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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

Political Education Committee of the American Ireland Education Foundation

Volume 19, Number 5

May 1994

Attention Media & Congress !

Ballymurphy Seven: Another Guildford Four, Birmingham Six

We are already three years into the case of the young men known as the Ballymurphy Seven, ranging from age 18 to 24, who were arrested and accused of a "coffee jar" bomb attack on a British Army patrol. The men have not been charged with membership in the IRA, but their arrests imply they were acting on behalf of the IRA.

There are too many similarities to deny that the **Ballymurphy Seven are another Guildford Four or Birmingham Six** case, in which innocent Irish were convicted of crimes they did not commit, based on forced confessions. The Ballymurphy Seven case prosecutors have no eye witnesses or forensic evidence linking the men to the crime, but just confessions which the men said were coerced during long, abusive interrogations.

Fortunately, the young men's case has elicited much international interest, including U.S. **Ambassador to Ireland Jean Kennedy Smith**. Also, last month charges against the oldest member of the group, **Brendan McCrory**, were dropped because his confession was deemed "unreliable." However, the question remains: how many years must pass before the British admit they were wrong and exonerate all of the Ballymurphy Seven? For more information, please contact Jean Forest at (201)-659-3085.

Public Radio Challenged On Censorship

MINNESOTA -- A committee of Northern Ireland peace activists met with Mr. Vic Bremer, Vice President for Broadcast of Minnesota Public Radio (MPR), on March 9 to discuss British Broadcasting Company (BBC) broadcasts on MPR. State Director Leah Curtin represented the PEC.

The committee presented a detailed review of the use of BBC broadcasts by MPR. The committee worked closely with member James Mullin, who organized a campaign for the IAUC, assisted by the PEC and others, to have "health warnings" given when using BBC broadcasts about Northern Ireland.

It was also pointed out to Mr. Bremer that the BBC is a state-owned, operated and censored government agency of the British Government and that the BBC World Service, which distributes the broadcasts, is totally funded by the British Foreign Office. The committee requested that the broadcasts be identified as censored by carrying the "health warning." Bremer said that to use a "health warning" would be difficult. The activists said that a simple statement spoken before and after the broadcasts would suffice. **Mr. Bremer proclaimed with profanity that he did not care about the Irish and the British, nor did he care about the Bosnians or anyone else.**

The President of MPR, Mr. William Kling, is also a founding member of Minneapolis, Minnesota-based American Public Radio (APR), soon to change its name to International Public Radio. He is on the Board of Directors of APR and
Continued on page 3

Newsbits by Kathy Regan

An Irish Race Convention, sponsored by the Irish American Movement and endorsed by the leaders of almost every Irish American and international Irish group, including PEC-AIEF, will take place on June 11, 1994 in New York City. The one-day event will address the issue of British withdrawal from Ireland. For information call (516) 671-6544 (AIEF-PEC, 4/10/95).

* * *

The northern conflict is costing taxpayers in Britain and Ireland a massive £475 million a year, according to a major study released yesterday. At least 46,000 jobs have been lost because of the violence. The consultants Davy, Kelleher and McCarthy, examined the impact of the northern conflict on both the Irish and British economies. They concluded there would be a dramatic improvement on both sides of the border if violence came to an end (*Irish News*, 2/14/94).

* * *

The strategy of the IRA in the Heathrow bombing seems to be 1). to show it has the ability to mount such operations in spite of huge security, and 2). to ensure that at least for the present no actual damage is done to persons. No one knows whether the mortars "failed" to explode or were meant not to explode. A group capable of placing the mortars would probably

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OUR VIEW

Recently the Democratic National Committee contacted the PEC-AIEF asking that we keep them up to date on the English-Irish conflict. When we asked why the sudden interest, we were told that more and more Irish Americans are expressing an interest in the issue. That means more and more people are writing to President Clinton. We are sure that many of those letters resulted from our members handing out PEC flyers at the movie, *In the Name of the Father*, and R&D's from the newsletter that request people to write to Clinton. We did **not** hear from the Republican National Committee.

