



2-1992

## American Irish Newsletter - February 1992

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish\\_ainews](https://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_ainews)



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

---

### Recommended Citation

American Ireland Education Foundation - PEC, "American Irish Newsletter - February 1992" (1992).  
*American Irish Newsletter*. 119.  
[https://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish\\_ainews/119](https://digitalcommons.sacredheart.edu/irish_ainews/119)

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



# AMERICAN IRISH NEWSLETTER

AMERICAN Irish Political Education Committee

Volume 17, Number 2

February 1992

## CATHOLICS TO MAKE UP ONLY 1-PERCENT OF THE NEW ROYAL IRISH REGIMENT

by Sandy Carlson, *Reporting from Belfast*

The British Army has admitted it misrepresented the number of Catholics in the Royal Irish Rangers regiment. When the Army announced in 1991 that this regiment would merge with the UDR (Ulster Defence Regiment) to produce a less sectarian regiment with a better public image, it stated that Catholics constituted 30 percent of the regiment. Apparently, this figure relates only to soldiers based at St. Patrick's barracks in Ballymena, County Antrim.

An army spokesman said that, in fact, only 6 percent of the regiment is Catholic, and 24 percent of these come from the Republic. Ulster Unionist MP David Trimble has said that he learned from the Ministry of Defence that only 83 out of 1,413 currently in the Rangers come from the Republic. In his argument against the use of "Irish" instead of "Ulster" in the title, Mr. Trimble has stated that when the UDR and the Rangers merge, Catholics will constitute only 1 percent of the Royal Irish Regiment.

Given the sectarian history of British armed forces in northern Ireland, and given the expertise of the Army's propaganda machine, it is valid to question why this mistake was actually made in the first place. Now that the media attention on this merger has all but disappeared, and now that the public has been wrongfully advised that 30 percent of this new force will be Catholic, it is safe for the army to admit its error, knowing that few will notice.

## Newsbits by Kathy Regan

As we go to press the Supreme Court voted 5 to 3 that "Joe Doherty is not entitled to a new asylum hearing." The majority included Chief Justice William Rehnquist, Justices Byron White, Harry Blackmun, Sandra Day O'Connor and Anthony Kennedy. The dissenting Justices are Antonin Scalia, John Paul Stevens and David Souter. This decision will cost President Bush many votes in his bid for reelection (AIN-PEC 1/15/92)...**Labor MP Tony Benn** recently said, "The results of the latest MORI opinion poll, showing 61% in favor of British withdrawal, present an opportunity for real progress towards the resolution of the conflict . . . There is a tragedy happening now and British troops were never there to keep the peace, they have always been in Ireland to keep nationalists down. This poll shows that 73% of British people think they've either made things worse or have made no difference to the situation." (Irish *continued on page 5*)

## Churchill Withheld Foreknowledge Of Pearl Harbor

by Scott S. Smith

*"It was a blessing that Japan attacked the United States and thus brought America wholeheartedly into the war. Greater good fortune has rarely happened to the British empire than this event."*

Winston Churchill

On the 50th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, a book by former British and Australian intelligence agents claims that British Prime Minister Winston Churchill was aware that the Japanese were going to attack the US Pacific Fleet but did not notify President Franklin D. Roosevelt. According to James Rusbridger and Eric Nave, authors of *Betrayal at Pearl Harbor*, Churchill wanted to mobilize American public opinion against the Axis powers and felt that the only way to do this was to allow the secret Japanese attack to go forward without warning. The result was the destruction of much of the US Navy and thousands of American casualties.

Nave himself helped crack the Japanese naval code known as JN-25. It was in this code that the plans for the attack were sent but Britain did not let the US government know that it could even read JN-25. In fact, while British intelligence has boasted of its ability to read encrypted German messages, official war histories and the Churchill memoirs pretend that all decoding of Japanese military communiques was done by the Americans after December 7, 1941. The British government has said it will never release information in its files to the public for the period regarding Japanese naval codes "for reasons of national security." The authors were nevertheless able to piece together the secret story.

They also found no substantiation for what they term revisionist histories which claim that FDR knew the Japanese were going to attack Pearl Harbor and wanted to allow it to go ahead so that he could mobilize the public in an inevitable war effort. They say that every evidence is that the President was truly stunned by the event, which he saw as a disastrous set-back to any war preparations.

Not surprisingly, the British government tried to stop publication of this book, which calls into question the image of Britain as America's great friend.

### BE A LETTER WRITER

Respond to our Action Requests and use the PEC Telephone Hotline (914) 429-7849.

