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AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 17, Number 8

August 1992

Congressman Joe Kennedy Addresses Boston PEC

by James Smith, Boston PEC Director

Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy was the featured speaker at a recent meeting of the Boston PEC in Brighton, Massachusetts. In his address before a large audience, Kennedy opened his remarks by recounting his first visit to northern Ireland in 1988. "It was a non-stop series of harassing maneuvers by the British against the Catholics that I was with, from the time that our car was invaded through every moment that I walked around Belfast," Kennedy said. "I'd walk down the street and there'd be six British soldiers with their rifles aimed right at my head the entire time that I was there. That was something that I had to go through for a couple of days, but it's something that the Irish Catholics have to go through every day of their lives."

Kennedy expressed optimism that the work of the PEC is bearing fruit in Congress. "I think we can win on these issues in Washington because there are many Congressmen that are simply unaware", he said. "The more you write and the more they hear from people like yourselves, the better off we'll be," Kennedy added.

Kennedy also praised the anticipated opening of the PEC *Public Affairs/Media Representation Office*. Following his address, Kennedy fielded questions relating to northern Ireland. He also urged members to keep his Washington staff advised of any new developments in northern Ireland.

The Boston PEC meets monthly. For information call Eileen Smith at (617) 782-9294.

**Worcester, Massachusetts Area PEC
meets once a month. For information
call Jim Browne (508) 852-7304.**

SUPPORT OUR RAFFLE 1992

**S.O.S. -- EVERY MEMBER Is Asked To Support This Raffle.
The PEC Too Has Been Affected By The Recession !!!**

Enclosed with this newsletter is a book of five raffle tickets. The tickets cost \$3 each (five tickets for only \$12). The drawing will take place at our annual benefit dance on Saturday, October 24, 1992.

The prizes are: 2 round-trip tickets to Ireland from New York or Boston or \$1,000 cash, and 5 \$100 consolation prizes.

Please return the stubs and your check payable to AIPEC as soon as possible in the enclosed return envelope.

You are urged to order extra books of tickets for sale in your community. To order tickets call 800-777-6807 or write AIPEC, 18 Route 9W, Fairgrounds Plaza, West Haverstraw, NY 10993.

YOUR SUPPORT IS MOST IMPORTANT!!!

(Purchase of tickets is not necessary to enter raffle.)

Newsbits

by Kathy Regan, *NYS Director*

For the first time since being set up by the government in 1973 the N Ireland based Standing Advisory Commission on Human Rights (SACHR) has had one of its official reports discussed in the House of Lords. The event took place on 13th February 1992 and only 7 peers spoke in the debate. The House of Commons has never discussed any of SACHR's 18 reports -- an indication of the level of interest in human rights abuses in N Ireland among British politicians? (Democracy 5/92)...**The recent Fair Employment Commission Monitoring Report** has confirmed that despite 16 years of Fair employment legislation major religious imbalances still exist in employment in N Ireland. In particular, the Report shows that Catholics remain disadvantaged in terms of having access to a job: They are between 2 and 2.5 times as likely to be

unemployed as Protestants -- a figure which has altered little in the past 20 years. When they do get a job they are also less likely to be in a higher paid or skilled job and less likely to hold positions of authority. . . The vast majority of firms and businesses and most employment sectors, exhibit major religious imbalances which adversely affect both Protestants and Catholics i.e. 'Protestant' and 'Catholic' businesses exist as do 'Protestant' industries and 'Catholic' industries. (Democracy 5/92)...**The British Embassy in Washington and the US State Department** have sent letters to the chairman of Washington, DC Council, Mr. John Wilson, urging the rejection of a proposed council bill supporting the MacBride Principles...(Irish Times 6/23/92)...**A soccer game to benefit local charities** has been scheduled in the Albany, New York area between local soccer players and the RUC. The organizer,

Continued bottom page 3

From The Editor

Our recent Western Region Conference in Boulder, Colorado and subsequent activities in Nebraska and New Mexico were not only a success, but also a revelation. To Western States Executive Director Susan Catt, who organized and chaired the Conference, and to Terry Deem Reilly, Colorado State Director who assisted, we say THANK YOU for a job well done. We also thank Larry Doyle, Nebraska State Director and member Willie Lennon of New Mexico for the excellent work they did in their respected states in setting up public activities for John Finucane, PEC President, and Sean Mackin, human rights activist. We also thank all the fine people who attended the Conference.