This surge of interest is why President Clinton continues to keep the English-Irish conflict on his agenda. But while the pressure continues to mount, Clinton still has not fulfilled his campaign promises: he has not appointed the envoy, nor has he promoted the MacBride Principles. He has not yet made a media issue of Northern Ireland. A US role is necessary to secure a just solution.

*What got the Democratic Party's attention is simple: since the announcement of the Hume/Adams peace initiative and the British-Irish Joint Declaration, and the release of the movie, *In the Name of the Father*, many more people have written to or called Clinton's office. Unfortunately, a good few of these people are not part of the PEC national network. They will not know enough to continue writing to Clinton, nor to write to their Members of Congress and the media. We need these people, and many more like them, to get involved with our national network, so that they will continue to stay involved.*

We have to continue to increase the pressure on the Clinton Administration. We have to continue recruiting more and more people to regularly write and call Clinton, Congress and the media.

Imagine the impact we would have if EVERY ONE of our members wrote the letters we request and got at least one family member to write!

Imagine the impact we would have if we doubled our membership. We would have twice as many people writing and twice as many people educating the public.

Turn to Double Our Impact on page five

We Have Modified Our Action Requests Format

We have slightly modified our *Action Requests* format on page 6. We are also adding telephone numbers when appropriate. If our new format deters you from writing letters, please let us know by calling our toll free number 800 777-6807.

Political Education Committee (PEC)

American Ireland Education Foundation, Inc.

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

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

An effective way to increase public awareness about the 150th anniversary of Ireland's Great Starvation is through music. If you, or any of your associates, know any members of an Irish band(s), suggest to the band members that they learn songs about the Starvation, such as Skibbereen. Urge that they include these songs in their repertoire and that they explain the songs to their audiences.

We remind you that we have available two excellent educational tools for educating your family, friends, and the public, about this great man-made tragedy.

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From the North

by Kevin McCorry, *Belfast*

For the first time in over a quarter of a century, Americans of British and Irish origins have begun to sense the possibility of a settlement to the centuries old English-Irish conflict. This optimism has been generated by the apparent willingness of both sides to enter into meaningful dialogue. On the Irish side, the Dublin government under Mr. Albert Reynolds has made the search for a solution the number one priority of government policy. Another important element has been the Irish peace proposals initiated by Mr. John Hume and Mr. Gerry Adams. Both leaders together represent the overwhelming majority of nationalist people in Northern Ireland.

If these peace proposals were put into effect, there would be a demilitarization of the situation in Northern Ireland and peaceful political change would be made possible. On the British side, Mr. John Major declared that the quest for a solution is a key policy objective of his government. The British government stated that Britain has no selfish economic or strategic interest in Ireland. This was restated in the Joint Declaration of December 1993.

If these elements can be married

together into an irreversible peace process, then progress towards a new Ireland and a new stage in English-Irish relations can be made. The U.S. government has a role to play in bringing this about. The two main obstacles to a settlement are the unwillingness of the British government to spell out its long-term intentions for Northern Ireland and the understandable fears of large sections of the Protestant community in Northern Ireland about what the future holds for them. If these obstacles remain

unresolved over a prolonged period, they create the basis for a Bosnia-type situation in the north of Ireland, possibly spilling over into the rest of Ireland and even into Britain.

Washington should be more proactive in its policy. It should declare its willingness to host a conference to bring about a settlement based on the principles of democracy, community reconciliation and international standards of human rights. As a marker towards this policy, it would perhaps be an opportune time for the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee to commence hearings on the Northern Ireland question. *(The author is a solicitor and founding member of the Campaign For Democracy, a predominantly Protestant organization that supports a United Ireland.)*

(continued from page 1)

Public Radio Censorship

so is Mr. John Tusa, formerly Managing Director of BBC World Service, London. APR is the single largest distributor of public radio programming in the U.S., offering 457 public radio stations a full range of BBC World Service programming 24 hours a day. It received initial funding from NPR.

When the activists said that these facts suggest collusion, Bremer replied: "That's your viewpoint." He also stated that there was **little or no costs** to MPR for the BBC broadcasts.