**From The Editor**

*Protestant support for a united Ireland, as reported in this issue's R&D Time To Rethink The Way Forward and last issue's R&D Irish Protestants Support A United Ireland, is encouraging.*

*Today, with nationalism sweeping throughout eastern Europe with the support of the US and other Western nations, the time has come to put an end to the artificial division of Ireland.*

*In 1989 leaders of the PEC travelled to northern Ireland to establish contact with members of the Protestant community. In 1990 a six-member PEC delegation had several meetings with Protestant community and religious leaders who, for the most part, were unionists. Further PEC meetings with unionist representatives took place in 1991.*

*Our message to the unionist community at these meetings has been that we are not their enemies, do not seek to diminish their rights in any way, and that in a united Ireland, if their rights were violated, we would fight for their rights. We further advised them that in the case of a United Ireland we would work to secure economic development for Ireland, north and south. We believe strongly that economic support would flood into a united, democratic Ireland free of perceived sectarian divisions, particularly from the United States.*

*We plan to travel shortly to northern Ireland to meet with leaders of IPEAG and CFD and the nationalist community.*

*The PEC recognizes that the solution to Ireland's many woes is a United Ireland. We also recognize that to achieve that goal we must accomodate the legitimate needs and fears of the Protestant community, who are, after all, Irish.*

**Offensive Situations**

**Action Request #3**

by Kevin P. Murphy, Massachusetts State Director

Minnesota member Cecil Riley informs us that in the US Navy's training manuals, John Paul Jones is listed as "The Father of the US Navy." ???Who is the father of the american navy??? Commodore Barry was the founder of the US Navy. We are having our historical achievements denied us. We must correct this injustice. Write US Naval Military Personnel Command, Training Manual Division, Washington, DC 20370. (Attention: Commander's Office)

California member Kay Lee advises us that the *Petaluma Post* recently featured articles that described the Irish as being violent, stupid and masochistic. Write letters to Mr. David Bennett, Editor & Publisher, The Petaluma Post, PO Box 493, Petaluma, CA 94953.

New York member Patrick O'Donnell informs us that the New York *Daily News* sports writer Mike Lupica recently described Marathon Day in New York City as, "St. Patrick's Day without the drunks." Massachusetts member Susan Maguire informs us that the Boston University Book Store lists Ireland under "Britain" in its listings. Letters from the Boston area have been sent to BU requesting they correct this error.

**SEND ALL OFFENSIVE SITUATIONS TO: Kevin P. Murphy, PO Box 8895-JFK Station, Boston, MA 02114**

**The American Irish PEC**

**founded 1975**

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

**American Irish Newsletter**

Editor .....John J. Finucane

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

National Headquarters: Fairgrounds Plaza  
 West Haverstraw, NY 10993 - (914) 947-2726

Western States Executive Director: Susan Catt, 2292 North Ironwood #110, Apache Junction, ARIZONA - (602) 982-0370.

STATE DIRECTORS: Jack O'Brien, 11109 Belton Street, Upper Marlboro, MARYLAND 20772-(301)336-5167; Leah Curtin, Hibernian Life, 790 Cleveland Avenue, Suite 221, St. Paul, MINNESOTA 55116-(612)690-3888; Kathy Regan, 3045 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NEW YORK 10468-(212) 365-0213; Frank O'Day, 21 Pierce Lane, Madison, CONNECTICUT 06443-(203)245-4739; Kevin P. Murphy, P.O. Box 8895, J.F. Kennedy Station, Boston, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-(617)665-5736; Bob West, 683 Walnut Road, Wauconda, ILLINOIS 60084-(708)526-6520; Terry Deem Reilly, 1123 Clarkson, Denver, COLORADO 80218-(303)837-9443; Dan Warren, PO Box 1270, Scarborough, MAINE 04070 - (207) 883-4167; Kevin Murphy, 9685 Sunny Isle Cir., Boca Raton, FLORIDA 33428-(305)488-1526; Ned A. Delaney, 1211 El Grande St., Lafayette, INDIANA 47905-(317)474-2546; Larry Doyle, 46 B 2007 Betz Road, Bellevue, NEBRASKA 68005-(402)292-5291, Phil Chaney, 663 West 70th Street, Kansas City, MISSOURI 64113 - (816) 363-6523; Kathy Whitford, 15910 Lucille Drive, Cleveland, OHIO 44111 - (216) 529-0670; Andy Kelly, 168 S Coeur D'Alene Street-102E, Spokane, WASHINGTON 99204 - (509) 747-7431; John Hatch, 302 North Bedford Street, Carlisle, PENNSYLVANIA 17014 - (717)249-4217; Nancy Love, 804 Riverwalk Dr. #209, Waukesha, WISCONSIN 53188 - (414) 542-4767; Dr. John T. Giesen, 1107 Ironwood Dr., Coeur D'Alene, IDAHO 83814 - (208) 667-7459; Linda Barker, 1111 South Oakwood, Apt. 1204, Enid, OKLAHOMA 73703 - (405) 237-2236.

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

**Supported in part by the Emerald Society,  
 NYC Fire Department**

**Attention New Jersey**

The PEC needs a few good people in Union County New Jersey to begin organizing a PEC unit.

There are many activities this group can conduct including: local MacBride Principles campaigns; distributing PEC information and membership materials to the public; fund-raising; lobbying elected representatives, local clergy, media, community leaders, etc.; and organizing telephone chains.