We learned that there is a growing hunger in the West for information about northern Ireland and that the interest is not limited to American Irish. Also revealed was that the formation of the PEC's Western Region is indeed timely and necessary.

We also learned that the message of American activists promoting democracy and freedom in a united Ireland is confusing to most people. We will address this in a future newsletter issue.

Audiences appreciated very much and found enlightening the PEC's meetings with Irish Protestants in northern Ireland and the fact that a large segment of Protestants would not oppose a united Ireland.

Many of the Western states have small populations compared to New York, New Jersey, California, etc. Unlike the heavy populated states, people know their state and federal legislators, and in some cases the governor, on a personal basis.. This allows for easy access to, and the ability to work with, the legislators. All they need is the information. Making that information available is what the Western Region is all about.

Thanks to the fine people who make up the leadership of the Western Region, the PEC and its message will grow and succeed in the West.

Offensive Situations -- Action Request

by Kevin P. Murphy, Massachusetts State Director

Members have informed the PEC of an ad by Radio Shack, a major electronics chain store, that identified John Paul Jones as the Father of the American Navy. This is a historical falsehood. The officially recognized father of the American Navy, and also recognized as such by the US Navy, is Irish-born Commodore John Barry.

Write to: President, Radio Shack, Fort Worth, TX 76102. In your letter advise them about Commodore Barry and that you expect accuracy in their advertising. Remind them that you are a consumer.

Members have also advised that during a recent segment of Jay Leno's *Tonight Show* the famed Irish group the Chieftains appeared. Host Leno made some insulting remarks that alluded that people of Irish ancestry are heavy

The American Irish PEC

founded 1975

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NATIONAL MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES CONSULTANT: Tom O'Flaherty, RFD #6, Box 153, Laconia, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03246 - (603) 528-5733

NATIONAL ORGANIZER: Pete Foley, 3177 Villa Avenue #3H, Bronx, NEW YORK 10468-(212)933-7196

STUDENT ORGANIZER: Sandy Carlson, AIPEC, Fairgrounds Plaza, 18 Route 9W, West Haverstraw, NY 10993 - (914) 947-2726

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drinkers of alcohol. We don't need this kind of negative stereotyping. **Write to:** Tonight Show, 3000 West Alameda Avenue, Fairbank, CA 91523. Stress in your letter that Mr. Leno's remarks associating the American Irish with excessive use of alcohol, during his show on which the Chieftains appeared, were in poor taste and offensive. Urge that he be more sensitive in the future.

MacBride Principles Update

As we go to press we are advised that both the New York State Assembly and Senate voted overwhelmingly to adopt the new "contract compliance" MacBride Principles bill. We have also been advised by Ohio State Director Kathy Whitford that the Kentucky House of Representatives has approved a MacBride Principles bill which will go to the Senate in August.

Public Affairs Office Fundraiser A Success

Many prominent citizens showed up at the exclusive Manhattan Club in New York City on Thursday, June 25. They were there to lend credibility and support to the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC) and its planned opening in Washington of a Public Affairs Office. The event was also a financial success with more than 150 people attending at \$125 each.

Jim Ryan, host of New York's most watched morning news program, "Good Day New York", was the special guest. Mr. Ryan underscored the importance of opening the PEC's office in Washington as something that has to happen, if supporters of a united, democratic Ireland are to get their message out to the public. He also stressed that many people in the news media would be willing to help, if they were more aware of the northern Ireland situation, and the work of the PEC through the American democratic process.

