ireland, Churchill, Lloyd George and others.

Of all the problems created by imperialists of the time, Ireland's is unique: it can be resolved with a minimum of bloodshed and with the possibility of all parties to the conflict becoming allies once the democratic dissolution of partition is achieved. In 1919-1921 the British sought to secure their interests by setting up artificial boundaries and fostering division between the people within them.

This was done to prevent a common front against imperial policies. Now, in the face of increased cooperation within the European Community, Britain has declared that it has "no selfish strategic or economic interest" in Ireland (the historic reasons for the conquest and partition of Ireland). This acknowledgement that the imperial arrangements are no longer "necessary" is significant in the quest for peace.

What democratic people in Ireland are saying is that it is not in the interest of any people that Britain should remain in Ireland, and that dissolving the imperial arrangement of partition would enhance the prosperity and peace of both Ireland and Britain. It should be the policy of all governments that this division be peacefully dissolved by Britain's recognition that it cannot create a democracy in Ireland. The Irish people as a whole must be given their right as well as the resources to carry out this responsibility.

ATTENTION MEMBERS !

Amnesty International's latest report on collusion between the British army, Northern Irish Police (RUC) and loyalist terrorists, entitled, "Political Killings In Northern Ireland," is now available from the PEC.

Send \$ 5.00 + \$ 1.50 shipping & handling to: The PEC-AIEF, 54 South Liberty Drive, Suite 401, Stony Point, NY, 10980.

Amnesty International Members Needed!

Ned Delaney, PEC Indiana State Director and national member of Amnesty International USA, attended the Midwest regional conference of Amnesty International on the weekend of February 25-27 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Mr. Delaney submitted a resolution to the conference based on Amnesty's most recent report on the north of Ireland entitled **Political Killings in Northern Ireland** (available from the PEC, see ad above). This document includes the case of civil rights attorney, Patrick Finucane, who was killed in 1989, in front of his wife and children by British government backed loyalist terrorists."

Unfortunately, due to procedural error, the resolution was defeated in the final session of the conference. Members of the PEC who are also members of Amnesty International, or who are in contact with members of Amnesty, are encouraged to introduce resolutions pertaining to the political conflict in Ireland at future Amnesty International Regional Conferences. We need to continue highlighting British injustice in Ireland. The credibility that a worldwide human rights organization like Amnesty gives our issue helps to further our goals. To find out more about the conferences contact your local Amnesty chapter. For a sample resolution contact the PEC.

TO THE EDITOR

Dear PEC:

After reading the full-page ads which appeared recently in several newspapers [including the New York Times] asking for American initiatives to bring peace to Ireland, signed by concerned Americans, I believe the American Irish PEC can feel in a very real way they were influential in bringing this about by its own ads placed prior to the 1992 national political conventions. If you sometimes feel your efforts are not successful, the recent turn of events should encourage everyone.

*Paul F. McGinty
Narberth, PA*

Newsbits *con't from page 1*

are troubled by their role in Ireland. Many of them know in their hearts that the partition was wrong (*Analysis*, 3/3/94).

Virginia State Director Joe Joyce has informed us that the Virginia MacBride Principles Bill, which passed the state Senate, was tabled by the House of Representatives for consideration next year. The British government sent representatives to lobby members of the Virginia legislature to oppose MacBride as part of their continuing campaign against fair employment (and international embarrassment) in Ireland. Not only does Britain interfere with Ireland's affairs but it is actively interfering in the legislative affairs of the United States (*AIN-PEC*, 3/5/94).

A Catholic father-of-two who dived through two windows to escape a loyalist death squad yesterday claimed he had been set up by the RUC...Mr. Donnelly said he has been the subject of constant harassment from two RUC special branch officers, who have allegedly threatened his life...The 27 year old also claimed that a week before the attack police raided his house and sketched a plan of the building, allegedly telling him it was to be passed on to a leading loyalist (*Irish News*, 3/10/94).

The British House of Commons voted by a majority of 103 last night to set up a Northern Ireland Affairs Select Committee, despite opposition from Labour and the SDLP...But the shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, Mr. Kevin McNamara of Labour, warned that ministers were "jeopardising the peace process for the sake of political expediency. Instead they should be working with the Irish Government and the parties in Northern Ireland to agree to a just and lasting settlement which respects the rights and aspirations of both communities" (*Irish Times*, 3/10/94).