It is imperative that the least concession from MPR is: **"HEALTH WARNING - THIS BROADCAST HAS BEEN SUBJECTED TO STATE CENSORSHIP OF NEWS."**

(Ed. Note: Present at the meeting were representatives of the PEC - American Ireland Education Foundation, Minnesotans For A United Ireland, Irish American Unity Conference, Ancient Order of Hibernians and Irish Northern Aid.)

UN Peacekeepers For Ireland

by Eion McKiernan, *Minnesota*

When Chief Inspector Meir Tayar of the Israeli military police in Hebron testified that his orders forbade shooting fellow Jews even if they were killing Palestinians, his testimony reminded Irish Americans of Northern Ireland where both police and British army have colluded with pro-British terror gangs to murder Irish nationalists.

In both instances above, it was all right to kill innocent people. But the difference was in the reaction of the attacked. The representatives of the Palestinians, the PLO, got the UN to monitor the Israeli Army's humiliating treatment (including arbitrary harassment and arrests) of Palestinians.

How different from Northern Ireland?

The British army is not a neutral or peace-keeping force in Northern Ireland. Just recently, British parachute troops had to be reminded by

their commander that roughing up Belfast teenagers made recruits for the IRA.

People who are interested in peace for north (and south) Ireland should **write to the UN** recommending that a true peace-keeping force be sent to Northern Ireland -- UN troops. Britain would not welcome them. The Israelis didn't want international observers either, but Yasser Arafat got Uncle Sam to put pressure on the UN. Concerned Americans, Irish and non-Irish alike, ought to be able to do as much. If practical, send a copy of your letter to Mr. Ghalli to President Clinton.

See
ACTION REQUEST #2
on page six

See
ACTION REQUEST #3
on page six

Newsbits *con't from page 1*

have the expertise to make them explode. The cost for the British government is serious. It now has to make not only Heathrow but all its airports secure, an almost impossible, as well as massively expensive task in money, troops and police. At this time the British government is trying to reduce its military costs: this means fewer troops available for use both in Ireland and at home in Britain - the government wants to maximize its deployment of troops abroad for international political and prestige reasons. Another serious difficulty is that foreign investors are likely to worry about whether they can depend on London as a reliable and stable financial center. This damages British hopes of London being the leading financial center in the Euro Union (*Analysis*, 3/17/94).

* * *

The British government has once again postponed an inquest into the shoot-to-kill deaths of six unarmed men in the north of Ireland in 1982. This latest delay is caused by the Government's attempt to withhold documentation from the coroner. In 1988 Attorney-General Partick Mayhew (now Secretary of State for the north) refused to prosecute the 11 British police officers (RUC) involved in the killings on the grounds that it would be "against the national interest" (*AIEF-PEC*, 3/28/94).

* * *

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams last night claimed that less than an hour's clarification by the British government of the Downing Street Declaration could break the impasse on Northern Ireland's future (*Irish News*, 4/1/94).

* * *

A statement issued by loyalists after a rocket was fired into the Sinn Fein offices on the Falls Road in Belfast earlier this week said that republicans would continue to be attacked whether or not the IRA accepted the Downing Street Declaration. The sentiment is contrary to the belief apparently held by some that a cessation of the IRA's campaign would bring about an end to violence in Northern Ireland (*Irish Times*, 4/4/94).

WASHINGTON UPDATE

After months of cautious steps and passionate speeches, Congress is now beginning to stir on the subject of Northern Ireland. Recent weeks have witnessed another series of floor speeches (organized by **Rep. Richard Neal** [D-MA]), initiatives from two major House players, and discussion of concrete action from several more.

Rep. Benjamin Gilman (R-NY) has begun to focus on the push for an envoy and congressional hearings by the Foreign Relations Committee. Gilman will also promote a **proposal by the AIEF-PEC** for the US to host a peace conference. Rep.'s **Neal** and **Tom Manton** (D-NY) have been discussing a range of options, including calls for specific U.K. actions. The pervading sense is one of a desire for concrete next moves - a time to act.

Rep. Joseph Kennedy, II (D-MA) entered the fray aggressively with a revised version of his earlier envoy res-

olution, this time calling for a broader diplomatic portfolio to include economic analysis - a key shift in the mission and access of the proposed envoy.