Among those present, at the kick-off fundraiser for the office were prominent members of the media, construction, financial and legal communities, including: Ms. Magee Hickey, WNBC Reporter; Mr. Dennis Hamill of the Daily News; Mr. Peter Maas, well-known author and journalist; and Mr. Brian McGrath, C.E.O. of Executive Enterprises. The hosts for the event were Mr. Patrick Donaghy, President of Structure Tone Inc.; Mr. Patrick Reilly, proprietor of P. J. Reillys and Towerview Ballroom; Mr. Stephen McFadden, proprietor of Ryan McFadden Restaurant; Honorable Paul O'Dwyer; and Mr. Michael Brennan, Legislative and Political Director, International Association of Ironworkers.

Also speaking was Sean Mackin, the

well-known human rights activist from northern Ireland who chaired the event. He talked about what growing up in the north was like for members of the nationalist community.

The MC for the evening was Mr. John Finucane, national president of the PEC. He pointed out that a function of the office will be to change the false image put forward by the media and our government's leaders, that Americans opposed to British injustice are supporters of violence. He stated, "The PEC works wholly through the American democratic process and is not affiliated with any party or group in Ireland". He urged involvement, "We must take action against British injustice, not because we are of Irish heritage, but because it is the right thing to do. We have what it takes to be successful, the numbers, the wealth, the skills, the education, and the influence. Let us put it all together. Let us make the long-term commitment to work together. If we do that we will succeed".

To date the PEC has raised approximately 30% of the \$80,000 necessary to run the office for the first year. There are also some pledges to be fulfilled.

The working committee for the event included: Sean Mackin, chairperson; Patrick Clarke, President of Aleat Construction; Faye Devlin, President of Eurotech Inc.; Sean Downes, Attorney At Law; Lawrence Downes, of Gilroy Downes Horowitz & Brea; Jerry Keough, Past President of the Brehon Law Society; Mrs. Agnes Mallon, PEC Activities Director; and Kathleen Regan, PEC New York State Director.

Exceptional entertainment was donated by Morning Star.

Some Functions Of The Public Affairs Office

Since its inception in 1975, the American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC) has provided many influential Americans accurate information regarding issues of concern to our community. Our approach to influential Americans, for the most part, lacked personal contact.

Further, the information we provided these people was generally, after the fact. We must change that.

We propose the opening of a Public Affairs Office in Washington, DC. Some functions of this office will be:

1. To establish direct contact with political and media people,
 2. To establish contact with influential people outside of politics and the media, including, but not limited to, Hollywood personalities, business leaders, artists, and philanthropists,
 3. To network with other human rights organizations,
 4. To work closely with other active Irish organizations.
- (Here our ultimate collective goal should be to have many full-time paid professionals operating throughout the United States in major cities such as New York, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle, rather than just one or two people operating in Washington.)*
5. To reach out to mainstream America, and
 6. To be a source of timely, accurate information to these people and organizations relative to our interests.

The opening of this office, more than 2 years in planning, will be the culmination of years of work in building a national network. The office will complete that network.

Newsbits continued from page 1

George Keleshian, planned the games with the idea that soccer is an international sport which can be used to bring different people together. He was unaware of the RUC's history of human rights abuses. When told of it, he agreed to meet with those knowledge-

able of the situation and will then let the players decide whether or not the game will go ahead. The Albany Police Athletic League has already informed him that they do not wish to receive any of the proceeds if the game should take place and that they do not want to be included in any future promotional material. (The Times

Union, 6/27/92)...A community worker, Mr. Frank Gillan, whose photograph and address appeared in the UVF publication, Combat, was a victim of a loyalist murder gang...He was shot in the groin and thigh by the UVF which fired a hail of bullets through this front door. (Andersonstown News, 5/30/92)

PEC

11th Annual

Irish Heritage Festival

Sunday, August 30, 1992

Gates Open 10 am -- Close 7 pm

Location: Marian Shrine

West Haverstraw

Rockland County, New York

Buses available from the Bronx and Manhattan -- call (212) 364-3935.

Admission \$6 adults, \$4 senior citizens, children under 12 accompanied by an adult FREE. For information call (914) 947-2726.