1995 -- The 150th Anniversary Of Ireland's Great Starvation

1995 is the 150th Anniversary of Ireland's Great Starvation (1845-1847), the most devastating period in the on going British-Irish colonial conflict. During the years 1845 through 1849, Ireland's population was decimated by hunger and hunger-related diseases. The population decreased from 8.5 million to 4.5 million. Some 2 million people died. An equal amount emigrated.

The role of the PEC-AIEF during the commemoration period (1995-1997) will be to educate the public about this holocaust. With your participation, we will be successful not only in creating public awareness of this period, but also in winning public support for our goal of a democratic, united Ireland. From time to time we will publish articles in the newsletter for you to reproduce and distribute. The most important part of the commemoration will be public awareness. The education of the public begins with us.

YOU MUST BEGIN EDUCATING NOW !

We must be aggressive in our efforts to educate the public. Educators and students must make sure Ireland's Great Starvation becomes part of their school curriculum. All members should make sure that books and videos on the topic are available in community libraries, book stores, video rental shops, etc. We have an excellent video and book available -- **see below**. We should also use these items for gift-giving. Every Irish American family should own these items. *Contact the PEC-AIEF for special prices on bulk purchases at 800-777-6807.*

YOU CAN BEGIN EDUCATING by purchasing a copy of the video and book below. Make sure they are utilized by as many people as possible. Make copies of this article and distribute them to your associates, and members of any Irish American organizations with which you are associated. Your efforts will pay off with increased awareness and a public prepared for 1995.

PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW !

WHEN IRELAND STARVED (VIDEO).....\$29.95

The most effective educational tool available about Ireland's Great Starvation. This two-hour video documentary, produced by Radharc Films of Dublin, is the first-ever film account of one of history's most brutal crimes against humanity - an **artificially induced "famine"** in a land with enough food to feed twice its population!

The PEC-AIEF made this video available in the US by bringing together the producers of the film and a video distribution company.

PADDY'S LAMENT by Thomas Gallagher\$8.95

In 1846 an unknown and uncontrollable disease turned the potato crop in Ireland into inedible slime and the meager existence of all Ireland was threatened. Appealing to their British governors for relief, the peasant tenants instead received eviction, starvation, rampant sickness and death. *Paddy's Lament* portrays their plight in staggering detail. In less than two years, two million Irish -- one-quarter of the entire population -- had died.

TO ORDER send check or money order, plus \$2.00 shipping & handling to: PEC-AIEF, 54 South Liberty Drive, Suite 401, Stony Point, NY 10980 or call 800-777-6807 for Visa or Mastercard orders. **New York State residents include sales tax.**

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

But England refused to grant majority rule to Ireland. England told the Irish delegates that the province of Ulster would be temporarily separated from the rest of Ireland until an accommodation could be reached with loyalists in Ulster. The alternative given the Irish was an "immediate and terrible war."

Partition:

The Cause of the British-Irish Conflict

by Thomas Garvey, *New Jersey*

When the Orange-English leaders took another look at Ulster, they found that in six of Ulster's nine counties, the nationalists [predominately Catholic] were in the majority and could conceivably vote Ulster into a united Ireland in their time. Then England unilaterally changed the rules of the game by excluding three of Ulster's counties which had a strong nationalist majority.

But even England, with all her deceit and guile, could no longer sell this artificial statelet as Ulster.

They had to settle for Northern Ireland. It has no historic or natural geographic boundaries, but only artificial boundaries drawn solely to ensure perpetual domination by the loyalists.

England then illegally turned over the governing power of the new statelet to the rabidly anti-Catholic Orange Order and made a non-interference covenant with them, giving them free reign. Matters relating to Northern Ireland, allegedly a part of Britain, were never discussed in the British Parliament. Catholics were always treated as second class citizens. But now, under

the Orange government, conditions became intolerably worse.

In the words of Sir James

But even England, with all her deceit and guile, could no longer sell this artificial statelet as Ulster. They had to settle for Northern Ireland. It has no historic or natural geographic boundaries, but only artificial boundaries drawn solely to ensure perpetual domination by the loyalists.