If you would like to help organize this unit, contact Sean Kane of Hillsdale at (908) 354-1976 (evenings) or John Finucane, Tuesdays or Thursdays at PEC headquarters (914) 947-2726. If you prefer to write, be sure to include your phone number and the best time you can be reached.

## From The North

by Rev. Des Wilson  
 Director Springhill Community in Belfast

It has been British government policy to exclude all republicans from talks about the future of Ireland, even though one republican group, Sinn Fein, won 35-40% of the Catholic vote.

Recently, this policy began to change in face of mounting democratic pressure. British politicians began to suggest that Sinn Fein might be admitted to talks.

One significant sign that British government policy had changed was the statements of the two archbishops of Armagh, both of whom admitted that Sinn Fein might be heard. No one need doubt that the archbishops were prompted by the government. The Catholic archbishop was also prompted by senior members of his clergy.

The churches in Ireland have never accepted the democratic principle that people have a right to choose -- and be heard through -- their own freely elected representatives. The Protestant archbishop has therefore decreed that, even if the IRA should lay down its arms, it would take two years, five years, ten years, for him to agree to listen to Sinn Fein.

The Catholic archbishop issued a somewhat less severe decree -- that if the IRA stopped the war, Sinn Fein's (republican) view could be heard at the negotiating table. Not the republicans, now, but "the republican view". He did not say by whom this view would be presented but according to precedent it could be a member of practically any party except Sinn Fein.

To anyone outside Ireland this state of affairs, with archbishops saying whether elected representatives can be heard or not and if so when, and with archbishops' statements being prompted by mistrusted government officials, this state of affairs seems ludicrous. People in Ireland have to admit that democratic principles have never been accepted by some of the highest in the land and probably will not be even, as the Protestant archbishop might say, in 2 years, 5 years, 10 years time.

One of the myths which makes it possible for archbishops and governments to reject democratic principles, on the ground that this improves community relations, is the one which says that Catholics and Protestants cannot live together in peace. This they say is the primary problem. If people cannot live together, so the argument goes, you have to bring in a peace keeping army -- the British -- and prevent disruptive people from being heard -- that is Sinn Fein -- and along with that you sing hymns, let off black balloons and pray. The fact of the matter however is that people know quite well how to live together without all this baggage.

Did you know that in northern Ireland one third of Catholic marriages are "mixed", that is, they are marriages between Catholic and Protestant partners? **So Catholics and Protestants cannot live together!**

Or did you know that in some areas the proportion of "mixed" marriages between Catholic and Protestant is as high as 75%?

You cannot live together much more effectively than by falling in love and marrying. But the myth is still fostered that the basic problem is that people cannot live together!

It is the belief in myths of this kind that has enabled govern-

The PEC  
 Presents in Concert

The DUBLIN CITY RAMBLERS  
 at

The College of Mount St. Vincent  
 263rd Street & Riverdale Avenue  
 Bronx, New York

on  
 Friday March 6, 1992  
 at 8 p.m.

Tickets \$18 - To order tickets send check payable to AIPEC, 18 Route 9W, W Haverstraw, NY or call (212) 365-0213 or (914) 947-2726. Tickets are also available at the door.

## A Change In Our Action Request Program

The value of organized letter writing campaigns and the importance of our members who participate in our letter writing Action Request and Telephone Hotline (914 429-7849) programs, cannot be overemphasized. A fine example of letter writing power is the recent victory for justice over foreign policy in the case of Sean Mackin.

The greater the number of letters received by an individual, the greater their impact. Letters keep an issue alive and alert people to a situation.

We want to increase the number of letters written by our members and to do so, we will add another Action Request to our newsletter.

**Starting with this issue, every newsletter issue will now have 2 letter writing requests on page 6; one to the newsmedia and one to important individuals such as the President of the US, Congressional leaders, religious leaders, etc.**

On occasion, depending on the urgency of a situation, both action requests on page 6 may be to the news media (as is the case in this issue) or to political targets. This change does not effect our Offensive Situations Program.

**All members are asked to participate in the letter writing and are urged to write all the letters.**

Letter writing is a key part of the PEC organization.

ments and others to lay aside all democratic principles. People are told how to vote, candidates are threatened, assaulted, and murdered as effectively as in any foul dictatorship and, if they are so strong-minded as to elect the forbidden candidates, those candidates will not be heard. All in the sacred cause of making people live together in peace, free from demonic influences, people who are perfectly able to do so if they are left free to make their democratic choices.

British government policy is changing, slowly, in the direction of allowing people to elect those whom they want and to be heard through them. It is of course a movement slightly away from tyranny rather than substantially towards democracy.

## The Irish In Oklahoma

by Margaret E. Fitzgerald, Ph.D.

Oklahoma can claim to be the most Irish state in the nation. In the 1980 census, 31.29% of Oklahomans identified their first or second ancestry as Irish. That ranked the state first, percentage-wise, with Massachusetts, certainly higher in actual numbers, running only second in the percent of residents with Irish ancestry.