Dangerous Talks

With Ireland preoccupied by Maastricht voting, clerical scandals and the abortion issue, the latest round of talks among the British and Irish governments, Northern Unionists, and some nationalists grinds painfully forward with the usual posturing. Since the prior round of talks resulted in the Hillsborough Agreement in which the Irish government made major concessions of principle in exchange for nothing more than the right to be heard (and of course ignored), many supporters of a united, democratic Ireland view the latest round of talks with apprehension.

Bobbie Heatley, a northern Protestant whose group the *Campaign For Democracy* supports a united Ireland, recently met with PEC members in New York City. He expressed fears that the Irish government and the SDLP will agree to abandon the claim to a united Ireland by removing Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish constitution -- in exchange for nothing more than a "devolved" new Stormont.

Important Public Forum

Mr. Bobbie Heatley, co-founder of northern Ireland's *Campaign For Democracy*, a predominantly Protestant organization that supports a united Ireland, will give a talk on northern Ireland on August 18, 1992 in New York City. Details are yet to be worked out. For information call (914) 947-2726

Medal of Honor Winner John J. Doran

by Kevin P. Murphy, *Massachusetts State Director*

In 1940 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt selected the name John James Doran as the title of a new U.S. Navy Destroyer. Out of the hundreds of American Irish who have won the Congressional Medal of Honor, John J. Doran is one of the more amazing stories.

On August 6, 1864 John James Doran was born in the Charlestown section of Boston close to the historic Bunker Hill Monument. His father, Matthew Doran, immigrated to Boston during the great starvation of the 1840s from County Roscommon. In Boston, Matthew Doran married Catherine McMahan Watters, a native of County Armagh. The Dorans settled in Fall River, Massachusetts after being married. John Doran's father and uncles were devoted Young Irelanders. In 1884, at the age of 20, John J. Doran enlisted in the U.S. Navy. In 1892, while serving on the U.S.S. Kearsage in the South Seas, Doran earned his first badge of heroism. During a vicious storm, the Kearsage was driven off course and began to break up into bits. At risk to his life, Doran manned a small life boat and managed to save most of his shipmates. Along with fellow American Irish sailor Patrick Deary, Doran managed to guide the small boat to a local island to safety.

When the Spanish-American War began, John J. Doran was Chief Botswain's mate aboard the U.S.S. Marblehead. The Marblehead was assigned to blockade the harbor of Cienfuegos in Cuba. A volunteer crew was called upon for a shore party to search the town for enemy troops. It is historical record that John J. Doran was the first volunteer. Upon reaching the shore, Doran and the U.S. Navy detachment were assigned to cut cables in the harbor that were blocking access of U.S. Navy ships into the harbor. A large regiment of Spanish cannons and riflemen quickly rushed to the beach to confront the Americans. Soon the Americans came under heavy fire. Irish-born seaman Reagan was the first American to die.

The Spanish gunfire intensified. Most of the U.S. Navy detachment were by now either wounded or killed. Under heavy fire, Doran hacked away with his axe not only destroying the Spanish cables that were blocking the harbor, but also destroying the Spanish telegraph cables that were reporting American fleet operations to the Spanish command. For two and a half hours Doran and a few of the unwounded continued to destroy the telegraph cables despite the fact that over 100 Spanish rifles and 3 machine guns and two cannons were raining them with fire.

Doran loaded aboard the wounded and rowed through heavy seas back to the U.S.S. Marblehead. Upon return to the ship, doctors told Doran that he had been wounded. After the war, Doran returned to the Navy. He served on a U.S. Navy gunboat in the Philippines. In the Philippines, Doran led his boat on several battles. While in the Navy Doran became a legend. After a brief illness he died on February 16, 1904 at the U.S. Naval station in Santiago, Cuba. Flags in that Cuban city were half-masted for a month in his memory. He was buried in St. Patrick's cemetery in Fall River, Massachusetts. In 1925 the city of Fall River named a public school "The John James Doran School." This American Irish Congressional Medal of Honor winner put America first but always kept in mind his Irishness.
(Special thanks to Edward Kelley, PEC, Massachusetts, for the use of his library on American Irish history.)