Craig, Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, 1921-1940, "I have always said I am an Orangeman first and a politician and member of the parliament afterwards - all I boast is that we are a Protestant parliament and a Protestant state." Sir Basil Brooke, Prime Minister, 1943-1963, stated: "I recommend those people who are Loyalists not to employ Roman

Catholics, 99% of whom are disloyal... You people who are employers have the ball at your feet. If you don't act properly now, before we know where we are, we shall find ourselves in a minority, instead of in the majority. I

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want you to realize that, having done your bit, you have got your Prime Minister behind you."

Today's loyalist masses are kept in continual fear of Catholicism by the Rev. Ian Paisley's passionate crusade. His hushed listeners are told that all men are not children of God - some few are elected to be saved; that Roman Catholicism is the Anti-Christ, Greatest of all Heresies, Mother of Harlots, Whore of Babylon, Enemy of Godliness and Freedom. His religious

His hushed listeners are told that all men are not children of God - some few are elected to be saved; that Roman Catholicism is the Anti-Christ, Greatest of all Heresies, Mother of Harlots, Whore of Babylon, Enemy of Godliness and Freedom.

oratory is without charity, moderation or ideas - a fierce blast of 17th century righteousness and emotion. In response to incitements from their leaders, loyalists vented their feelings on the then defenseless Catholics by burning out whole sections of nationalist areas and leaving hundreds dead, injured and homeless.

In 1968, when civil rights groups, including some fair-minded Protestants, held peaceful protest marches they were set upon and beaten by Orange mobs while the police turned their backs or joined the mobs. Nowhere in Christendom is a people so vilely persecuted.

Be A Peacemaker

Join or Support

The American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC)

54 South Liberty Drive, Stony Point, New York; phone # 1-800-777-6807.

Published April 1994 by American Irish PEC

Four Irishmen, two-thirds of the original Tucson Six, are standing trial on arms charges in Tucson, Arizona. Thomas Maguire, Gerard Brannigan, Patrick Moley and Denis Leyne are joined in Federal Court by two Americans, John Joseph Lynch and William F. Kelly. The trial, expected to last two to three months and to include 200 witnesses from the Irish-American community, opened before Federal Judge John Roll on March 1. All six have pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiring to ship munitions to Ireland. Moley's brother's Seamus and Kevin, the remaining third of the original Tucson 6, have already served 51 months at Tucson's Federal Correctional Institution on separate charges, and face a future trial.

Tucson Six Update: Up to 14 on Trial

by Dorothy L. Pennachio, *New Jersey*

How Six Became Fourteen

The Federal case against the so-called Tucson Six, which has grown over past months to an indictment against 14 Irish Canadians and Americans, is called by the Government a major strike against international terrorism and a victory in its crusade to stop American support for the IRA. But what this case can be said to demonstrate is the lengths to which the U.S. will go to intimidate the Irish-American community. Tactics employed by Federal prosecutors have been those better saved for political prisoners.

The labyrinth began in January 1990 when Moley and McKinley were convicted on charges of purchasing a \$50,000 Stinger missile from an undercover agent in Florida. They were sentenced to 51 months at Tucson's Federal Correctional Institution (FCI). Their terms ended last September, yet Moley left FCI just this past February 25 and it wasn't until January 13 that McKinley walked out after satisfying a \$1.2 million bond. Prosecutors argued that the two may be flight risks because they have no personal association with the individuals who pledged property for the bail bonds. Now the Government claims that it has uncovered evidence that the Stinger purchase was only a part of an arms-running conspiracy more widespread than originally thought, and the two men have been indicted a second time.

What's going on, say some, is "Green-baiting": the protracted

prosecution is a fishing expedition for Irish-Americans, mostly on the East Coast, willing to post resources for detailed and astronomical bail packages on behalf of arrested Irish. The FBI has been harassing families, all intended to have a chilling effect on the Irish-American community.

The Stinger sting

Moley emigrated to the U.S. in December 1989. Three weeks after he arrived in Palm Beach he and McKinley were charged with purchasing a high-tech Stinger surface-to-air missile. It is for that 1990 charge that the two served a 51-month term in FCI, Tucson. But now the FBI is saying that, at the time of the Stinger buy the two were already immersed in a far-flung munitions conspiracy. They allege that, two months previous, Moley and McKinley had bought 2,900 detonators and packed them on a bus bound for New York City, where a dozen compatriots smuggled the arms to north-east Ireland for use in IRA bombings between January 1991 and June 1992.