There was an Irish presence in Oklahoma in colonial days. Hugo O'Connor and Alessandro O'Reilly were 18th century governors of northern New Spain, including Oklahoma, before cession to France and the U.S. Some Irish "Wild Geese" - priests, soldiers, and adventurers - came with the Spanish, but no lasting settlements were made and these Irish left no roots in Oklahoma.

In the early 19th century, Irish fur trappers and traders, such as Benjamin Murphy, operated in Oklahoma. After the War of 1812 and ensuing Indian Wars, the U.S. government forced the southern "Five Civilized Tribes" east of the Mississippi to move to Oklahoma to designated "Indian Territory." In 1824 the government began to build military posts across Oklahoma. With the military came the Irish, who composed the largest immigrant group in the U.S. Army.

Possibly most early Irish were Protestants, but this can only be a guess in a frontier territory where there were no priests and ministers of religion were self-appointed. By the 1840s the majority of Irish immigrants were Catholic and Irish-born Bishop Andrew Burne of Little Rock sent missionaries to them. Fathers John Managhan, Patrick O'Rourke, Peter Walsh, and Lawrence Smyth visited the scattered military communities. Fr. Michael Smyth came from Ireland to join his brother Lawrence in 1868 and together they built the first Catholic church in Oklahoma, St. Patrick's in Anoka. Besides soldiers, they now served Irish storekeepers, railroad workers, and mixed Irish-Indian families.

There had been intermarriages between Indians and whites on the eastern frontier. In Oklahoma, the Civilized Tribes found that marrying their daughters to white men gave them a foot in the U.S. government power structure. Whites found that acquiring tribal citizenship through marriage made it easier to conduct trade and business and to acquire land rights. A single Irishman arriving in Oklahoma would be advised to find an amenable Indian bride if he wished to make his fortune, and many an Irish man took this road to riches in land and mineral resources. By the time of the Civil War, "mixed bloods" controlled much of Indian Territory, grew cotton, held slaves, and lived like the great Southern plantation owners.

After the Civil War, the great majority of Irish came as family units, but many of their descendants married the "mixed bloods" who were already part of Oklahoma. Irish-born Theodore Fitzpatrick, for example, married a half-Irish, half-Choctaw girl. This gave him land rights and by 1889 he had acquired 1500 acres.

In 1889 the government opened land in the Twin Territories (Oklahoma and Indian) to white settlers. Prospective settlers lined up at the border on April 22, and, at the sound of an Army bugle, began the land rush. Several hundred Irish staked

claims, but several hundred more had been among the "sooners" who had entered illegally ahead of time.

The Irish of the land rush were older than those who had preceded them and were usually married. They had spent 20 to 30 years in other states before trying their luck in Oklahoma. They considered being American most important and about 80%, more than the English or Scots, were naturalized.

Some Irish tried to form Irish communities. In 1875 Frank Mooris called his community Erin Springs and wooed Irish settlers. Twenty-five years later the tribal police arrested him for violating Chicksaw law by having white tenants on his land. During the oil boom, Shamrock in Creek County was developed in 1913-1915 as an Irish town. The main street was called Tipperary; others were Dublin, Cork, and St. Patrick. The newspapers were Blarney and Brogue. Buildings were painted green. After the boom, Shamrock's population declined from 10,000 to 250 and empty Tipperary Road became just nostalgia. In general, Oklahomans, with their patterns of ethnic intermarriage, did not develop Irish communities.

The Methodists were the predominant religious group in Oklahoma and they brought trouble to Irish Catholics in 1917 with the passage of the "Bone Dry Law." All alcoholic beverages were forbidden, including sacramental wine. When Catholics tried to get an exemption so that Mass could be celebrated legally, anti-catholicism reared its head. Despite there being as many Irish Protestants as Irish Catholics, the anti-Catholicism quickly equated itself with anti-Irishism. Long before this, in the eras of Know-Nothingism and Nativism, Irish Protestants, many with ancient clan names, had designated themselves "Scotch-Irish" to differentiate themselves from the poverty-stricken hordes of famine immigrants. Now in the 1920s, so-called "American Scotch-Irish" separated themselves from "Roman Irish." The Oklahoma Americanization Society sponsored anti-Catholic lectures and newspapers, denial of jobs to Irish Catholics, and elimination of Catholic schools. The Klu Klux Klan became powerful and sent lists of Catholics and "Irish foreigners" to contractors and government agencies with the demand that those listed be fired. In 1923 the Klan managed to have Catholic school teachers fired in Tulsa. Irish Catholics suffered social and economic discrimination, and sometimes violence, until WWII.

Catholics gained exemption for Mass wine and went on the defensive, but some Irish passed themselves off as British or Indian to protect themselves. Writers played down the Irish presence and called it English or Scottish. Thus the 1980 census was a surprise. The Scotch-Irish myth might be dear for some sociologists, but only 6.25% of Oklahomans gave Scottish as an ancestry. True, 35.8% identified themselves as English, but the Irish came second with 31.29%.