MACBRIDE PRINCIPLES RESOLUTION

For Use by City and Town Governments and Organizations

The MacBride Principles Campaign of Fair Employment For Northern Ireland continues to be the most effective tool available in the non-violent campaign to expose British government injustice and discrimination in northern Ireland. As you are aware Britain's new fair employment legislation adopted in late 1989 has yet to bring about changes in the unemployment ratio: still 2 1/2 Catholics are unemployed for every 1 Protestant. Making the campaign more effective is the advent of the MacBride Principles "contract compliance" legislation now the law in New York State, Cleveland, Ohio and New York City. With "contract compliance" legislation, companies doing business in northern Ireland that do not comply with the MacBride Principles, suffer economic penalties when bidding for contracts.

To continue to expand the success of the MacBride Campaign and to insure its success at the federal and state levels (if your state has not already adopted the MacBride Principles), we must win broad American grassroots support.

The states that have adopted MacBride are: Minnesota, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Florida, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Illinois.

To help generate that grassroots support, we reproduce below, a sample resolution for use by legislative bodies, organizations, etc. Members are urged to contact their local legislators (city and town governments), representatives of groups (labor, political parties, religious and human rights groups, student bodies, etc.) and ask that their organizations adopt a similar resolution. It is important that you solicit support from outside the American Irish community as MacBride is an American issue.

It is most important that copies of all adopted resolutions be sent to your US Senators and appropriate Congressman. If your state has not yet adopted MacBride legislation, copies should also be sent to your State Representatives and Senators. Also send copies to Speaker of the House, Tom Foley, US Senate

Majority Leader, George Mitchell, and the American Irish PEC.

The resolution below can be adopted for both government bodies and citizens organizations.

Sample Resolution

WHEREAS, (name of city, town, organization, etc.) supports human rights and the right of all people to equal employment opportunity;

WHEREAS, many religious groups, including the United Methodist Church, the Episcopal Church of America, the American Baptist Churches, USA, have adopted the MacBride Principles,

WHEREAS, employment discrimination in Northern Ireland has been cited by the International Commission of Jurists as being one of the major causes of the conflict in that area;

WHEREAS, Dr. Sean MacBride, co-founder of Amnesty International and a Nobel and Lenin Peace laureate, has proposed several equal opportunity employment principles to serve as guidelines for American corporations in Northern Ireland. These include:

1. Increasing the representation of individuals from underrepresented religious groups in the workforce including managerial, supervisory, administrative, clerical and technical jobs;
2. Adequate security for the protection of minority employees both at the workplace and while traveling to and from work;
3. The banning of provocative religious or political emblems from the workplace;
4. All job openings should be publicly advertised and special recruitment efforts should be made to attract applicants from underrepresented religious groups;
5. Layoff, recall, and termination procedures should not in practice favor particular religious groupings;
6. The abolition of job reservations,

apprenticeship restrictions, and differential employment criteria, which discriminate on the basis of religion or ethnic origin;

7. The development of training programs that will prepare substantial numbers of current minority employees for skilled jobs, including the expansion of existing programs and the creation of new programs to train, upgrade, and improve the skills of minority employees;

8. The establishment of procedures to assess, identify and actively recruit minority employees with potential for further advancement; and

9. The appointment of a senior management staff member to oversee the company's affirmative action efforts and the setting up of timetables to carry out equal opportunity principles.

RESOLVED: that (name of city, town or organization) endorses the MacBride Principles For Fair Employment in Northern Ireland on (give date);

RESOLVED: that (name of city, town or organization) supports adoption of proposed federal MacBride Principles legislation sponsored by Congressman Hamilton Fish and Senators Al D'Amato and Frank Lautenberg, and (the bill #s of legislation pending in your state).

RESOLVED: Copies of this resolution will be sent to the appropriate federal and state representatives.