The resolution is part of a groundbreaking Congressional charge for a US role in the search for solutions to the conflict. Cooperation among key House Irish affairs leaders is critical for the success. **Kennedy is seeking original co-sponsors for the resolution** to build the strongest possible lineup of support, and staff of the various offices are working together to craft an effort that has the greatest chance for success.

See
ACTION REQUEST #1
on page six

The AIEF-PEC has supported each of the various initiatives, assisting with scope and language for the efforts, and coalition-building among the offices of Irish affairs leaders.

A Changing Era!

by Kevin P. Murphy, *Massachusetts*

Some say the English-Irish conflict over Northern Ireland has not penetrated the mainstream social awareness of America. Prior to 1992 that statement could be called a fact. In 1994, though, it does not hold true entirely.

Hollywood, the American media, etc., have recently taken the English-Irish issue seriously. Many US movie theaters from Boston to Los Angeles are showing, or have shown, the movie "In the Name of the Father." For several weeks this movie was the #1 box office attraction in such major markets as New York, Chicago, San Francisco, Boston and Philadelphia. The movie, which depicts British cruelty and judicial misconduct towards the Irish, has also received nominations for seven Academy Awards.

On February 27, "60 Minutes" featured a story on the trials and ordeals of Paul Hill of the Guildford 4, expos-

ing British injustice. Also the widely watched "Larry King Live Show" featured Mr. Gerry Adams. Both Adams and Hill also appeared on other major TV programs.

For all people concerned, the recent extensive media exposure of the English-Irish conflict is a welcome change compared to the days of the 1970's and 1980's, when having a letter to the editor on this issue printed was considered a major achievement. The Political Education Committee-AIEF, through its *American Irish Newsletter*, and the expensive ads it placed in the *New York Times* during the 1992 Presidential Campaign, can take credit for much of the new American awareness. Your letters via the Action Requests and Telephone Hotline, over the years, and the impact of the ads, have catapulted the English-Irish conflict from isolation to the media spotlight in the 1990's.

The Roots of Ireland's Shattered Economy

by Stephanie Finucane

In the 17th century England was going through a mercantile-manufacturing phase which would usher her into the Industrial Revolution. In an attempt to end the Dutch mercantile monopoly and make London the center of trade around the world, England passed the Navigation Acts to restrict ships coming to English ports.

Another part of the plan to ensure her economic superiority, England treated each of her colonies like a child "which had a claim upon, but also owed a duty to, its parent country" (T. A. Jackson, *Ireland Her Own: An Outline History of the Irish Struggle*).

In America, these policies only restricted manufacture and trade as it developed, and served as a major impetus for the American Revolution. In Ireland, however, England's trade policies were far more destructive and vindictive, deliberately destroying already established trade and manufacturers successfully competing with England.

In his book, *Ireland Her Own: An Outline History of the Irish Struggle*, writer T. A. Jackson provides a few examples of England's destructive policies: "In the 17th century a profitable Irish trade in fat cattle exported to England grew up. England graziers protested; **the trade was prohibited**. Irish cattle-breeders exported, instead, lean cattle for English graziers to fatten. English cattle-farmers protested; **the trade was stopped**. Ireland exported slaughtered carcasses; English butchers protested, **and the trade was banned**. Finally, a salt beef (and pork) in barrels became the outlet for Irish live-stock breeders; and this trade, being useful to the English Navy and the mercantile marine, was allowed to pass without protest. It became one of Ireland's staple industries."

The prejudicial treatment did not stop there. As the demand for sheep grew in the 17th century, the number of sheep in England grew. And the more sheep England had, the less Ireland was allowed to contribute to trade, regardless of the amount of sheep Ireland produced.

"Ireland's role in sheep farming was subject to English requirements," writes L. M. McCullen, a lecturer of Modern History and Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin (*An Economic History of Ireland since 1660*). "Rising sheep numbers in England were reflected, as the trade figures suggest, in a fall in wool exports [from Ireland] and in a rise in exports of young sheep to help stock expanding English sheepwalks in the late 1650s and 1660s" (McCullen).

Whereas Ireland could have had a fair shot at sheep trade, England stole this opportunity from her by taking her sheep at their least value to develop the stock of England's sheep trade. And then England would profit magnificently.