### SEAN MACKIN: JUSTICE PREVAILS

On Tuesday, January 7, 1992 federal immigration judge Annette S. Elstein waived deportation proceedings against Sean Mackin of Belfast allowing him to immediately apply for permanent residence in the US. His wife Philomena and daughter Jennifer were granted political sylum. The court verdict will not be appealed by the government.

## TIME TO RETHINK THE WAY FORWARD

### Protestant Support For A United Ireland

by Members of the Campaign for Democracy, an organization of Catholics and Protestants, headquartered in Belfast

*"We the undersigned believe that if there is ever to be a lasting peace and reconciliation in Ireland, nationalists and unionists will have to agree to democratic structures which will merit the confidence of all sections of the population and enable the people of the island as a whole to determine their own affairs."*

So reads the first paragraph of the declaration from the Campaign for Democracy, signed by prominent people from both sides of the border, and issued on 7th October this year. The declaration in its entirety places the responsibility for peace in the north squarely on the shoulders of the British. Calling upon them to "facilitate" Irish reunification. It recognizes Britain's continued claim to sovereignty as the main obstacle towards peaceful progress, restricting as it does the political parameters to partitionist and sectarian divisions.

From this basis the Campaign for Democracy correctly points out that the "key democratic issue" is the transcending of these divisions and opening the way for the Protestant community to fully participate in the establishment and development of a new trend of politics in Ireland that revolves around democratic and secular institutions.

Here lies the kernel of the declaration, which underlines its importance to an advancement that can break the deadlock of the impasse in hostilities. It is an attempt to grasp a politic that breaks down rather than reinforces the religious-sectarian divisions which have entrenched sectional identities and allowed the fundamental cause, the undemocratic claims of Britain and her puppets, to take precedence in Irish politics.

The failure to tackle these artificial, British-created divisions head on and to generate a form of democratic struggle that refuses to be bound by the parameters set by Britain, and which is engineered to encompass the whole of Ireland on social, political and economic fronts has hindered any meaningful progress toward a reunited democratic sovereign state. These in turn have hindered any meaningful progress towards a reunited democratic sovereign state.

The biggest of these flaws is the failure to address the issue of Protestant identity and simply cutting them off as part of the problem rather than seeking to build a common identity, a common perspective, a common cause between the communities. The result of this failure is the exclusion of the Protestant community from taking their rightful place in the struggle for a sovereignty that is answerable to the Irish people, within an All-Ireland context. Based upon a new sense of an All-Ireland "identity that would encompass the rich cultural diversity of the country and all that is good in its Protestant and Catholic traditions."

The present moves to alter or rescind Articles 2 and 3 of the Constitution would only serve to reinforce the politics of partition

## *Reproduce & Distribute*

and sectarianism. Any alteration that dilutes the right of the Irish people to the sovereignty of Ireland and allow, unchallenged, the undemocratic claims of Britain to any part of this island, strengthens the hands of those who have no wish to see a democratic settlement between the peoples of Ireland and Britain. It would further hinder the advancement of conciliation between the different sections of the people of Ireland and continue the process of polarization.

The new politics to which the declaration is striving, also, places a huge responsibility upon the Irish people and their representatives to rethink the concepts of unity and sovereignty free from the shackles of partitionist and sectarian thought that have dominated political debate in Ireland for so long, and which have corrupted the progressive content of these concepts.

Furthermore, the Republican forces engaged in the war with Britain need to lift their eyes from the battle and analyze the situation with a view to a progressive perspective. Sinn Fein and the IRA must take stock of their "contribution" to the advancement of democracy in Ireland, and revalue their perspective in line with a campaign that seeks to unite the Irish people around the cause of democracy rather than alienate large sections of the people of Ireland in a simplistic contest.

*(The Campaign For Democracy is located at 45-47 Donegall St., Belfast, Northern Ireland)*

---

### **Past Protestant Support For United Ireland**

Irish Protestant support for a free and united Ireland is as old as the Protestant Reformation.

One of the largest movements lead by Irish Protestants was *The Society of United Irishmen*, which formed in October 1791 in Belfast, and the following month in Dublin, which initially drew support from Presbyterians in Ulster and Protestants and liberals seeking parliamentary reform. Overall, the Society's goal was religious harmony in an Irish republic free of the mesh of British control. Adhering to the ideals of the French Revolution, "Liberty, Equality, Fraternity," the Society used American revolutionary thinker Thomas Paine's political tract, "The Rights of Man" (1791) which celebrates the French Revolution and defends national independence and popular rights, to represent their ideas and beliefs. The Society hired Protestant Theobald Wolfe Tone as assistant secretary. The Society soon attracted the Irish peasantry, the majority of which was Catholic, and by 1798 had 250,000 members. That same year they lead a rebellion against Britain which was brutally crushed. The suppression of the rebellion spelt out the destruction of the Society.