NOTE: Please forward copy of resolution to American Irish PEC, 18 Route 9W, West Haverstraw, NY 10993.

Support Materials

- MacBride Principles *Think About It* brochures: quality printed \$1.0 ea.
- A 7-page overview on the MacBride Principles that includes important background information at \$1.

To order send check or money order payable to American Irish PEC, 18 Route 9W, Fairgrounds Plaza, West Haverstraw, NY 10993; Phone# (914)947-2726.

Enter British Troops: Northern Ireland

Part 2 By Stephanie Finucane

Reproduce & Distribute #1

On July 2, 1970 Lord Balneil, the Junior Minister for Defense at Westminster came to Belfast, and officially authorized the new military strategy which "permitted British troops under General Freeland to undertake the search and arrest mission in the heart of Nationalist Belfast," known as the "rape of the Falls" (J. Kelly, *The Genesis of Revolution*). On that day the "peace-keeping" honeymoon since August 1969, during which the British troops mixed with the communities, was obviously over when British troops turned their backs on the nationalists and backed up Orange mobs as they attacked and terrorized the nationalist Falls Road area.

All this came in the wake of the Dublin Fianna Fail Government betrayal of the nationalist Citizen's Defense Committees (CDC) that May. For over half a year the Dublin government wined and dined the CDC, promised arms and military training in order to build up a nationalist defense force in the event of a return to the repression of the unionist government once British troops "restored order" in Northern Ireland. As author Kevin Boland writes in his book *Great My Shame*, as long as "the CDC were seen to be in close contact with the 26 County government to the extent of giving the impression of having its sponsorship, the British Army kept reasonably well to a genuine peace-keeping role."

Then in May 1970 the Dublin government dropped the CDC, claiming they were "subversive gun runners" (Boland). (The immediate result was the rape of the Falls Road and the reintroduction of internment on August 9, 1970.)

However, activities during the "peace-keeping" phase were not so judicious, as former British officer, Meurig Parri, who served in Ireland at that time, explains: "What they are saying is that the British Army is doing a wonderful job sorting out a few criminals, a few terrorists, who are sort of making life terrible for the citizens. And these criminals must be rooted out and then punished very severely. That is what I think the British government is telling the people outside the army. But that is a total travesty of

the truth. In Northern Ireland there is a war situation by any sensible definition of the term" (M. Burke, *Decade of Terror*).

In Spring 1970 counter-insurgency expert, Brigadier Frank Kitson, was stationed in Belfast as Army Commander. Kitson had just finished writing an army training manual called "*Low-Intensity Operations, Subversion, Insurgency, Peace-keeping*." Although he wrote a whole chapter on peacekeeping, Ireland was not mentioned when he listed examples of armies acting in that role. At that time, the I.R.A. were still inactive. Yet, Kitson's arrival "suggests that the British were preparing for guerilla warfare" (Burke).

Shortly afterward, the assault of the Falls Road began. Whereas in August 1969 there was no Provisional Irish Republican Army, by May-June 1970 interest emerged due to the betrayal of the CDC, for one thing. By December of 1970, there were nearly 800 activists (Burke). Kitson's tough policy, inaugurated by Lord Balneil made possible by the timely betrayal by the Dublin government, only served to support the growth of military activism among nationalists: in other words, "created" the Provisional IRA (Boland).

A typical example of the brutality is the following quote from W. Sellick, a former member of the Royal Green-jackets stationed in the Belfast Mulhouse barracks in 1971. According to Sellick, one of the many injustices he witnessed involved a man whom the Army thought might have been the thrower of a nail bomb at a recent nail bomb attack on a mobile patrol. Says Sellick: "... he was dragged into the camp... and was repeatedly hit in the stomach and balls with rifle butts. Then the rest of the soldiers joined in with their fists and boots. He then had his fingers broken by a corporal who jumped on them while two others held his arms out. All this happened within about ten minutes... If only the British public... realized that their sons do terrorize the local people. They do shoot innocent people. They do smash up homes at 4 o'clock in the morning... they do terrorize the

Catholic community because they are methodically brainwashed with propaganda of all types before they do their four-month duty over there, into believing that all Catholics are Provos" (*Information on Ireland, British Soldiers Speak Out on Ireland*).