However, after 1690 the Irish woolen cloth trade developed rapidly and soon Irish wool was preferred over English wool by continental buyers. By this time England had already placed a prohibitive import-tax on woolens imported from Ireland. Soon afterward the English Parliament banned woolen export from Ireland, except to England and Wales, where there was a prohibitive duty placed on the cloth. Other raw wool, useful to English manufacturers, had no import duties. **To survive, Irish manufacturers had to leave Ireland and set up shop in elsewhere on the continent, relying on smuggled Irish raw wool and woolen yarn.**

It's easy to see from these examples the concern England had for the Irish. The one industry England allowed to flourish in Ireland was the linen industry, which received State and royal subsidies. Why? Irish manufacturers could compete more successfully with the French and Dutch manufacturers, than could the English. However, the linen

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industry benefited the newly planted Protestant aristocracy and was fostered in Protestant areas. Likewise, the profits from the industry did not go back into Ireland, but "all the capital accumulations wrung by the Anglo-Irish landlords from their Irish tenantry (was) diverted to investment in English manufactures" (Jackson). Ireland's economy was actively stunted and detoured into producing "foodstuffs for English workers and raw materials for England's manufactures."

The main activity of the Irish population during this time was subsistence tillage and they lived on potatoes and buttermilk, seasonally supplemented with oatmeal. Dairy products such as butter, cheese, eggs, poultry and bacon "were too valuable as articles of exchange" for the peasantry to eat themselves.

The first half of the 19th century, while England became an economic leader in the Industrial Revolution, landlords continued draining all revenue from Ireland for "consumption and investment in England" (Jackson). Once again Ireland was forced into feeding England's economic superiority with her foodstuffs, raw materials, and labor.

In the 20th century Ireland still lags behind in economic development. Her most developed areas, as to be expected, lay within the borders England carved into Irish history.

Your Help is Needed To Bring Peace To Ireland

Find out how you can help bring peace with justice to Ireland by working through the American democratic process.

For information call 800 777-6807 or write: American Ireland Education Foundation-PEC, 54 South Liberty Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980.

Published May 1994 by PEC-AIEF

SINN FEIN: WHO ARE THEY?

by Sandy Carlson

When Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams came to the US in January, he said he wanted to see the gun taken out of Irish politics. He said the Irish people alone should work together to determine the island's future. He said unionists' rights must be upheld--albeit, without the right to veto democratic change. He said Britain's role in Ireland has always been destructive and that the potential for peace has never been more realizable.

Gerry Adams was saying nothing new when he spoke in New York on behalf of Sinn Fein. They have been saying these things since the party became a political force in the 1980s.

However, the British and Irish governments have denied their citizens access to Sinn Fein's views through censorship legislation, political and economic strategies designed to sap the party's support, and a criminalization strategy designed to deny the party's credibility as a legitimate political force. As a result, Adams' statements sounded like news because the people of Ireland and Britain and the international media are unfamiliar with the party, its policies and personalities.

Sinn Fein is a legal, all-Ireland political party which believes the people of the island of Ireland alone should determine Ireland's future. They believe that only when all Irish people work together will they achieve an economically, socially and politically equitable state that can accommodate the needs and interests of all Irish people. Reunification of Ireland is only a part of their goal of an independent, sovereign Ireland.

Sinn Fein is a democratic organization with an elected leadership. The party assesses their policies and progress at their annual meeting, which is open to the public.

Sinn Fein is not the political wing of the Irish Republican Army. During his visit to the U.S., Adams said that Sinn Fein is not an armed party, that Sinn Fein is a distinct and independent political organization. Media and government claims that Sinn Fein is part and parcel of the IRA facilitate the government efforts to criminalize the party, and thus the Republican political ideal by associating it with violence, and then dismissing it from the political

bargaining counter.

Sinn Fein's electoral support is strongest on the local level, especially in the six counties of northern Ireland, where the party has 50 elected local representatives. Nonetheless, local representation is often stymied by unionist councilors' refusal to sit with Sinn Fein members or let Sinn Fein sit in council committees. Unionist terrorists in the Ulster Defense Association and the Ulster Volunteer Force increase the difficulty of local representation by murdering Sinn Fein councilors and family members. (Unionist terrorists murdered 26 Sinn Fein members, members' relatives and associates between 1974 to 1993.)