In August 1992, conspiracy indictments against the original Tucson 6 were handed down by a Tucson grand jury. But then, five months later in January 1993, a superseding indictment came down, and that's when the Tucson 6 became the Tucson 14. The new indictment named among others, a third Moley brother, Aiden.

McCarthy-esque goings on

Federal prosecutors have cloaked evidence against the men in the

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Foreign Security Act, which allows defense attorneys little information on the Government's evidence and effectively blocks the defense team from building its case. For example, FSA restrictions cover wire taps taken of alleged phone conversations among the defendants. The Government says the tap tapes prove its case while the defense says those same tapes may prove entrapment. As a result of the FSA, the defense team has access only to an edited transcript, and authenticity of the tapes themselves is being called into question.

The trial is being held in Arizona, even though the majority of the alleged crimes took place in New York, Florida and Toronto; the community from which the jury was chosen has little Irish-American support. Federal marshals had requested that spectators be required to sign a log and show identification, but the national Lawyers' Guild objected on grounds of unconstitutionality. It's supposed that the marshals intended to give the jury the impression that the indicted individuals were dangerous. Another inflammatory prosecution tactic thrown out by the judge was a film showing a school bus being blown up by detonators like those allegedly purchased.

In addition, there allegedly was pretrial evidence-tampering by the prosecutor: the office of Tucson attorney A. Bates Butler III was broken into, his files rifled.

It is this type of judicial inappropriateness that leads some to claim that the Tucson 14 are political prisoners, and that for our government to harass and intimidate our allies' political foes is a sorry use of the U.S. judiciary.

BE A PEACEMAKER

Join or Support
**The American Irish Political
 Education Committee (PEC)**
 54 South Liberty Drive, Stony Point,
 New York; phone # 1-800 777-6807.

Published April 1994 by American Irish PEC

Washington Report:

CONGRESS CALLS FOR ACTION ON NORTH OF IRELAND

At least three recent meetings and another hour of "Special Orders" speeches, have kept the conflict in the north of Ireland persistently on the radar screen of Congress in recent weeks. The PEC has played an active role in several events, working with dozens of Congressional offices, initiating new opportunities for Members of Congress to speak out on the north, and providing liaison with members of the press.

On Monday, February 28, House Speaker Thomas Foley (D-WA) invited a handful of House members, including Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs co-chair, Rep. Ben Gilman (R-NY), and Rep. Richard Neal (D-MA), to a private meeting with Prime Minister John Major, who was visiting Washington on his recent U.S. tour. The meeting covered a range of foreign affairs concerns, but was punctuated by Gilman's and Neal's full court press on the north of Ireland. A tense, and occasionally heated, discussion ensued in which Neal questioned Major about his willingness to set a date for troop withdrawal (Major was not willing). Gilman pressed the Prime Minister on the recent Amnesty International report on UK human rights abuses, which Major called inaccurate. Neal spoke later of his discomfort with Major's references to the people of the Republic of Ireland as the "Southern Irish", a remark he found prejudicial and indicative of attitudes fueling the conflict. He pointed this out to Major in the meeting.

Later that week, Rep. Neal led House colleagues in an impassioned plea for a stronger U.S. role in the peace process for Northern Ireland. The occasion was the second in a series of House Special Orders periods, the first of which took place on November 15, 1993.

Eight Members delivered an hour of remarks calling for more balanced examination of violence on both sides of the conflict and the appointment of a U.S. envoy to the peace process, among other topics. Members cited human rights abuses, such as the grisly murder of human rights attorney, Patrick Finucane, as a rationale for U.S. involvement. Rep. Gilman kindly credited the PEC and John Finucane with vital help in initiating and supporting the Special Orders periods. The full hour was broadcast throughout the US on C-Span.

Members participating were **Neal, Gilman, Rep. Joe Moakley (D-MA), Rep. Peter King (R-NY), Rep. Peter Blute (R-MA), Rep. Jim Walsh (R-NY), Rep. Tom Manton (R-NY) and Rep. Martin Hoke (R-OH).**