### ***Keep Informed on Northern Ireland***

Subscribe to the *American Irish Newsletter* or join the *American Irish Political Education Comm.* (PEC) -- \$20 per year. For information call 800 777-6807 or write to PEC, 18 Route 9W, West Haverstraw, NY 10993

***Published February 1992 by American Irish PEC***



# **Britain's Tit-For-Tat Killings**

by Sandy Carlson, *Reporting from Belfast*

The media, along with British and Irish government officials and Protestant and Catholic clergy, have been reporting that the increase in sectarian violence in northern Ireland has been a series of "tit-for-tat" sectarian murders by the IRA and loyalist paramilitaries. By tit-for-tat, they suggest that when a loyalist paramilitary kills a Catholic, the IRA respond by killing a Protestant because he or she is a Protestant. Likewise, when the IRA kill a loyalist, the UVF or UDA/UFF respond by killing a Catholic because he or she is a Catholic. In reality, however, the increase in sectarian violence is a loyalist paramilitary initiative.

An analysis of this one-sided sectarianism requires establishing who are the parties responsible for the military and paramilitary deaths in northern Ireland in 1991 and who were killed.

On the British side, the RUC and SAS killed 6 unarmed men by mid-November. The SAS killed 3 men in Co. Tyrone, in June, alleging the men were an IRA active service unit. The RUC killed Colm Marks in April, alleging he was about to launch a Mark 12 missile. The RUC also killed Kevin McGovern in October and Gerard Maginn in November. McGovern was killed "by accident," and Maginn, because he was a joyrider. The SAS murders came days after 3 UDR soldiers died when the IRA detonated a bomb at a UDR base; the RUC killed McGovern in an alleged botched attempt to stop an IRA incident; and the RUC killed Maginn just after a devastating IRA bombing.

The IPLO (Irish People's Liberation Organization) also contributed to the death toll of 1991. In February 1991, the RUC alleged that the UDA, UVF, and IPLO were colluding in the illegal drugs trade in northern Ireland. However, the UVF killed IPLO leader Martin O'Prey on August 16, 1991. Another indication of animosity between the UVF and the IPLO was the UVF's murder of taxi driver Kevin Flood in August. Although Flood was not the intended victim, the UVF insisted, anyway, that he was an IPLO member. In response, the IPLO wounded a man in north Belfast. The IPLO also killed a Protestant, Harry Ward, although they were looking for another man. Later, the UFF killed a nationalist taxi driver. Thus, although there has been some tit-for-tat violence between the UVF, UFF and IPLO, this has not involved the IRA.

On the nationalist side are the IRA. By mid-November, the IRA had killed approximately 21 members of the British armed forces; 6 loyalists; 2 informers; 2 men whose businesses supply goods to the British armed forces; and, unintentionally, 4 civilians. The fact that only 6 loyalists had been killed by the IRA by mid-November indicates that the IRA are not involved in a tit-for-tat sectarian conflict. The majority of IRA killings were members of the British armed forces (if one accepts the IRA definition to include the RUC), which is in keeping with their assertion that they are at war with the British. Even the IRA's June 29 killing of UDA man Cecil McKnight cannot be construed as tit-for-tat. McKnight, according to the IRA, played a role in the UFF murder of Sinn Fein councillor Eddie Fullerton.

Loyalist violence, carried out by the UVF (Ulster Volunteer Force) and the UFF (Ulster Freedom Fighters) pro-British paramilitaries, enjoys an advantage over the IRA in that these groups are seldom named. Rather, the UVF and the UFF are veiled in anonymity as "loyalist paramilitaries". On the other hand, any and all violence from the nationalist community is er-

## ***Reproduce and Distribute***

roneously labeled "IRA violence." Nonetheless, the UVF and the UFF signed their name to a majority of the deaths in northern Ireland in 1991. By mid-November, the UFF and UVF had killed approximately 39 individuals. In only 4 cases did they state that the murder was committed in retaliation for some other murder. In addition, only 2 murders followed the August 10 announcement of the formation of the "Loyalist Retaliation Defence Force." Other stated reasons include alleged IRA involvement or support, supplying information to the IRA, and IPLO membership. Only 2 of the many murders of alleged republicans were actually of members of the republican political movement (two Sinn Fein councillors). Allegations of "IRA involvement" are the UVF's and UFF's attempt to legitimize their sectarianism. In fact, 2 such murders were of teenage girls working in a mobile shop in Craigavon in March 1991.

Loyalist sectarianism is further illustrated by their October announcement that all members of the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) were legitimate targets. The GAA is a non-political, non-sectarian organization which promotes and organizes Gaelic sports. In addition, a number of loyalist murders were of taxi drivers. In October, the UVF announced it was targeting 3 firms it said were involved in surveillance work for the IRA. The UFF then killed 2 taxi drivers the following day. The development came soon after an RUC investigation into the same 3 taxi firms, which it suspected had republican connections.

Thus, the over-simplification that the IRA and loyalist paramilitaries are involved in violent sectarianism is incorrect. As they have been for more than 20 years, the IRA fundamentally are fighting the British military, whether or not you may or may not agree with their tactics from time to time. On the other hand, the activities of nationalist splinter groups and the UDA/UFF and the UVF indicate a preoccupation with infighting and the pursuit of private agendas.