Understandably, ever since the reintroduction of internment in August 1970, the British Army holds the title as the most consistent, terrorizing body in Northern Ireland. Whereas the IRA strike "spasmodically, although in an organized way," and the Loyalist paramilitaries, though incomparably brutal and indiscriminate, do not operate continuously, the "official legal security forces, the British Army, the RUC, and the UDR between them constitute the permanent, 24 hours a day terrorizing factor, pressing continuously on the nationalist community" (Boland). Furthermore, the IRA developed "as a counter to British Army terrorist action" (Boland).

Unfortunately, there is a section of Kitson's plan that Britain selectively overlooked. In "*Low Intensity Operations*," Kitson states that since the British Army (in 1969-1970) "is so heavily engaged in Ireland now (it is) unlikely that it will be involved in exactly this task between 1975 and 1980 because it is reasonable to hope that the present emergency will be resolved within five years... Fumbling at this juncture might have grave consequences even to the extent of undermining confidence in the whole system of government." Alas, it is 1992 and Britain is still fumbling around.

Perhaps Kitson would revise his thinking had he known that his strategies would be so unsuccessful and that Britain's image as a democratic nation would be sullied in the eyes of the world by the legal travesties of the "Birmingham Six", the "Guildford Four" and others, shoot-to-kill policy exposure, and repeated condemnation of Britain by European Community bodies.

JOIN Or SUPPORT

The American Irish

Political Education Committee (PEC).

For information call (800) 777-6807

Northern Ireland Tourist

Board: Part of Britain's Anti-Irish Counter-Insurgency Strategy
by Sandy Carlson

Earlier this year, the Northern Ireland Tourist Board, a semi-state British-government-funded body, announced that "unique selling points must be developed" within the industry to attract tourists to the north. The Board identifies international interest in the conflict in Ireland as one such unique point. The Tourist Board has said, "The opportunity to harness this 'curiosity factor' should not be overlooked as a positive factor in encouraging people to visit and understand Northern Ireland." Thus, the Tourist Board hopes to turn the largest deterrent to tourism into a tourist attraction. The Tourist Board says that the image of Northern Ireland as a "troubled area" is "undoubtedly the primary weakness" to hinder the growth of tourism.

While the Board's interest in creating jobs may be viewed as admirable, their desire to exploit human suffering to bring in tourist dollars is reprehensible, at best.

This proposal must also be viewed in the context of British counter-insurgency in Ireland. In other words, how would such a project promote a positive view of British participation in Irish affairs? If the Tourist Board follows the example of the British-government-funded University of Ulster's approach to attracting foreign students, the Board will promote the point that the war in Ireland is more hype than reality. The Board, like the university, will suggest that all this talk of conflict and danger and "troubles" is no more than rumor. The Board will also suggest that those who oppose the government's undemocratic violation of civil, human, and national rights are a mere fringe group without any real argument or reason for complaint.

It is very likely that the Board's approach to the fringe benefit of such tourist income -- an increase public

Triumphalism At Queen's University

*(Reprinted From Democracy, published by Campaign For Democracy,
a Catholic/Protestant organization that supports a united Ireland)*

As we approach the end of another academic year for the universities, another batch of final year students will be nervously looking forward to their results. For those who are successful they will be able to share with their families what could be one of the happiest moments of their lives -- the receipt of their degrees at the graduation ceremonies. That is of course if they are not students from a nationalist background who attend Queen's University in Belfast.