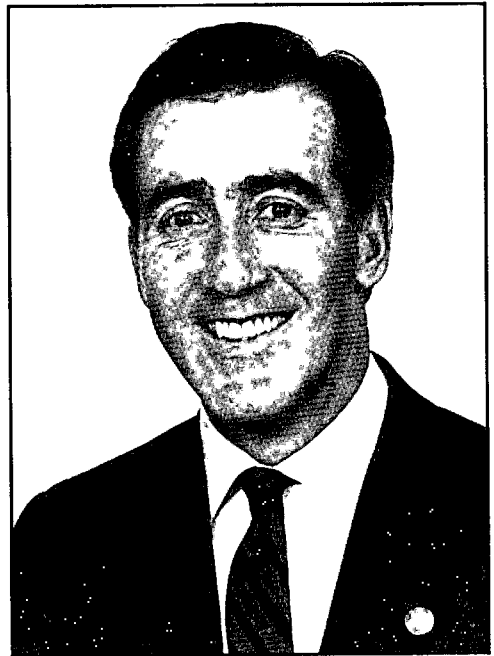
"I think our message tonight on the future of Northern Ireland is clear.

It is simply that the peace negotiations must be given every opportunity to succeed. The British should know that our intense interest in this issue will not cease and our concern will not ease until there is a fair, balanced and lasting solution to the continuing tragedy of Northern Ireland," Rep. Neal noted. He has promised another Special Orders period next month.

That same day, Neal, Gilman, Manton and King met with Martin Finucane, brother of Patrick Finucane, who is touring the U.S. on behalf of the human rights center which bears his brother's name. PEC Washington Rep Monica Worth also attended the meeting. Amnesty International's new report on the United Kingdom detailed Finucane's murder and was cited by Congressmen in the March 2 speeches.

Members also met that day with the deputy to Patrick Mayhew, who was accompanied by Mrs. Mayhew on a visit to Capitol Hill. Rep. Neal pressed the visitors about UK coverage of the recent meeting between Members of Congress and Prime Minister John Major, in which Major was erroneously depicted as having aggressively put Congressional detractors in their place.

U.S. visits by Irish President



Representative Richard Neal

Mary Robinson and Taoiseach Albert Reynolds will keep the subject in the eyes of Americans between now and St. Patrick's Day. President Clinton plans a "Celebration of Ireland" gala in Reynolds' honor for St. Patrick's Day evening. Rep. Neal is organizing a series of speeches from the House floor that morning as well.

Clinton Postcards Available

The postcards addressed to President Clinton, asking him to appoint his promised special envoy to Northern Ireland, recently sent to you in the mail with the PEC fund-raising letter, are now available.

You are urged to order the pre-addressed cards and get friends, family members, business associates, etc., to fill them out. You can also bring the cards to public events. You will be keeping the pressure on President Clinton. It is through the grass roots efforts of people like you that change will come about.

To order your cards call 800-777-6807 or write the PEC.

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 U R G E N T !!!

The Senate and House of Representatives will soon conference to produce one Crime Bill from their respective versions. The Senate version, on which no hearings have been held (see AIN Jan. 94), contains provisions that provide for summary deportations by secret courts without letting the defendants see the evidence against them. It also imposes criminal penalties for "providing material support" to those deemed "terrorists" without clearly defining the term. These provisions will control political thought more than crime and intimidate Americans from speaking out on British injustice in Ireland. Our efforts to bring democracy to Ireland will only be successful if we have democracy in the United States. For this reason it is imperative that you take the time to write all of the following letters.

Write or call: your US Congressional Representative at House of Representatives, Washington, DC, 20515 -- phone # 202 225-3121, and your US Senators at U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 -- phone # 202 224-3121. It is of the utmost importance that you again write: Hon. Charles Schumer, Chairman, Crime and Criminal Justice Subcommittee, at the House of Representatives address above.

Dear _____:

I strongly urge that you delete the secret trial, summary deportation and "material support" provisions from the final version of the Crime Bill, when the House and Senate conference on it. Not only do these undemocratic sections deprive me of the rights of free speech and association, but they are also unnecessary, as existing laws are adequate to deal with real terrorist crime.

Sincerely,

Action Request #2

We continue our efforts to build Congressional support for the peace process in Ireland and to influence Clinton to fulfill his promise of a US peace envoy. Write or call: Hon. Claiborne Pell, Chairman, Senate Foreign Relations Committee, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 - phone # 202 224-3121.

Dear Senator Pell,

I respectfully request that your committee conduct hearings on Northern Ireland for the purpose of bringing peace with justice to that region. Please call upon President Clinton to appoint an envoy to Northern Ireland and that he lift the visa ban on Mr. Gerry Adams, President of Sinn Fein, so that he can travel to the U.S. to help promote the peace process.

Sincerely,

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