Loyalists, overwrought with an unfounded fear that, via the Anglo-Irish Agreement, Dublin will absorb them into a Republic of Ireland, have lashed out by sending incendiaries south of the border, attacking the bus which takes visitors to see nationalist prisoners, and by attacking taxi drivers, bus drivers, delivery people, Sinn Fein councillors, and Sinn Fein election workers as well as IPLO members with whom it is feuding. Still, the nationalists, in their war with the British, have not responded in kind to this racist terrorism. There is nothing tit-for-tat about the multi-sided conflict widening its range of targets to include children, women, and men on the twisted logic that all Catholics are responsible for the IRA and the IRA are responsible for all Catholics. The greatest irony of all is that the nationalist people are not responsible for this Agreement, which many loyalists detest and fear so much as the beginning of their unionist end. Rather, the British government to which they pledge allegiance bears a significant portion of responsibility for the loyalist alienation that has motivated this increase in loyalist sectarian murder.

### **Keep Informed on Northern Ireland**

**Subscribe to the American Irish Newsletter or join the  
American Irish PEC - \$20 per year**

To subscribe call 800 777-6807 or write American Irish Political  
Education Comm, 18 Route 9 W, West Haverstraw, NY 10993.

*published February 1992 by the American Irish PEC*

## **European Parliament Debates Discrimination In Northern Ireland**

In January the European Parliament debated the issue of employment discrimination in northern Ireland. This meeting followed a December 10, 1991 meeting of 35 Members of the European Parliament, which was the first time this issue was discussed in the European Parliament by all members of the European Community.

Following the December 10 meeting, at which Oliver Kearney of the Equality Working Group and the Fair Employment Trust, was the guest speaker, a working party was established to draw up the text of a "strong resolution" on the issue, to be debated in the European Parliament.

This meeting coincided with the meeting of European heads of state in Maastricht, thus maximizing the embarrassment of the British representatives in Maastricht. Neil Blaney, a member of the Irish Dail (parliament) and an MEP, organized the conference. Oliver Kearney remarked, "It is a shocking indictment of Northern Ireland's Members of the European Parliament [which includes the SDLP's John Hume] that the subject of anti-Catholic discrimination in employment must be brought before the parliament by a fellow countryman from the Irish Republic, rather than by those elected to represent the people of Northern Ireland."

### **Newsbits continued from page 1**

Post, 11/2/91)....The most interesting disclosure in Dr. Garret Fitzgerald's [former Irish Prime Minister] autobiography relates to the fear of the Dublin government of the mid-seventies that Britain would withdraw from the north . . . Foreign Minister at the time, Fitzgerald writes, [The Irish government refused to prepare contingency plans] "as this would give the British the excuse they might want to get out of northern Ireland and it was our clear policy to avoid this at all cost." He also discloses that he approached Henry Kissinger with the request to put pressure on Britain not to consider withdrawing. (Irish Post, 11/9/91)....Europe's first "motorway" is 5,500 years old and is being excavated at Kenagh, Co. Longford by an international team of archaeologists. The wooden roads and paths were laid in layers across wetlands. Initially, they were thought to date from the Iron Age (about 2,400 BC), but recent carbon-dating has established that they all go back to the Stone Age at about 3,500 BC. (Irish Post, 11/9/91)....Absentee landlordism still continues. A large proportion of the Republic's ground rents go to foreign landlords. For example, the ground rent of Kilmainham Jail goes to a Mr. Winn in Yorkshire; rent for Arbour Hill Barracks, where the 1916 leaders are buried, goes to a firm of solicitors in Newry in trust for a client who is likely to be British. The government pays ground rent on its offices in Dublin's Merrion Street, Merrion Square Irishtown Garda Station and Dundrum Courthouse to the Earl of Pembroke. Other ground rents and their collectors include: Kildare military barracks and Garda station - the Earl of Limerick; 1,000 ground rents near Castlebar - Lord Lucan; two-thirds of Cork's ground rents - the Earl of Cork and Orrery; two-thirds of Dundalk's - Lord Roden, etc. (Irish Post, 11/9/91)

## **Western Region Report**

by Susan Catt, Executive Director Western States Region

**WESTERN STATES REGION CONFERENCE** -- The newly-formed PEC Western States Region is planning its first regional conference. The conference is expected to take place in Boulder, Colorado in June 1992.

PEC President John Finucane will be present and national policies will be discussed during the conference.

**MEMBERS RESIDING IN THE WESTERN HALF OF THE US** who would like to have topics included in the agenda are asked to **immediately** forward their suggestions to Susan Catt, 2292 N Ironwood #110, Apache Junction, Arizona 85220.

**MEMBERS THROUGHOUT THE US ARE URGED TO ATTEND!**

**ARIZONA** -- A British government propaganda campaign against Arizona's MacBride Principles campaign, with the help of some news media, is underway.