Despite the fact that few universities in Britain do similar, Queens University insists on having the UK national Anthem played at its graduation ceremony each year. What is more it is traditionally played by the RUC band. For a number of years now nationalist students who make a majority of the student population at Queens have argued with the University authorities that both the use of the RUC and the playing of the anthem show a total disregard for the sensitivities of the nationalist section of the student population. They argue that the practice is also highly divisive in what is after all a mixed religious/political community at Queens and where anthems and military factions in the context of the current conflict can raise emotions and create tensions. They argue that a much less one-sided graduation ceremony with elimination of all faction anthems and bands from the proceedings would be much more in line with the University's claimed

policy to promote equal opportunities and promote mutual respect and understanding. However, Queen's has consistently refused to compromise on this issue and once again this year students from nationalist backgrounds will be forced to receive their degrees 'in absentia', make a protest on the day or endure the proceedings in humiliation.

It is ironic given this, that it was Queen's University which spawned the Cultural Traditions Group which is affiliated with the North's Community Relations Council and is dedicated to promoting greater understanding and mutual respect between people from different political backgrounds in the North.

Likewise, one would have thought (given the Fair Employment Commission's recent monitoring Report showing that only 25.4% of its workforce is Catholic) that Queen's would be urgently seeking to show that it was a University for all religious and political creeds in N Ireland.

Clearly Queen's should be listening to what is going on all around it. Society has moved on (however, slowly) since the dark old days of the Stormont Regime. Is Queen's forever going to remain living in the past, a constant reminder of intolerance and triumphalism; or will it change and move forward to the future promoting an atmosphere of tolerance and inclusiveness?

"understanding" of "Northern Ireland" -- will fit in very neatly with the British government's counter-insurgency strategy: sap the government's opponents of their support so that those opponents will lose support and strength and fade away.

When the British government implements this "come see the troubles" strategy, all individuals and groups

who have campaigned for human rights, fair employment legislation, and an honest understanding of Ireland's past and present should be prepared to be classified as fanatics on the fringe, IRA supporters, and the uninformed. After all, we, as supporters of human rights and good government, are part of Britain's opposition and, therefore, the subjects of British counter-insurgency.

Action Requests

The significance of the recent formation in northern Ireland of the Irish Protestant Action and Education Group (all Protestant), and the Campaign For Democracy (predominantly Protestant), both of which support a united Ireland, cannot be overemphasized. This information, was published in our newsletter as follows: *Irish Protestants Support A United Ireland*, January 1992; *Time To Rethink The Way Forward*, February, 1992 and *PEC Meets Northern Ireland Protestants*, June 1992.

This information must be regularly distributed to our media, religious and political people, and other influential citizens. This information undermines the English government's colonial presence in Ireland, and makes clear that the struggle is not a religious one.

Every time you write a letter pertaining to northern Ireland, regardless of who you are writing to, be sure to include one or all of these articles.

Write the letter below to: Mr. Tom Brokaw, NBC Nightly News, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10112 and the editor of your community's major newspaper. Also write it to your US Congressional Representative at: Honorable _____, House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

Action Request Letter

Dear _____:

Please investigate reports that a large segment of Northern Ireland's Protestant community would support a united Ireland if their rights were guaranteed. Information is available through the predominantly Protestant group, Campaign For Democracy, in Northern Ireland: phone# 011-44-232-332650, and the American Irish Political Education Committee: phone# (914) 947-2726.

Sincerely yours,
signature

NOTE: Write the letter in your own words or as is. Have friends, relatives, associates, organization(s) do the same. Include your return address. If you have access to a copy machine, be sure to include copies of the above articles. If you were a veteran of an American war, you might want to mention that fact.

Use The Telephone Hotline -- (914) 429-7849

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Arizona State Director Appointed

We are happy to announce the appointment of Elizabeth McElligott as Arizona State Director. Members in Arizona are urge to contact Elizabeth and assist her with the work of the PEC. She can be reached at 7747 E Dale Lane, Scottsdale, AZ 85262 -- phone# (602) 585-3602.

Join Or Support

The American Irish Political Education Committee (PEC)

I want to join in/support the struggle to end British government civil and human rights violations in northern Ireland. I am sending you this completed form together with my membership fee/donation.

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- Additional Donation \$ _____
- Donation Only \$ _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

Members receive the monthly *American Irish Newsletter*. If you give a donation only and would like to receive the newsletter check here .

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