The Royal Ulster Constabulary also criminalizes the party by raiding its offices and members' homes periodically, harassing councilors' children and colluding with unionist terrorists in the killing of Sinn Fein members.

Support on the national level is weaker, Sinn Fein says, because the party has been the target of censorship legislation that builds a wall of silence between candidates and their potential constituents. Broadcasting bans have required that Sinn Fein members' voices be replaced with actors' voices or that broadcast reporters paraphrase Sinn Fein Statements. (The Irish government removed their 23-year-old broadcasting ban in January, 1994.) As a result, Sinn Fein is a stranger to the Irish people.

Although Adams was elected to the British parliament from 1983 to 1992, he did not take his seat because of Sinn Fein's policy of abstaining from the British parliament. The party engages in electoral politics to measure support for their policies and to protest against and put pressure on the government for change. Sinn Fein represents 30 to 35 percent of the north's nationalists and

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two percent of the Republic's voters. Sinn Fein has met with Protestant church leaders, political opponent John Hume of the Social Democratic and Labor Party (SDLP), and the British government in an effort to secure a "lasting peace" for all of Ireland. Adams and Hume issued a joint statement in April, 1993 in which they said: "We accept that the Irish people as a whole have a right to national self-determination. This is a view shared by a majority of the people of this island, though not by all its people. The exercise of self-determination is a matter for agreement between the people of Ireland." They restated their position in October.

Adams has said his discussions with Hume, along with Sinn Fein's three-year secret dialogue with the British, were the catalysts for the British and Irish governments' Joint Declaration of December 15, 1993. Sinn Fein did not respond immediately to the Joint Declaration. Instead, they have asked both governments to clarify certain aspects of the Declaration while the party has conducted public forums throughout Ireland to determine public opinion on the document. (Ambiguities in the Declaration could mislead the party to endorse a document that might not satisfy any of its demands--as was the case with the Anglo-Irish Treaty that partitioned Ireland and started a war.)

Adams told the National Committee on American Foreign Policy on February 1, 1994: "If the British believe they have the basis of a settlement, they must tell us what it is. I have already said that, if there is a gap between what is on offer and what is required to move us out of conflict, then everyone involved has a responsibility to try to bridge that gap. This requires courage, imagination and flexibility. I have stated my willingness to assist in this process."

Your Help is Needed To Bring Peace To Ireland

**For information call 800 777-6807
or write: American Ireland Education
Foundation-PEC, 54 South Liberty
Drive, Stony Point, NY 10980.**

Published May 1994 by PEC-AIEF

How You Can Help **DOUBLE OUR IMPACT**

As we have often said, it is the activities of our members that make things happen. We would have very little impact if it were not for our members who write letters, make phone calls, distribute information, give financial support to the PEC-AIEF, keep their membership dues up to date, etc. If it were not for our members, the English-Irish conflict would be a dead issue today, instead of being an issue of increasing importance.

But today we all have to do a little extra to make sure the opportunity for peace with justice does not fail by making sure President Clinton fulfills his campaign promise to appoint a special envoy to Ireland. **We have to double our efforts.**

WE HAVE TO DOUBLE THE SIZE OF OUR MEMBERSHIP. (See top next column for special newsletter subscription offer).

We also urge members to get involved in some or all of the activities listed below:

1. Letter-Writing/Phone Call Network

Write the letters or make the phone calls requested in our newsletter *Action Requests* column. Get family members, friends, etc., to write or call. Letters/calls are most effective. One letter to President Clinton represents the views of 1,000 people.

2. Clinton Resolution Campaign

We must build grassroots support for the appointment of a peace envoy to Northern Ireland. We have prepared a resolution that calls upon Clinton to fulfill his campaign promise to make that appointment. You can help by asking your town or county council member to propose the resolution. You can also have religious groups, organizations, labor unions, etc., adopt the resolution if necessary. **Ask other people to assist you.**

For a copy of the resolution with instructions, call (800) 777-6807.

FOR ONLY \$7 YOU CAN Double Our Membership! Double Our Impact!