PEC and Americans for MacBride members have launched a media campaign of its own to address employment discrimination in northern Ireland.

**PEC Auction Benefit A Success** -- On December 7, 1991 the Arizona PEC sponsored a benefit auction held at O'Connor's Restaurant in Phoenix. The auction served to raise funds for the Arizona MacBride Principles campaign. The auction was a great success. Proceeds will be used towards the travel expenses of experts on the MacBride Principles who will testify at the hearings in the 1992 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The PEC extends its appreciation to the owner of O'Connor's and the many wonderful people who contributed so much to make this success possible. We also thank the musicians and dancers and the people who put it all together. **WASHINGTON** -- State Director Andy Kelly advises us that the MacBride Principles campaign for the 1992 legislative session is underway.

Western Region members should send information for the *Western States Region Report* to Susan Catt.

## **Another MacBride Victory**

Bucks County has become the fourth large population center (541,651 pop.) in Pennsylvania to endorse the MacBride Principles - joining Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Scranton.

On December 27, 1991 the 3-member Bucks County Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to endorse the MacBride Principles. The Commissioners are Chairman Andrew Warren, and Sandra Miller and Mark Schweiber, both of whom initiated the resolution at the request of Bucks County PEC representative Jim Fitzpatrick. He was supported by members of the Irish-American Cultural Society and AOH. Jim emphasized that he found no resistance to the proposal and stressed how easily it was accomplished.

Jim plans to begin work on introducing MacBride resolutions in Delaware, Montgomery and Chester counties. **Anyone wishing to help** should call him at 215 949-0464.



### Action Request #1

Northern Ireland Protestant support for a United Ireland provides excellent opportunities to influence the media. We must advise the media of the existence of groups such as the *Irish Protestant Education and Action Group* and the *Campaign For Democracy* and urge that they contact these groups and report on their positions.

All members are asked to write the letter below using our letter as a guide (or simply rewrite it as is). If you have a copier available, include copies of the *Reproduce & Distribute* articles *Time To Rethink The Way Forward* in this newsletter and *Irish Protestant Support For A United Ireland* in the January, 1992 issue. Have your friends, relatives, organizations, business associates, etc. do the same. They do not have to include copies of the articles. Of course, similar letters can be written to your local media.

Write to the following news media: Mr. Ted Koppel, Nightline, 1717 DeSales Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036 and Editors, CNN, One CNN Center, Atlanta, GA 30348.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

Protestants in Northern Ireland are now calling for a United Ireland. I urge that you investigate and report on this very significant news. Full details can be obtained by contacting the American Irish Political Education Committee, 18 Route 9 W, West Haverstraw, NY 10993 or (914) 947-2726.

Sincerely yours,

### Action Request #2

Many members have complained concerning the coverage on northern Ireland provided by the Catholic News Service (CNS).

The complaints, as confirmed by PEC, are that CNS presents only the British government point of view. Rarely do they even mention the nationalist viewpoint. CNS coverage, which supports the status quo, reflects the position of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Irish hierarchy,

CNS carries on the same pro-British bias as does the secular news media. They too must be pressured to report fairly and accurately on northern Ireland.

**Write to:** Editors, Catholic News Service, 3211 4th Street NE, Washington, DC 20017. Ask your friends, family, business associates, etc. to do the same. Be polite but firm when writing. Use our letter below as a guide or simply rewrite it as is.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_:

Most CNS coverage on northern Ireland emphasizes support for the status quo, which is the position of the Irish hierarchy and the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. This is not fair and accurate journalism and is a grave disservice to your readers. I strongly urge that you give equal time to such northern Ireland civil rights advocates as Fr. Des Wilson of Belfast. For further information contact the American Irish PEC at (914) 947-2726. I look forward to your response on this urgent matter.

Sincerely yours,

Detach Here

**TO JOIN the PEC use coupon below**

**MULTI-PURPOSE COUPON**

- [ ] MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL OR [ ] NEW MEMBERSHIP
- [ ] \$20 1 - YEAR [ ] \$35 2 - YEARS
- [ ] CHANGE OF ADDRESS,
- [ ] DONATION \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] BOOKS, VIDEOS, ETC.

**FOR NEW MEMBERS OR CHANGE OF ADDRESS**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership includes a one-year subscription to our monthly Newsletter.**

**TO ORDER TAPES, VIDEOS, BOOKS, ETC.**

| QTY | ORDER# | ITEM | AMOUNT |
|-----|--------|------|--------|
|     |        |      |        |
|     |        |      |        |
|     |        |      |        |

Sub Total \_\_\_\_\_  
 NYS Residents add sales tax \_\_\_\_\_  
 Shipping \_\_\_\_\_ 2.50  
**TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

**AMERICAN IRISH PEC**  
 Fairgrounds Plaza  
 West Haverstraw, NY 10993

First-Class Mail  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
 PAID  
 Garnerville, N Y  
 Permit No. 13

**MEMBERSHIPS EXPIRING  
 9202 - February, 1992**

**PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE LABEL**