For only \$7 you can give a 6-month subscription of the newsletter to someone who shares our concern about Ireland. If every member gives a subscription to just one person, we would immediately double our effectiveness: we would have twice as many people writing letters, making phone calls, distributing information, learning the truth, etc. When we double our membership we double our impact.

*So please, **DOUBLE OUR IMPACT!** Enroll at least one new subscriber today: a family member, relative, business associate, anyone who is interested. Send their name and address along with your check (\$7 per subscription) payable to PEC-AIEF.*

3. Help PEC Raise Funds

There are different ways you can help, from selling \$3 raffle tickets for the PEC to approaching influential members of your community directly for support. You can sponsor a social, a cocktail party, etc. Invite others to assist you. **Donations to the PEC-AIEF are tax-deductible.** Everybody can help by selling raffle tickets. To volunteer, call 800 777-6807. **We need your help!!**

4. Reproduce & Distribute Program

In each issue of our newsletter we print one or two *Reproduce & Distribute* (R&D) articles. The R&Ds are used to educate the public. Make copies of them (or any article) for distribution. Distribute them wherever the public assembles. You can mail them to your local media, Members of Congress, religious, labor and corporate leaders, educators, etc. If you would like copies of past R&D's, give us a call.

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Copywriters & Public Relations Experts

If you would like to volunteer your expertise to increase our effectiveness, call 800 777-6807.

Action Requests

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

1. Hon. (Your Congressman)
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
Phone (202) 225-3124

Request: I urge you to co-sponsor Rep. Joseph Kennedy II's resolution calling upon President Clinton to appoint an envoy to Northern Ireland.

2. Hon. Boutros Boutros Ghali
Secretary, United Nations
United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017

Request: Please send a peace-keeping force to Northern Ireland. Removing British troops from the streets will advance the peace process.

3. Delano Lewis, President
National Public Radio
635 Massachusetts Ave
Washington, DC 20001

Request: Concerned Americans met with Mr. Vic Bremer of Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) and requested that MPR use a "health warning" when airing BBC state-censored news reports about Northern Ireland. Please direct MPR to comply.

British Reject IRA Cease-Fire

The IRA initiated a three-day ceasefire on April 6 to demonstrate their willingness to compromise with the British government in exchange for a clarification of the Downing Street Declaration. However, the IRA's ceasefire fell on deaf ears on Downing Street. The British Government has indicated it will refuse to meet these calls for clarification or reopen communication with the IRA.

The US Congressional Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs commended the IRA's "unilateral gesture of peace," and urged the British to "respond to this show of good faith by addressing issues of contention in the Downing Street Declaration and by providing Irish nationalist leaders with the clarifications of the initiative that they have requested."

Obviously the British are not yet ready to go the extra mile for peace.

PEC-GAT Director Meets With Congressman Lantos

California's 12th District PEC-GAT Director Chris Yonts met with Congressman **Tom Lantos**, Chairman, House Foreign Relations Committee's Sub-Committee on Human Rights, Monday, March 28 at his district office.

Topics discussed were: 1). the upcoming House vote on the Omnibus Crime Bill; 2). Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy's proposed concurrent resolution that calls on President Clinton to send an envoy to Ireland; 3). lifting the visa ban on Gerry Adams; and 4). refusing to let the Justice Department interfere with the judicial branch during the H-Block Four trials (as happened in Joe Doherty's case).

"As soon as I showed him Congressman Kennedy's proposed resolution," explained Mr. Yonts, "Congressman Lantos turned to his legislative assistant Eric M.

Stephens and said, "Get Joe Kennedy's office on the phone. We're signing onto this."

Similarly, Mr. Lantos was amenable to every other issue mentioned above, clearly indicating the he would work closely with the PEC on all of them.

"Not surprisingly, he's very much on (the PEC's) side, having a long track record of working for human rights causes around the world," said Yonts. "I came away feeling we had taken actual steps in this district to help bring peace to Ireland."

This meeting is an excellent example of our Government Action Team (GAT) at work. For suggestions on how to set up a meeting with your elected officials, contact the PEC at (914) 947-2726.

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Name of your Congressman _____

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